

## **Europe Foundation (EPF) Consulting Opportunity**

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**Title:** Expert, Public Expenditure Monitoring

**Duration:** July 1 – October 31, 2016

**Reports to:** President, Vice-President

### **Position Summary:**

EPF is seeking an expert in public finance management and budget execution, who will work with the EU-funded project team and the targeted civil society organizations, in order to lead the process of drafting position papers and recommendations for legislative/policy changes that are to improve public finance management and budget execution.

### **About EPF:**

Europe Foundation's mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives. To achieve its mission, EPF strives (1) to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions, empowering them to address pressing issues and (2) to mobilize relevant stakeholders in issue-based dialogue, through raising public awareness and creating various coalitions, platforms or working groups, so as to effect positive change.

EPF's work is guided by the following approaches: (1) creating opportunities for civic participation in public policy making, (2) engaging youth, (3) fostering culture of corporate and community philanthropy, including through formation of public-private-NGO partnerships, (4) promoting evidence-based advocacy and decision making, and (5) building confidence across religious, ethnic, and community divides.

EPF's programmatic and grantmaking interventions are guided by its mission and utilize its approaches. Some of its flagship programs include *Engage and Monitor for Change*, *European Integration*; *Youth Integration*; *Social Enterprise*; and *Open Door Grantmaking*. Together, they feed into achieving the Foundation's mission and provide opportunities for Georgians to engage in social, economic, and political developments, in order to effect substantive and sustainable positive change at the local and national level. Through these programs, and in tandem with a comprehensive institutional development strategy, EPF implements its mission and, in the process, unites local civil society's efforts in the pursuit of our common goal: Georgia that is democratic, conflict-free, and with civically engaged citizens, socially responsible businesses, and sustainable, accountable, and effective third sector organizations.

### **About the Project:**

EU funded project entitled *Partnership for Budget Transparency: Civil Society Oversight of Public Spending in Georgia* aims to contribute to improved budget transparency and accountability in Georgia by achieving the following results: (1) strengthened CSO capacity to promote reform and improve transparency of budget spending, and (2) increased interaction between civil society and Georgian public authorities on improving public finance

expenditure oversight mechanisms. The project, which is co-funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) was launched on November 1, 2014.

Within capacity-building activities, two series of trainings on public policy making and budget implementation monitoring were conducted, with a total of 37 CSOs benefiting from them. Four out of 16 proposals were selected and awarded within grant competition that was commenced by EPF after the above-mentioned trainings. Two of the funded projects are focused on state programs monitoring, while the other two address local budget transparency issues.

14 CSOs are members of the CSO Platform on Budget Transparency, which was set up by EPF to help unite civil society efforts toward promoting public expenditure management reform and to better monitor public spending. Work towards creation institutionalized channel to ensure dialogue between relevant public authorities and CSOs on PEM-related issues and PEM oversight mechanisms is underway.

**Position Description:**

The expert will have solid knowledge of public finance management system both in Georgia and western democracies, as well as different methods of public expenditure monitoring. He or she will serve as a consultant to the CSO platform on Budget Transparency and support its efforts by developing position papers on the most pressing issues related to public spending in Georgia. The themes of the position papers will be determined together with the platform member organizations, but may include some of the following: (1) budget preparation in Georgia: gap analysis of the existing processes and practices; (2) problems encountered during budget execution on local and national levels; (3) legislative and non-legislative barriers to budget transparency, etc. At the same time, based on the findings and in line with recommendations outlined in the recently prepared Assessment of Public Expenditure Management Oversight Mechanisms in Georgia, the expert will prepare set of concrete recommendation to the GoG. These papers and recommendations will be shared with the GoG and other stakeholders during policy dialogue meetings, roundtable discussions, and other project-related events. The expert, together with the relevant program manager, will facilitate the work of the CSO platform and support its activities with research and analysis as needed. The expert will also participate in the meetings of the Project Management Committee.

**Qualifications Required:**

- Master's degree in Economic, Social and/or Political Sciences
- Solid knowledge of public finance management issues, including public expenditure monitoring, and socio-economic developments in Georgia
- Proficiency in both Georgian and English
- Superior analytical and academic writing skills
- Ability to work independently

The deadline for applying to this position is **June 17, 2016**

Interested candidate must send their CV and Cover Letter to: [vacancy@epfound.ge](mailto:vacancy@epfound.ge) with a subject line *PEM Expert*