

Sarajevo, December 1st, 2021

**Invitation to Tender
for “Political Trends and Dynamics in SEE”**

An invitation to tender is issued to **regional news agencies** for the delivery of the following services:

- Compilation of **three regional news digests per year**, which are structured thematically and include national as well as distinctively regional developments (RCC initiatives, Enlargement / Berlin Process, people-to-people initiatives, elections, crucial domestic and regional political processes etc).
- The digest is accompanied by at least 5 pictures (incl. captions) each relating to different ‘stories’ and news items presented in the overview. Additional thematic pictures are provided for the featured theme of each respective edition.
- The digest and pictures are delivered on a flexible basis, in agreement with the publisher of the publication.
- Comments and additional requests by the editorial team after delivery are treated as a priority. Feedback may include requests to add more pictures or information on developments occurring after the initial delivery.

This ‘agency input’ forms the core & basis for the broader Political Trends & Dynamics publication. Other inputs [highlighted in red] are added by the editorial team at a later stage.

The overall objective of the publication is to provide a review of current political, cultural / societal and economic developments in southeastern Europe as well as their possible contribution to social tension or conflict. The **geographical focus** of the reports will be on Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia. The reports may however also cover developments in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

The **primary objectives** of the publication are the following:

(1) Inform

- a. **Decision-makers in Germany and the European Union** on current events, which are being put into perspective by both local analysts incl. from FES offices, and international actors / observers.
- b. **The interested public incl. the academic community, decision-makers and civil society at large in Southeast Europe** on both regional developments and reactions from Germany and the European Union.

→ The content provided by the news agency only forms the basis for this ‘putting into perspective’. The core function of the agency input is the following:

- (2) Provide analysis on emerging crises and developing social tensions** in Southeast Europe. In focus are security-related issues, which result from economic, social, technological or cultural challenges, and other political developments including illicit activities as well as any developments reinforcing divisive narratives. The digests are meant to foster policy discussion on these issues by looking on “**below the surface” stories and root causes for possible conflict**, which tend to be under-represented in existing reporting. This includes analysis from a bottom-up, human security perspective. Still, traditional security, i.e. strategic issues including overt and covert political, military, economic, cultural, religious, public diplomacy and

communication as well as lobbying etc. actions of external actors in the region should have their place as well.

- (3) [added through other section of the publication] Serve as a **platform for inherently regional discourse** in and on Southeast Europe, which aspires to help shaping narratives on and about this region. The discursive element is achieved by regular **analysis from the region**, which is coupled with **external perceptions & perspectives** by means of guest commentaries and/or interviews.

Political Trends & Dynamics Digest (approx. 2,000-2,500 words)

- The *PTD Digest* puts into perspective current political developments in the region. The analysis is provided by an external agency, and reviewed by national FES offices in conjunction with the FES SOE.
- The section does not follow a strict country-by-country structure, but is presented as continuous text and organized thematically (one topic by paragraph). Country names are highlighted for easier orientation. Not every country needs to be covered each month, although relevant country-specific developments should be highlighted as necessary.
- Relevant regional dynamics (e.g. the Berlin Process, EU/NATO Enlargement, RCC initiatives, other regional activities initiated by other external actors, including the FES) should receive attention in this section. This may take on the form of an info box to emphasize said regional developments.
- Guidelines on spelling, style etc. are provided in the form of a stylesheet.
- The *PTD Overview* also contains at least 5 pictures (incl. captions) each relating to different 'stories' and news items presented in the overview. Additional thematic pictures are provided for the featured theme of each respective edition.

Applying

We ask interested regional news agencies to send a **price quote per issue** by the **22nd of December 2021 (Wednesday, 1 pm, CET)** to info@fes-soe.org

The selection will be made and communicated by the FES Dialogue SOE by the **7th of January 2022**.

- The selected news agency is expected to start with the engagement on this project immediately after selection.
- The project is foreseen to run until **December 2023, with possibility of extension**.
- The details of cooperation will be laid down in a framework agreement.
- The selection criteria are based on 70% price and 30% regional analytical experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on info@fes-soe.org for any additional questions.