



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

CALL FOR BIDS:

UK Central Europe Conference for Non-Governmental Influencers

Context:

2020 has seen global challenges deepen and multiply. Covid-19 has affected people across the world, seriously affecting economies and triggering renewed disinformation. Cyber-attacks grow more frequent. China – US relations have become more complex and relations between Russia and the West have not improved. Amid all of this, both global inequality and Climate Change continue to demand urgent attention.

Objectives:

The United Kingdom has left the European Union but will remain an active and engaged partner in Europe. Bilateral ties with the countries of Central Europe and our alliances within NATO and in European multilateral fora are important to the UK.

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) Central European Network of embassies is seeking a partner to deliver an engaging conference programme of up to one day for a select group of non-governmental influencers across Central Europe (Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia).

The objective of the conference is to facilitate the exchange of perspectives between attendees from across the region and UK participants from the government, think tanks and academia on the major international challenges facing the region as the UK completes its transition out of the EU. The exchange of perspectives should result in a series of suggestions for UK policy makers, with a particular focus on how the UK and Central Europe can best work together as a force for good for the benefit of us all.

Outcomes:

1. The successful bidder will be expected to provide end to end delivery of a Covid-19 secure, virtual yet impactful and engaging conference of up to one day.
2. This will be expected to include at least:

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- a. Collation, analysis and reporting of relevant baseline data on UK-CEE relationship (see below).
- b. Designing and structuring a series of discussions.
- c. On the basis of the data collated and analysed, identifying topics for the discussions subject to agreement by FCDO.
- d. Identifying, recruiting and liaising with c3-4 participants from each Central Europe country.
- e. Production of research briefs in advance to shape and guide each discussion.
- f. Production of a report following the event to summarise the outcome of the discussions.
- g. An opportunity for networking among participants.

Data analysis and report: There are multiple linkages between the UK and countries in the Central Europe that define how each see one another and our aspirations for a future relationship, working together as a force for good. Through collection and collation of existing data sets, including on Central European perceptions of the UK, the successful bidder should produce analysis of existing data and a report that can inform conference topic selection and be used by participants and moderators to guide discussions. In bidding, you should set out your proposed approach, including focus areas, format and length.

Timing: All activity must be complete by the end of March 2021.

Application Process (updated on 26th November):

1. Please complete and submit the attached Project Proposal Form and Activity Based Budget by midnight Central European Time on 4th December to BritishEmbassyBratislava@fco.gov.uk.
2. An FCDO programme board panel will assess the bids by 11th December.
3. The outcome of the programme board will be communicated to all bidders by 14th December.

Key criteria against which bids will be assessed:

- Feasibility of proposals setting out how this activity would be delivered.
- Value for money.
- Closeness of suggested programme's fit with FCDO objectives.
- How impact will be sustained after the event.
- Consideration of how to ensure a virtual event is sufficiently engaging to combat "zoom fatigue" and facilitate networking.
- Consideration of gender and geographical balance of speakers and participants. All panels or groups must be mixed-gender.

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- Consideration of risks to delivery.