

YOUTH STUDIES SOUTHEAST EUROPE 2018

Terms of Reference

- Research Institutions -

Tasks & Responsibilities	
<p>1 Background</p>	<p>The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is taking the initiative to carry out a region-wide empirical study on youth in Southeast Europe to gain analytical insights into the young generation’s perceptions, awareness, expectations, and approaches towards changing realities. The study will determine challenges and urgent tasks youth is facing within their societies.</p> <p>Model and point of orientation for the study will be the FES Youth Studies, which were carried out in the region of Southeast Europe from 2009 to 2015 and the resulting comparative regional studies. Similar surveys have been commissioned and implemented by the FES in Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</p> <p>The country reports will be based on independent state-of-the-art representative surveys, which will be conducted simultaneously in 10 countries of the region from January 22nd until March 2nd, 2018.</p> <p>The contracting entity is the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania. Some elements of standardization and regional coordination will apply.</p> <p>Full access to the data obtained through the surveys will be provided to the authors of the country and regional reports. In addition, the reports will also be informed by current literature and secondary sources from contemporary Youth studies.</p> <p>The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania calls on research institutions to express their interest in becoming research partners in this endeavor.</p>
<p>2 Objectives</p>	<p>The study will aim at identifying the needs, attitudes, and perceptions of youth towards becoming agents of change. It is supposed to encourage public debates and provide an in-depth analysis of the conditions youth are facing in the region, their behavior, attitudes, and aspirations.</p> <p>Specifically, the FES is interested in</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the contribution of youth to the democratic development of the societies of Southeast Europe, as well as young peoples' perception of and identification with Europe - potential contributions and recommendations for developing youth and social policies within the region, related to the topics of education, mobility/brain drain, employment, family and equal opportunity, anti-discrimination etc. - analyzing migration tendencies of Southeast European youth <p>Pending the approval of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania, authors may analyze additional themes and topics, if deemed necessary from a national perspective.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Methodology</p>	<p>The study will be based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods and on primary as well as secondary data. Specifically, the following data gathering techniques will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national representative survey based on a standardized core questionnaire. - The FES Romania may solicit advice from the selected research institution/authors and/or youth policy practitioners in identifying up to 10 additional, country-specific, questions for the questionnaire. - Use of secondary sources. - Pending the FES Romania preferences, focus groups and/or in-depth interviews may be conducted to identify additional, country-specific items (Section J, cf. below) and/or generate quotes by respondents for illustrative purposes. <p>The surveys will be conducted by polling agencies that have been contracted separately. The survey questionnaire will cover the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. Leisure and lifestyle; - B. Values, religion, and trust; - C. Family and friends; - D. Mobility; - E. Education; - F. Employment; - G. Politics; - H. Demographic data; - I. Addendum: Confidential Questions - J. Country Specific Module (incl. some obligatory items)

<p>4 Structure and Contents</p>	<p>Country reports should broadly adhere to the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction (outlining the purpose of the study and the core research questions) - Short methodological section - Concise conceptual section including a brief literature overview - Analysis of the core overarching themes specified above, based on the survey data, interviews (if applicable) and secondary sources, and grounded in relevant contemporary literature. This is the central part of the country study and should have a <u>strong analytical dimension, interpreting (not describing)</u> the collected data and information. The analysis should include, but not be limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The most interesting/relevant differences between different segments of youth (according to gender, age, rural/urban, SES...) for all crucial variables; o Using scales (authoritarianism, deviance, parenting styles, religiosity...) as independent variables; o Comparisons with the previous wave of FES studies where possible (changes in time); o Most interesting/relevant cross-national comparisons (within the FES 2018 database and wider); specifying areas where a country 'sticks out'. - Conclusions containing the most relevant findings - Recommendations stemming directly from the findings of the study, which are tailored to specific target groups and address concrete policy issues and institutions - Bibliography - Annexes, if necessary <p>The authors may add sections pending the approval of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania.</p> <p>The maximum length of the overall study (excluding bibliography, annexes, and footnotes) is 25,000 words.</p> <p>The country study's writing / referencing style and design must comply with FES standards and guidelines, which will be provided by the FES. Graphs should have a two-color format (blue, red + black).</p> <p>The country study will be an original contribution by its authors, created specifically for the purpose of this project. As such, it should adhere to high standards of</p>
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		<p>academic research including but not limited to avoidance of any form of plagiarism and proper referencing of all materials used.</p>														
<p>5</p>	<p>Tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review previous FES youth studies; b) Review relevant literature and secondary sources and integrate/use it in the report. c) If required, recommend up to 10 additional items for the country-specific questionnaire. d) Participate in a regional kick-off & methodology conference on November 13th-15th, 2017 e) The data provided in the national survey is being used as the analytical basis. It is expected that the authors are well-versed in statistical analysis. f) If so instructed by the FES Romania, conduct a minimum of ten additional semi-structured interviews with young people from different social backgrounds, selected by the researchers. g) Produce a first draft. h) Present and discuss preliminary findings at a regional policy workshop on June 20th-21st, 2018. i) Produce a pre-final draft, integrating inputs from the policy workshop and FES feedback. j) Modify and upgrade the country study in line with editorial feedback received by the FES (expect between two and four rounds of comments). Editorial feedback will primarily focus on the structure, coherence, and depth of analysis and writing. k) Provide the final report in the English language (including language editing by a native speaker). <p>The FES Romania retains the right to reject reports and require updates as well as withhold payment on the grounds of sub-par language quality or inadequate integration of editorial feedback.</p>														
<p>6</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Natl. Tenders published</td> <td>September 18th, 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deadline for Application</td> <td>October 9th, 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Award of Contract</td> <td>October 30th, 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Formulation of Additional Items in Questionnaire</td> <td>October 31st - November 27th, 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Kick-Off Conference</td> <td>November 13th-15th, 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Literature Review, Secondary Resources Processing</td> <td>November 28th, 2017- March 26th, 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First draft report delivery (based on secondary sources)</td> <td>March 26th, 2018</td> </tr> </table>	Natl. Tenders published	September 18 th , 2017	Deadline for Application	October 9 th , 2017	Award of Contract	October 30 th , 2017	Formulation of Additional Items in Questionnaire	October 31 st - November 27 th , 2017	Regional Kick-Off Conference	November 13 th -15 th , 2017	Literature Review, Secondary Resources Processing	November 28 th , 2017- March 26 th , 2018	First draft report delivery (based on secondary sources)	March 26 th , 2018
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7	Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documented experience in qualitative and quantitative research. ➤ Documented expertise in youth studies and policy. ➤ Good knowledge about democratization, civil society, European Integration and the region of Southeast Europe. ➤ Statistical analysis skills. ➤ Capacity to deliver the final report in flawless English. ➤ The application should contain the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A proposal discussing your research interest in relation to the research objectives (cf. section 2 of this ToR) in the national context. This proposal should reference relevant literature and not exceed 5 pages. ▪ A list of references with full contacts; ▪ If applicable, background information on the institution, maximum 1 page; ▪ CV of the responsible person; ▪ Budget proposal. 																
8	Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applications must be submitted in the English language via e-mail to victoria.stoiciu@fes.ro ➤ The deadline is (October 9th, 2017, 9 am CEST). ➤ For any further questions, please contact victoria.stoiciu@fes.ro 																