

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
1. Inception Report	Detailed methodology, work plan, evaluation matrix, and finalized data collection tools.	Within 2 weeks of kickoff
2. Draft Evaluation Report	Comprehensive draft addressing all evaluation criteria, initial data dashboard, and 6 to 8 case studies.	Within 4 weeks of kickoff
3. Final Impact Assessment Report	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 wydeafrika@aldaintranet.org
- Financial proposal outlining all-inclusive costs (expert fees, operational costs).
- One previous evaluation report sample of a similar nature.