

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Media Expert, Election Assessment Mission (EAM)

Background

The ODIHR is the leading agency in Europe in the field of election observation. It co-ordinates and organizes the deployment of several observation missions with thousands of observers every year to assess the compliance of elections in OSCE participating States in line with OSCE commitments, other international standards for democratic elections and national legislation. Its unique methodology provides an in-depth insight into all elements of an electoral process, and permits to make concrete recommendations to further improve electoral processes. More recently, the OSCE/ODIHR started to deploy Election Assessment Missions (EAMs) in order to follow specific electoral issues in a broader range of OSCE participating States.

Objective

Under the guidance of the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Missions (EAM) and in close coordination with the Election Department, the Media Expert of the OSCE/ODIHR EAM monitors and assesses the performance of the private and public electronic and print media during the election process in line with OSCE commitments, other international standards for democratic elections and national legislation.

Main tasks

- Acquire detailed knowledge of Media Laws and related regulations and legislation;
- Acquire knowledge of the political, electoral, legal, human rights and media situation in the country;
- Become familiar with relevant OSCE/ODIHR publications such as Election Observation Handbook, and Existing Commitments for Democratic Elections in OSCE Participating States, Handbook for Monitoring Women's Participation in Elections, Guidelines to Assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process and Existing Commitments for Democratic Elections in OSCE Participating States;
- Monitor the activities of the main electronic and print media to verify their compliance in line with OSCE commitments, other international standards for democratic elections and national legislation during the election campaign;
- Participate in all relevant meetings with the authorities in charge of administering the elections as well as with political parties, diplomatic community, media representatives and civil society;

Reporting

- Prepare an analytical report including recommendations for the Head of EAM about performance of the media and any other issues covered by the Analyst during the EAM for inclusion in the final report before leaving the mission area;
- Remain available for consultation (phone or email) until the ODIHR final report is published.

Education and Experience

- Advanced university degree in information and communication, journalism, international relations, law, political science, social science, or related field;
- Two to three years of relevant professional work experience at the national or international level with some experience in monitoring the conduct of media during election processes;
- Excellent knowledge of the ODIHR methodology for media monitoring during election campaigns;
- Excellent analytical and drafting skills;
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure in a sensitive political environment;
- Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team composed of individuals of different cultural and political backgrounds, while maintaining impartiality and objectivity;
- PC literate; familiarity with word-processing, excel and access;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Knowledge of local languages is an asset.

Deliverables

- Analytical report including recommendations for the Head of EAM on performance of the media and on any other issues covered by the Analyst during the EAM.