UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG | WITS CENTRE FOR JOURNALISM

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Wits Centre for Journalism calls for applications from South-Africa based consultants for a fixed term project in the radio sector: **Research on community radio governance, sustainability, and viability.**

1. Background

The radio broadcasting sector plays a crucial role in disseminating information, promoting cultural exchange, and facilitating public discourse. In recent years, the landscape of radio broadcasting has undergone significant changes due to technological advancements, regulatory reforms, and shifts in audience preferences. The Wits Centre for Journalism (WCJ) runs a dynamic community radio support programme, that works with 18 community radio stations who produce content that speaks to community social justice issues.

The WCJ would like to contribute to the enhancing of the sustainability of the community radio sector. To this end, the WCJ wishes to engage the services of an experienced media to assess the sustainability and governance frameworks within the community radio broadcasting sector, identify challenges and opportunities, and provide recommendations for enhancing its effectiveness and resilience.

2. Objective

To conduct a baseline survey that will lead to the development of a strategy and a comprehensive plan that will be used as guidance for the project staff and key stakeholders in mapping the long-term sustainability of the community radio sector.

3. Methodology

The consultant is expected to conduct a comprehensive literature review on community radio sustainability, governance models, and the regulatory framework in South Africa. They will also conduct a baseline survey on the current state Wits Centre for Journalism network of community radio stations in relation to governance, sustainability, programming, partnerships and collaboration, and gender mainstreaming.

4. Scope of Work

- Evaluate the current state of sustainability initiatives and governance frameworks and structures within the community radio stations in our network.
- Identify key challenges faced by community radio in terms of sustainability, including financial viability, governance, technological adaptation, and audience engagement.
- Assess the effectiveness of existing regulatory frameworks and governance mechanisms in ensuring accountability, diversity, and quality in radio broadcasting and stations daily execution of meeting their needs.
- Explore best practices and innovative approaches/approaches adopted by the community radio stations in WCJ's network to address sustainability challenges and enhance governance practices and support required.

5. **Deliverables**

Deliverable 1**:** Baseline Research Report

Deliverable 2: Presentation of findings and workshopping of same with community radio informants and stakeholders.

Deliverable 3: Comprehensive strategic plan for Wits Centre for Journalism intervention in community radio sustainability efforts.

6. **Timeframe**

The duration of the contract is for 4 months from 1 April to 1 July 2024 to execute Deliverable 1.

The extension of the contract is based on the availability of funding to execute Deliverable 2 and Deliverable 3.

7. **Qualifications**

Interested applicants should hold an advanced degree in communication, media studies, public policy, or a related field. They should have demonstrated expertise in research methodology, data analysis, and report writing with knowledge of the key issues in media sustainability, governance, and regulation, especially in relation to community radio broadcasting in South Africa.

8. **Application Process**

Interested applicants should send an updated CV with a cover letter/email and a contactable list of referees/references by **COB on 15 March 2024** to Ms Lerato Makate: lerato.makate@wits.ac.za **AND** copy in Ms Bukeka Mkhosi: bukeka.mkhosi@wits.ac.za

Candidates should also indicate their consultancy rates and submit an indicative budget. Travel for the project will be limited to the Gauteng Province.

9. **Supervision**

The successful consultant will work under the supervision of the Wits Centre for Journalism Donor Liaison.

10. **Confidentiality**

All data, information and analysis related to, or flowing from this project, remains the property of the University of the Witwatersrand.