

Development of the State of the Country Report 2024

Terms of Reference

Background

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Moldova announces a call for quotations for the development of the 2024 edition of the annual State of the Country Report (SCR). The key goal of the SCR is to provide a nationwide platform for public debate across government, private sector, civil society, and the international community in the development of policies and prioritization of the key public sectors, which need assistance for further development. The SCR is conceived as an eye-catching publication, combining economic, social, political, and geopolitical analysis in the key development sectors of Moldova. It also provides a set of relevant indicators for assessing the progress and challenges Moldova is facing and identifies policy priorities aimed at fostering sustainable development and improving people's lives.

Purpose of Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to develop the 2024 edition of the SCR according to the concept described below.

Concept of the State of the Country Report 2024

The modest economic recovery in 2023, following the recession in 2022, validated the constraints outlined in the State of the Country Report 2023: high uncertainty due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, coupled with a slower-than-expected pace of reforms. This situation underscores the persistent erosion of Moldova's economic potential, driven by factors such as emigration, demographic aging, and weak economic policies.

The 2024 edition of the State of the Country Report (SCR) will analyse the main economic, social, political, and geopolitical trends in the key development sectors of Moldova in line with the established structure of the SCR publication, which reflects three key elements that define the state of a country: (i) householders, (ii) firms and (iii) government. The households will be analysed from the point of view of the wellbeing of the population: evolution of real incomes, access to the labour market, access to public services and infrastructure, personal security, and how these dimensions were impacted by recent economic policies implemented amid (pre)electoral times. The firms will be analysed from the point of view of their competitiveness: access to capital, access to relevant skills, implementation of know-how and capacity to innovate and access to domestic and foreign market, and how they should be fostered. The government will be analysed from the point of view of good governance and key reforms: domestic political affairs, foreign policy, capacity to promote key reforms (anticorruption, justice and rule of law), budgetary policy and legal framework, and fiscal enforcement capacity, as well as what should be done in order to speed up the reforms.

The 2024 edition of the State of the Country Report will feature a special issue focused on *the private sector development and state financing programmes for SMEs*.

The Report methodology shall use among other tools the analysis of the key statistical data about the main economic, financial, and social trends; perception analysis of the population and firms, based on the public opinion polls and other representative country surveys;

comparative analysis (benchmarking) with other countries from Central and Eastern Europe; interviews with field experts and relevant policymakers; and, mass media screening.

Each chapter of the SCR 2024 shall have a similar structure: an introductory paragraph, revealing the importance of the topic and highlighting the issues, which will be analysed; analysis of the main trends over the last year/comparison of main indicators over the last 2 years; mid-term outlook and key challenges; policy priorities.

The SCR shall have approximately 50 pages, and shall represent a consistent document, including the main results of the analysis (rather than being descriptive), showing the risks persisting in different areas, and including the key recommendations. The report shall be written in Romanian.

Timeline for Report Development

The deadline for the report development shall be 15 September 2024.

Requirements for the implementing organizations

- Well-established and reputable think-tank with at least 5 years of activity;
- Proven experience in conducting similar reports/ analyses; References to similar reports and analyses.
- Deep knowledge of the economic, social, and political situation of Moldova and the region;
- Proven capacity to identify relevant experts to ensure the successful implementation of the project;

Application process

All organizations interested in this assignment shall submit their quotations including the following:

Technical offer: The technical offer shall include a general summary of each chapter of the study, as well as a set of indicators to be integrated into the planned analysis for each chapter described in the TOR. Data disaggregation by gender must be applied where relevant and possible.

Financial offer: The offer shall include the number of person days and fee per day (EUR net), necessary to deliver the assignment.

The quotations shall be assessed based on the following methodology:

Evaluation methodology: technical offer – 65 points, financial offer –35 points.

Deadline for submission of quotations: 1 July 2024.