

TERMS OF REFERENCE - RESEARCH CONSULTANT | PREVENTING CORRUPTION THROUGH INTEGRITY IN POLITICAL FINANCE

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of Consultancy: Support to Political Finance Research
Application Closing Date: 1 April 2026
Location of Consultancy: Remote/home-based

2. BACKGROUND

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business, and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

The Transparency International Secretariat is seeking (a) qualified expert(s) in de jure and in practice political finance systems to produce research on related improvements in the integrity of political finance to mitigate corruption risks.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Consultant(s) will support Transparency International's work to improve integrity in the financing of political parties, candidates and election campaigns to mitigate corruption risks in public decision making, based on the '[Standards for integrity in political finance: A global policy position](#)'.

4. ASSIGNMENTS

The Consultant will contribute towards the development of the following assignments:

I. Research to support the implementation of international standards

The Consultant(s) will contribute to the development of (a) publication(s) aimed at advancing the understanding and implementation of international standards on political finance from a combined perspective of election integrity and corruption prevention.

The assignment will include:

- Background research to identify examples of good practice, lessons learnt and performance of international standards, domestic legislation, practical implementation, jurisprudence, and observation methodologies of a wide range of issues of political and campaign finance.
- Drafting support for the development of policy brief(s) (or similar publication format), in close coordination with the project team.

II. Research on citizen monitoring of political finance

The Consultant(s) will contribute to the preparation of a publication of a compendium of best practices for gender-sensitive citizen monitoring and digital disclosure solutions of political financing.

The assignment will include:

- Review, refine and/or complement six case studies (initially identified and drafted by TI), including strengthening analysis, comparability and methodological consistency.
- Systematise cross-cutting lessons and good practices, including gender-sensitive approaches to monitoring of financial barriers facing women politicians/candidates.
- Develop a user-friendly checklist of recommended steps in the planning, design, roll-out and follow-up of political finance citizen monitoring initiatives

- Draft and develop a toolkit demonstrating key tools and application methods across the Americas, Africa and the Indo-Pacific

III. Revision of a methodology assessment (CRINIS II)

The Consultant(s) will critically review and finalise a draft methodology -prepared by TI- to comparatively assess political finance law and practice against international standards and commitments (in particular UNCAC Resolution 11/7 and [TI Standards](#)) and inform efforts by TI chapters and other advocates to advance integrity in political finance.

The assignment will include:

- Propose new indicators or indicators required revision to achieve measurement goals, based on first pilot and benchmarking international standards.
- Propose revisions to the scoring criteria, weighting, and how to handle missing data.
- Organising a consultation with experts and potential users
- Deliver a final methodology document, including updated indicators, scoring and other user guidance for consistent application.

5. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Each assignment will begin with a short inception phase, during which the Consultant will submit a brief proposed workplan outlining the approach, timeline, and key milestones for the assignment. The workplan will be reviewed and agreed with the Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S).

The consultancy is expected to run until July 2026 at the latest. The Consultant(s) will be responsible for delivering the outputs listed below.

Assignment 1: Research to support the implementation of international standards

Expected completion: End of April 2026

The Consultant will contribute to the development of materials supporting the implementation of international political finance standards.

Deliverables include:

- i. Review of the agreed outline
- ii. Submission of a first draft of guidance material
- iii. Submission of a final draft revised based on feedback provided by the TI Secretariat.

Assignment 2: Research on citizen monitoring of political finance

Expected completion: July 2026

The Consultant will contribute to the development of a Compendium of Good Practices highlighting innovative approaches to citizen monitoring of political finance.

Deliverables include:

- i. Analytical review of the six case studies and identification of cross-cutting good practices and lessons learned, including gender-sensitive approaches to citizen monitoring of political finance.
- ii. Submission of a consolidated draft package of the mini-case studies.
- iii. Submission of final revised versions incorporating feedback from TI-S. The deliverables are expected to be submitted based on agreed workplan.

Assignment 3: Revision of a methodology assessment (CRINIS II)

Estimated completion: Mid-May 2026

The Consultant will review and revise the CRINIS II methodology to strengthen its alignment with international standards and improve its analytical framework.

Deliverables include:

- i. Validation of gap analysis of existing draft benchmarked against UNCAC Resolution 11/7 and lessons from first test.

ii. Revised indicators, scoring criteria, questionnaire, including proposal for weighting and treatment of missing data (imputation)

iii. Organise a technical consultation with key experts in agreement with TI.

iv. Final revised methodology document, incorporating feedback from experts and TI.

All deliverables will be submitted in accordance with the agreed workplan and timeline.

The Consultant will work under the supervision of the TI-S Political Integrity Lead, Jorge Valladares and is expected to provide updates on progress upon request from the TI Secretariat and participate in coordination meetings if required. TIS retains sole rights with respect to the distribution, dissemination, and publication of all deliverables produced under this consultancy.

6. REMUNERATION AND COSTS

This consultancy is output-based. Payments will be made upon satisfactory completion and acceptance of the deliverables listed below by TI-S.

Deliverables	Maximum amount (EUR)
Deliverables under assignment 1	3,600
Deliverables under assignment 2	3,600
Deliverables under assignment 3	4,500

Total provisional budget: EUR 11,700.

The amounts above represent the maximum remuneration available for each assignment. The final payment amount will depend on the specific deliverables commissioned and approved by TI-S, in accordance with the agreed scope of work.

Payments will be made upon submission and formal approval of the respective final deliverables by TI. Each payment will be processed following receipt of an invoice from the Consultant.

The Consultant is responsible for all applicable taxes, social security contributions, and other statutory obligations related to the consultancy in their country of residence.

No additional costs (such as travel, accommodation, or administrative expenses) will be reimbursed unless explicitly agreed in writing in advance by the TI-S.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

- A postgraduate degree in social sciences or a field related to the goals of the assignment;
- At least 8–10 years of demonstrated experience in comparative research and policy analysis on political finance and anti-corruption;
- Proven expertise in international anti-corruption frameworks, including familiarity with UNCAC and related monitoring or review processes;
- Demonstrated experience in developing or refining assessment methodologies, indicators, or comparative research frameworks;
- Knowledge of political party and campaign finance regulations, including transparency, disclosure, oversight, and state neutrality mechanisms;
- Strong analytical and drafting skills, with demonstrated experience producing policy briefs, guidance documents, or research publications for international audiences;
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

For candidates based in the EU, EEA, UK, and Switzerland

Transparency International e.V. (Secretariat), (TI-S) is registered as a Business Entity in Germany with VAT identification number DE273612486. EU reverse charge applies. Service providers should issue invoices with zero VAT. Candidates who are based in Germany and do not charge German VAT must confirm their small entrepreneur status.

HOW TO APPLY

The application should include the following documents:

1. **Motivation letter** and note regarding availability in stated assignment period
2. **Curriculum Vitae** or Consultancy profile as well as a sample of relevant previous work (confidentiality guaranteed)

Applicants may express interest in one or more of the assignments described in this Terms of Reference. TI-S reserves the right to contract one consultant for the full scope of work or several consultants for individual components, depending on the expertise of the selected candidates and programmatic needs. In such cases, the scope of deliverables, timeline, and remuneration may be adjusted proportionally.

Please indicate “**Research Consultant: Support to Political Finance Research**” in the subject line of your email application. Applications should be sent in English by email to cme-tender@transparency.org by close of business of **1 April 2026**.

Data protection

When you respond to this tender and submit your application, you provide consent that Transparency International e. V. keeps your application materials for the period of ten years according to German legal requirements. Afterwards Transparency International will delete your application and any personal data included in it. If you have any questions, please reach out to dataprotection@transparency.org