

# TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

## External Evaluation: Impact Assessment of Cluster 1 Grantees

**Program Title:** WYDE Civic Engagement (Women and Youth in Democratic Engagement)

**Cluster 1 Title:** "Generate Democracy: involving youth CSOs in democracy support"

**Lead Implementing Partner:** European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)

**Funding Donor:** European Union (EU)

**Geographical Scope:** 22 Sub-Saharan African Countries

**Evaluation Subject:** Portfolio of 42 funded projects across 4 Calls for Proposals (Rounds 1–4)

### 1. Background and Context

The **WYDE Civic Engagement program**, funded by the European Union, aims to improve the enfranchisement, empowerment, and inclusion of youth (ages 15–35) in democratic participation at local, national, regional, and global scales.

Within this initiative, **ALDA**—in cooperation with Elbarlament and People in Need (PIN)—leads **Cluster 1: "Generate Democracy: involving youth CSOs in democracy support"**. This cluster functions as a strategic re-granting scheme designed to empower youth-led and youth-focused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Sub-Saharan Africa. It funds concrete grass-roots and transnational actions that advocate for youth inclusion, promote participatory democracy, and strengthen cooperation between young citizens and public policy-makers.

To date, Cluster 1 has completed its funding cycle across four subsequent rolling calls, building an extensive portfolio of supported actions:

- **1st Call for Proposals:** 18 projects funded
- **2nd Call for Proposals:** 12 projects funded
- **3rd Call for Proposals:** 10 projects funded
- **4th (Final) Call for Proposals:** 2 projects funded
- **Total Portfolio:** 42 projects implemented across **22 distinct Sub-Saharan African countries**.

As the program moves into its synthesis phase, ALDA is commissioning an external **Impact Assessment** to comprehensively evaluate the results, legacy, and systemic changes triggered by these 42 interventions.

### 2. Objective of the Impact Assessment

The main objective is to evaluate the overall impact, effectiveness, sustainability, and relevance of the 42 projects funded under Cluster 1.

Specifically, the assessment must:

- **Quantify Global Achievements:** Consolidate data to present absolute figures on outputs and outcomes (e.g., number of youth reached, capacity-building hours, policy briefs produced).
- **Identify Best Practices & Policies:** Uncover successful methodologies utilized by youth CSOs to influence local/national policies or establish youth representative structures (e.g., Youth Councils, peace processes supported, conflict management approached, solutions for cities concretely visible and explained ).
- **Provide Strategic Recommendations:** Inform the EU, ALDA, and broader civil society networks on optimized strategies for future youth-centered re-granting initiatives in the Global South.

### 3. Scope of Work

The consultant/evaluation team will investigate the full lifecycle of the 42 sub-granted projects across the 22 target countries.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

#### A. Results, Outputs, and Outcomes

- Consolidate all quantitative indicators from sub-grantee reports into a master impact registry.
- Assess the level of meaningful youth inclusion accomplished, specifically evaluating adherence to the *Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)* principles (Non-discrimination, participation, transparency, and accountability) enforced by the call.
- Analyze structural changes: To what extent did projects lead to closer cooperation with local authorities or formal youth representation networks?
- Collect graphics and photos related to the presentation to make easier and transmissible the results

#### B. Best Practices & Policy Advocacy

- Identify high-performing "change-maker" organizations and extract repeatable models of youth mobilization, advocacy campaigns, and accountability tracking.
- Analyze policy-level adjustments or civic entry points discovered by sub-grantees within restrictive or evolving political environments.

#### C. Processes and Capacity Building

- Evaluate the value-add of ALDA's custom training, technical support, and coaching pathways provided to lower-experience sub-grantees.
- Assess the efficacy of the rolling call framework, peer-to-peer learning spaces, and cross-border matchmaking events.

## 4. Methodological Framework

The evaluator is expected to propose a robust, mixed-methods evaluation design capable of capturing data across 22 countries. The methodology must feature:

1. **Desk Review:** Systematic evaluation of project proposals, final narratives, financial summaries, and indicators from all 42 projects.
2. **Quantitative Data Aggregation:** Creation of a finalized dashboard registering absolute program metrics.
3. **Qualitative Validation:**
  - o **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):** With ALDA project managers and sub-grantee directors.
  - o **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** Conducted virtually or via local proxies with youth final beneficiaries (ages 15–35).
  - o **Deep-Dive Case Studies:** Selection of 6–8 representative projects (balancing geographical lots and themes) for narrative case-study development.

## 5. Expected Deliverables and Outputs

The selected consultant/firm will be responsible for producing:

Deliverable	Description	Timeline
<b>1. Inception Report</b>	Detailed methodology, work plan, evaluation matrix, and finalized data collection tools.	Within 2 weeks of kickoff
<b>2. Draft Evaluation Report</b>	Comprehensive draft addressing all evaluation criteria, initial data dashboard, and 6 to 8 case studies.	Within 4 weeks of kickoff
<b>3. Final Impact Assessment Report</b>	High-quality, edited report incorporating ALDA and partner feedback, executive summary, and data charts.	Within 6 weeks of kickoff

**Expected Length:** A comprehensive report of 20 to 25 pages, excluding annexes.

**Visual Data Presentation:** The report must include high-quality analytical graphics and data visualizations (such as charts, trends, and impact matrices) to support the assessment's findings.

**Photographic Documentation:** Inclusion of relevant photographs from granted/implemented projects is required.

**Case Studies & Project References:** The consultant must explicitly reference and cross-examine past and ongoing projects to demonstrate concrete evidence of impact.

## 6. Consultant Profile & Requirements

ALDA invites proposals from independent evaluators or consulting firms demonstrating the following qualifications:

- Minimum **7+ years** of experience in international development evaluation, specifically focusing on democracy, civic space, or youth empowerment programs.
- Proven track record evaluating complex **EU-funded re-granting/sub-granting mechanism** structures.
- Extensive field working experience or deep contextual understanding of civil society frameworks within **Sub-Saharan Africa**.
- Fluency in written and spoken **English and French**, as project portfolios span Anglophone and Francophone African territories.
- Strong competency in managing remote, multi-country qualitative data gathering tools.

## 7. Submission Guidelines

Interested candidates should submit a technical and financial proposal containing:

- A brief statement explaining understanding of the assignment and proposed methodology.
- Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of evaluation Expert/team highlighting relevant past evaluations to [wydeafrica@aldaintranet.org](mailto:wydeafrica@aldaintranet.org)
- Financial proposal outlining all-inclusive costs (expert fees, operational costs).
- One previous evaluation report sample of a similar nature.

**Submission Deadline: July 12, 2026, at 23:59 CEST**