**Terms of Reference**

**(ToR)**

**THE SELECTION OF TWO EXPERTS FOR**

 **Development of the Analysis of the role and contribution of the Montenegrin Parliament to the Montenegrin EU integration process and cooperation with CSOs on this path**

1. **Introduction**

An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and should be recognised and treated as such by state institutions. The consultations remain sometimes a formality, without real openness towards the views of civil society representatives. Some ministries have improved dialogue with the civil society and the inclusiveness of the decision-making process, but there is a room to improve cooperation with the Parliament and the current legal and institutional framework needs to be further improved to strengthen the consultation and cooperation mechanisms between state institutions and the civil society in the context of the EU accession process. In this sense, Parliament is yet to demonstrate in practice its commitment to Montenegro's EU reform agenda and improve coordination with the government on legislative initiatives, as well as to increase Parliament's capacity to scrutinise proposed legislation for compliance with EU acquis. The last but not the least, efforts were undertaken to improve parliamentary oversight of all governance branches, but effective control remains at early stage.

Therefore, Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) and Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) are implementing the project **“Inclusive Dialogue for the Progress of the Society”** with the overall objective to contributing to the EU integration process of Montenegro by fostering democratic reforms and good governance. This project strives to enhance multi-sectoral policy dialogue through effective inclusion of CSOs in decision-making process and inclusive dialogue between citizens, CSOs and the Parliament of Montenegro.

1. **Purpose and Coverage**

The purpose of this contract is to engage experts to develop ***Analysis of the role and contribution of the Montenegrin Parliament to the Montenegrin EU integration process and cooperation with CSOs on this path.***
Parliament of Montenegro has a key role in monitoring the course of accession negotiations with the EU and harmonizing the legislation with the EU acquis. Also, Article 15 of the Constitution of Montenegro stipulates that the Parliament shall decide on the manner of accession to the European Union. The Parliament of Montenegro has been involved in the negotiation process from the beginning through the participation of representatives in working groups, as well as through discussion and opinion on draft negotiating positions and regular review of the results at the European Integration Committee and the plenary of the Assembly.

Taking from the thus identified need to strengthen Montenegro's legislative body for the process of European integrations, the aim of this engagement is producing analysis on the role of the Parliament in the precession phase during 10 year of negotiation process, to estimate the role and capacities of the Parliament’s working body which is currently in charge of Committee for European integrations, as well as cooperation between Parliament and CSOs on the EU path. The analysis shall provide overview of their work to date, including membership, capacities, competencies, and cooperation with the civil society. Focusing on these aspects of their work, and offering an account of their activities so far, as well as insights into practice of similar bodies in other countries of the region and in European Union, analysis shall outline the possible solutions and alternative institutional arrangements, bearing in mind the Montenegrin context, demands of the European integration process, as well as the exigencies of financial and administrative effectiveness.

1. **Methodology and Scope of work**

Under the supervision and in close cooperation with the project partners’ representatives, experts will implement the following:

Analysis of the role and contribution of the Montenegrin Parliament to the Montenegrin EU integration process and cooperation with CSOs on this path.

The goal of the analysis is to offer a snapshot of the current capacities and responsibilities of the parliamentary bodies which are to play a role in the accession process, and to outline solutions grounded in comparative practice that could contribute to an improved position of these bodies.

Two experts will be engaged for **a total of 90 days** to jointly develop the analysis.

**4. Duration and time frames**

The Analysis shall be completed **by the end of April 2023.**

 **5**. **Expert Competencies, Experience, and Skill Requirements:**

* Demonstrated experience in conducting policy analysis, research, and evaluation, particularly related to EU integration process topics and work of CSOs in Montenegro
* Familiarity with the structure and functioning of parliamentary bodies
* Understanding of the role and functions of CSOs in the EU integration process
* Experience in working with government institutions, international organizations, and CSOs
* Demonstrated a high level of professionalism and an ability to work independently and in high-pressure situations under tight deadlines

**6. Deadline and submission of expression of interest**

CDT and CEDEM invite interested experts to submit the following documentation by January 16th 2023 at biljana@cdtmn.org:

* CV with relevant experience and qualifications (CV with relevant experience and qualifications (Montenegro or English language);
* Itemized financial proposal (up to 1.500,00 EUR gross amount per one expert).

**Disclaimer:** This ToR is not limited to Montenegro only and experts from other countries are also invited to submit their offers.

The selected contractor will be responsible for designing and executing all the activities described in this TOR in collaboration with CEDEM and CDT.

The short-listed bidding expert or agency may be asked for a formal presentation before the final selection.