

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

<b>Procurement Number:</b>	EURASIA2020U19o
<b>Open Date:</b>	July 17, 2020
<b>Questions Deadline:</b>	July 21, 2020
<b>Closing Deadline:</b>	July 27, 2020
<b>Geographical Area Restrictions:</b>	935
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Ganna Velykotska ( <a href="mailto:gvelykotska@iri.org">gvelykotska@iri.org</a> )

### Background

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization dedicated to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide. Since 1983, IRI has worked to develop democratic institutions and ideals, carrying out a variety of international programs to promote freedom, self-government and the rule of law worldwide. IRI provides technical assistance in the areas of political party strengthening, developing civic institutions and open elections, promoting democratic governance and advancing the rule of law.

Since 1998, IRI has conducted over 900 polls and surveyed more than 1.5 million people in over 100 countries in some of the world's most challenging environments. IRI has also worked to train young leaders on how to collect, interpret and present data to local government representatives—leveraging accessible technology and platforms to help promote youth-led advocacy of responsive public services.

In support of the USAID's Democratic Governance East (DG East) activity, IRI will collect public opinion data through a regionally representative computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) survey of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* with municipal oversamples.

### Period of Performance

Date of signature through 6 October 2020.

### Statement of Work

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

Public opinion data shall be obtained through a regionally representative computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) survey of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* with municipal oversamples in Mariupol, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka, Bakhmut, Pokrovsk (Myrnohrad), Toretsk in Donetsk *oblast* and Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Stanytsia Luhanska, Starobilsk, Popasna, Svatove in Luhansk *oblast* to obtain the most accurate possible information about: (a) Citizen perceptions of key national reforms

and decentralization (b) citizens voting plans for upcoming elections, (c) level of citizen political engagement (d) perceptions of changes in the country, and (e) level of youth engagement (d) trust in local media. The overall goal of this research is to measure the percentage of respondents expressing confidence and understanding of key Ukrainian reforms, including national reforms and decentralization.

## **RESEARCH TASKS**

**(1) General Responsibilities of Bidder.** The bidder shall be responsible for the project design and execution, including the following specific tasks:

- a) translation, formatting, pretesting, adaptation, and programming of questionnaire;
- b) development of a sampling methodology;
- c) training supervisors and interviewers;
- d) arranging and supervising all aspects of fieldwork, including back-checks;
- e) processing the survey data, including data cleaning and encoding survey responses;
- f) ascertaining the representativeness of the sample and weighting the data, if necessary;
- g) Statistical analysis of findings and producing the deliverables specified below.

**(2) Questionnaire.** IRI will provide a draft questionnaire and the bidder will provide input, such as a need for rephrasing certain terms for local context.

IRI requests translation into Ukrainian and Russian. Translations will be reviewed and approved by IRI. The estimated average interview duration is 25 minutes.

**3) Sample Design.** IRI requires a sample of no less than 1,600 adults, age 16 or older, representative of the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (800 in each oblast), in addition to no less than 400 respondents in each of the following cities: Mariupol, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka, Bakhmut, Pokrovsk (Myrnohrad), Toretsk in Donetsk oblast and Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Stanytsia Luhanska, Starobilsk, Popasna, Svatove in Luhansk oblast. Exclusions of the population of the survey universe (e.g. geographic, linguistic, without access to phones etc.) must be discussed during quotation stage.

The sample shall be drawn using recognized probability methods, all the way down to the selection of the individual respondent. In the event that any departure from probability sampling methods is recommended by the bidder for all or any part of the survey, the sampling methodologies to be employed shall be described in detail and a rationale for their use shall be provided.

IRI's preferred approach to CATI sampling list-based, provided that recent sampling frame data exists in form of listings of all phone numbers (landline and mobile, incl. of all major mobile phone service providers.) Alternatively, IRI accepts an RDD approach, ideally with some stratification, e.g. by area code.

A detailed sampling methodology shall be submitted to the IRI prior to fieldwork, including a description of the survey coverage, allocation of the sample, description of the sampling frame, description of any stratification criteria to be used, description of the stages of selection and the selections methods to be used at each stage, the method to be used for

selection of the respondent in case of shared phone numbers, and call-back rules to be employed. It is assumed that the sample will be distributed in proportion to the population of each region or other geographic unit to be surveyed; in the event that the bidder wishes to propose a sample design departing from this principle the proposal should describe the allocation to be used and the reasons for doing so.

**(4) Pre-test.** The questionnaire shall be pre-tested by the bidder prior to the commencement of any fieldwork. No less than 20 pre-test interviews shall be conducted and in surveys with translations into multiple language, no less than 10 interviews per language. The bidder shall provide IRI with a written report of the results of the pre-test, along with details of any problems encountered and suggested remedies, prior to the commencement of any fieldwork.

**(5) Fieldwork.** Interviews shall be conducted by experienced field workers who shall be thoroughly briefed by bidder prior to commencement of any fieldwork. IRI may send a representative to (remotely) observe training and/or listen to some interviews. The bidder shall ensure that interviewers are thoroughly familiar with respondent selection procedures, call back procedures, and the structure of the questionnaire. Interviewer training shall include practice sessions in administering the questionnaire. All interviewers must have at least completed secondary education and must be fully fluent (reading and speaking) in the language(s) in which they are to administer the interviews. A minimum of 10% of interviews shall be back checked or accompanied by a team supervisor.

The bidder will need to track contacts (and reasons for unsuccessful interview attempts) to calculate the response rate. During the quotation process, the bidder will disclose the anticipated response rate. Should this anticipated response rate be less than 50%, the bidder will list in the proposal additional steps that will be taken to boost response rates, e.g. additional call-backs, opening the call-center during additional hours, etc. Informed consent (oral is acceptable unless country laws require written) must be sought prior to commencing the interview. IRI will provide draft informed consent language to the bidder and this template may be updated by the bidder to conform with the country's legal requirements.

**(6) Data Processing.** The bidder shall be responsible for data cleaning, and processing, including development and implementation of a coding scheme for all open-ended questions. The bidder shall supply data to IRI as a single clean, fully labeled in English SPSS "\*.sav" file with a complete data dictionary of variable names and value labels. There shall be one data record for each respondent and records shall be of fixed length. Each record shall include a unique respondent ID number, interviewer ID number, interview duration, any geographic units as per the sample design, and date of interview. Each record shall include demographic information about the respondent, including gender, exact age, and education level.

The bidder shall be responsible for deriving and applying any post-stratification weights required to bring the sample into conformity with the demographic profile of the population at the very least for gender and age groups, as well as any additional weighting factors required to correct for disproportionate allocation, if used. Ideally, IRI would want education groups included in weights, and if available demographic data allows it, those without formal education will be assigned to a separately code from those with a least some primary education. If demographic weights were to exceed a factor 1:8, this must be discussed in

writing with IRI before the weight is applied. IRI has strict upper limits on post-weighting and requires unweighted samples already generally matching the population's rough gender and age distribution. For example, an unweighted sample of 65% male and 35% female would not be accepted, even if corrected with post-weights.

**(7) Technical Report.** When delivering data, the bidder shall provide a Technical Report which shall include the following:

- a) A complete sampling methodology.
- b) Details of response rates, including tabulation of unsuccessful interview attempts, with reasons for non-response (i.e. respondent refusal, proxy refusal, inability to locate selected respondent, etc.).
- c) A brief report on survey operations including any practical difficulties encountered in carrying out the survey;
- d) Estimated sampling error;
- e) A complete explanation of the weighting scheme including details of how weighting factors were developed and applied, as well as the demographic data on which weights were based (i.e., age, gender, and education distributions in the population);
- f) any abnormalities encountered during data QC, including but not limited to: suspicious patterns by interviewer ID (e.g. usually fast completion rates), potential contradictions (e.g. respondents who rate a certain politician as highly untrustworthy yet definitely plan on voting for this person), significant data changes of indicators since the previous poll etc.

**(8) Analytical Report.** The bidder will provide an analytical report of 3-5 pages highlighting key findings from the data and placing these findings within the local context. Mere description of data is not sufficient; the report must contain analysis.

**(9) PowerPoint Presentation.** The bidder will provide a presentation with a chart for every survey question. A template will be provided by IRI.

**(10) Summary of deliverables.** The Deliverables to be provided to IRI by the bidder are as follows:

- (a) Sampling Methodology
- (b) Pretest report
- (c) Copies of the final questionnaire, as fielded, in English and translations
- (d) A complete data set formatted as SPSS file
- (e) A technical report
- (f) An analytical report
- (g) PowerPoint Presentation

**(11) Delivery Schedule.** Bidder will advise IRI on a feasible timeline for completing work on this project as soon as possible, but with fieldwork completed no later than September 7, 2020, with deliverables d and e listed in Section 7 above to be submitted no later than 2 weeks after the conclusion of fieldwork, and deliverables f and g submitted no later than 10 days after IRI's acceptance of deliverables d and e.

**(12) Proposals must contain:**

- List CATI surveys with similar specifications previously conducted in these two oblasts
- Explain if planning on using subcontractors for any tasks
- Is bidder able to comply with all requirements listed on the SOW without alterations? If any proposed alterations, explain.
- Coverage, if not 100% of non-institutionalized persons aged 16+
- Describe sampling methodology, including design and the source the sampling frame is drawn from, respondent selection, number of call-backs
- Anticipated response rate
- Describe Interviewer Training (duration, topics etc.)
- Describe fieldwork quality control (direct listening, backchecks etc.)
- Describe data checks protocol (e.g. logic checks etc.)
- Describe anticipated challenges if any
- Describe Covid-19 related effects on your operations

### **Technical Proposals**

All proposals submitted to IRI must include:

1. Information addressing Bidder's experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and Bidder's proposed specific approach for providing those services to IRI under this contract, including sufficient information to determine a clear definition of services as it relates to other providers that may be involved.
  - a. At least one sample presentation of previously conducted poll;
  - b. At least one sample presentation of previously analyzed data.
2. The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the Bidder (and electronic address if available). If the Bidder is a firm, name(s) should be provided for individuals authorized to conduct business on behalf of the firm.
3. Bidders may provide a list of up to three references for work performed of a similar nature during the last three years, along with contact details. IRI may contact the references to evaluate past performance.
4. If the Bidder is a U.S. organization/resident, or a foreign organization/resident which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., the information submitted must contain Bidder's Taxpayer Identification Number.
5. Proposals will not exceed 15 pages (not including cover page).
6. The Bidder should have at least five years' (5) experience conducting CATI surveys in Ukraine and experience conducting public opinion research in Eastern or Southern Ukraine.
7. The Bidder should have professional fluency in Russian, Ukrainian and English.

### **Price Proposals**

Bidders must propose a firm-fixed Unit Price for each of the deliverables identified below and in the format of the table below. The Bidder's pricing must be valid for at least 60 (sixty) calendar days after the due date for proposal submission. The proposed Unit Price should be fixed and inclusive of all costs to perform, including inspection services, transportation, taxes, import duties (if any), and other levies. To the extent that a Bidder proposed to include any pricing not reflected in the table below, such pricing must be fully described in the

proposal. Proposals must be submitted in USD, payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency. The Contractor shall confirm availability of USD account to be able to receive the wire transfer.

Data Collection

The Offeror shall provide a quote for fieldwork with 1,600 respondents of one regional opinion poll and quotes for 6,000 respondents in each requested city.

<b>Unit/Deliverable</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Total</b>
Data collection (1,600 respondents)			
Data collection (6,000 respondents - 400 per city)			

Data Analysis

The Offeror shall provide a quote for one presentation in English and Ukrainian based on the abovementioned fieldwork.

<b>Unit/Deliverable</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Total</b>
Data analysis			

IRI reserves the right to choose one company for both services or different companies for either data collection or data analysis depending on the information received

**Evaluation and Award Process**

1. IRI may contact any Bidder for clarification or additional information, but Bidders are advised that IRI intends to evaluate the offers based on the written proposals, without discussions, and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial proposals. IRI may but is not obligated to conduct additional negotiations with the most highly rated Bidders prior to award of a contract and may at its sole discretion elect to issue contracts to one or more Bidders.
2. Mathematical errors will be corrected in the following manner: If a discrepancy exists between the total price proposed and the total price resulting from multiplying the unit price by the corresponding amounts, then the unit price will prevail and the total price will be corrected. If there is a discrepancy between the numbers written out in words and the amounts in numbers, then the amount expressed in words will prevail. If the Bidder does not accept the correction, the offer will be rejected.
3. IRI may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or sub-line items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if IRI determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk.
4. IRI will conduct a source selection based as follows:

IRI intends to make an award to the responsible Bidder based on the following evaluation factors:

- a) Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications) – 30 percent
  - *Level of Detail in Proposed Methodology (15 percent)*
  - *Qualifications of Key Personnel (15 percent)*
- b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 30 percent
  - *Quality of Past Presentation Example (15 percent)*
  - *Relevancy of Listed Past Survey experience (15 percent)*
- c) Price – 40 percent

IRI intends to evaluate Bidders' proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the program.

- 5. If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered in evaluating performance or price.

### **Submission Instructions**

Bids must be submitted via email to Ganna Velykotska, at [gvelykotska@iri.org](mailto:gvelykotska@iri.org) with the subject line "EURASIA2020U19o RFP" by the deadline listed above.

### **RFP Terms and Conditions**

1. Prospective Bidders are requested to review clauses incorporated by reference in the section "Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference".
2. IRI may reject any or all proposals if such is within IRI's interest.
3. Proof of costs incurred, such as but not limited to receipts, pictures and financial documents, may be requested during and for up to three years after the end of the contract period.
4. The Bidder's initial proposal should contain the Bidder's best offer.
5. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoices and deliverables/services.
6. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
7. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and submissions shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share proposals internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the proposals.
8. For any currency conversion, the exchange rate to US Dollars listed on oanda.com on the closing date of this solicitation shall be used.
9. Every contract will contain provisions governing termination for cause and termination for convenience.
10. By submitting a proposal, offeror agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to the services identified above, and will specifically identify any disagreement with or exceptions to the terms, conditions, and provisions.
11. Offerors confirm that the prices in the proposal/proposal/application/quote have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or

agreement with any other Bidder or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.

12. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the proposal submission:

- Any close, familial, or financial relationships with IRI staff and agents. For example, the Bidder must disclose if a Bidder's mother conducts volunteer trainings for IRI.
- Any family or financial relationship with other Bidders submitting proposals. For example, if the Bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the Bidder must state this.
- Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

### **Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference**

IRI is required to make the contractor subject to certain flowdown clauses of the prime award. This awarded contract will incorporate one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Where "flow-down" to the contractor is applicable, references to "USAID/Department of State" shall be interpreted to mean "IRI", "Recipient" to mean "Contractor", and "Subrecipient" to mean "lower-tier subcontractor." Included by reference are the applicable provisions contained in Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

### **IRI Obligations**

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal or quotation.

### **Required Certifications**

The following certificates need to be signed by all Bidders. These certifications are an integral part of the quotation/proposal. Please print them off and send back to us with your proposal after signature on each certificate. They are:

- Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility and voluntary exclusion lower tier covered transactions
- Authorized Individuals
- Certification Regarding Lobbying



## **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS**

This certification implements Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and the requirements set forth in 2.C.F.R. 180, Subpart C.”

Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the person to which this proposal is submitted.

1. By signing and submitting this proposal/application/quote, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal/application/quote is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the IRI.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
  
1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
  
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Authorized Individuals

The offeror/bidder/applicant represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with IRI and to bind the recipient in connection with this procurement:

Name	Title	Telephone	Email

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal Cooperative Agreement, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned must complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
3. The undersigned must require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients must certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, United States Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification will be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_