



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Call for Submission of Papers

Topic: “Political Parties and the Citizens”

Introduction/Objective

In 2013, the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF), Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) – known as the partners, will jointly work on the topic of “Political Parties and the Citizens”, The project is organised in association with ASEF’s long-standing “Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice” (AEDJ) series. A key element of this project will consist of a range of commissioned papers focusing on the way in which political parties engage with citizen movements and civil society movements, focusing on how they interact with one another and what political parties can learn from them. The project will focus on the two regions of Asia and Europe.¹

The three components of the projects are i) background papers, ii) a workshop to discuss the topic and present selected background papers, and, iii) a publication that will feature the selected papers and may include the final workshop report. The partners are inviting researchers to contribute to the background papers. A number of contributors may be invited to present the papers at the workshop. Each background paper should focus on a political party or group of political parties in Asia or Europe. The paper should focus on; countries, where all three organisations are active: highlight the context of that political party; discuss how political parties relate to CSOs and citizen movements; and conclude with findings and lessons-learned.

Specifications of the paper

The partners are inviting the submission of papers, which will provide information and analysis of the role of CSOs and citizen movements and their influence on political parties in Asia and Europe. The attached “Terms of Reference” describes the background of this project in greater detail. **The papers should be pragmatic and policy-oriented.** The papers will be part of the background material used for a workshop entitled “Political Parties and the Citizens”, which will be held in September 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar (tbc). These papers could also be used in other ways by ASEF, HSF or International IDEA in accordance with the conditions of the agreement and creative commons licence.

¹ The countries participating in the Asia-Europe Meeting process can be found through the ASEM website <http://www.aseminfoboard.org/members.html>.

The papers will focus on a **political party or group of political parties in Asia or Europe** and the way in which they have interacted with either civil society organisations or more informal citizen-led democratic movements. This may include both established and newly established political parties: the challenges and opportunities they have faced in engaging with the citizens through CSOs and/or citizen movements; how these challenges and opportunities have been addressed; and present policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness of how political parties deal with the citizens.

Possible questions that the papers may address include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Are CSOs and citizen movements likely to replace or adopt core functions of institutions such as political parties?
- Why are CSOs and citizen movements not turning to more traditional institutions of representation and participation such as political parties to bring about democratic reform?
- How can political parties adopt the success factors that CSOs and citizen movements employ to better engage with citizens?
- How can political parties improve their relationship with citizen movements and CSOs to improve their relationship with citizens?
- How can citizen movements transform themselves into new political parties successfully?
- Are CSOs and citizen movements influencing established political parties to change and what do such novel political parties look like?
- What innovative communication tools used by CSOs and citizen movements to mobilise citizens are available or accessible to political parties to improve their outreach?
- How do newly democratised countries facilitate the relationship between citizen movements and CSOs and political parties?

In addressing these issues, **the papers may analyse specific country cases or compare countries to each other**. Case studies from selected Asian and European countries² will be considered equally. However, consideration will be weighted, first and foremost, on the basis of the relevance of the country cases to the research topic. For this reason, the following countries will be of special interest: Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Pakistan, Mongolia, and India.

There will be eight selected researchers working on different case studies of which four will focus on Asia and four on Europe.

² Selection criteria relates to membership of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process - ASEM now brings together 49 member states (Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org

Applications

Those interested in submitting a paper should develop an abstract, which outlines ideas for a paper within the above framework. The abstracts should be in English and be a maximum of 2 pages long (800 words) and in Microsoft Word format. It should be emailed to R.Cordenillo@idea.int and S.Vanderstaak@idea.int no later than **24 May 2013**. Please attach also your CV and include your contact information.

The final paper should be between 10-15 pages (5,000 – 6,500 words). The assignment should take no longer than five weeks to finish from the agreed date of commencement.

A panel, comprised of representatives from the partners will select the best abstracts to be awarded contracts to write papers, which could also be included in a publication.

Those succeeding to have their abstracts selected by the panel will be notified no later than **9 June 2013**, requested to submit the first outline by **17 June 2013**, the first draft by **26 July 2013** and requested to submit the final version by **30 August 2013**.

Selected authors will be paid **€1500** per paper.

About the partners

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) furthers understanding, fosters relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people and institutions of Asia and Europe.

ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the fields of governance, economy, sustainable development, public health, culture, and education.

Founded in 1997, ASEF is a not-for-profit, intergovernmental organisation located in Singapore. It is the only permanently established institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Together with about 700 partner organisations ASEF has run more than 600 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 17,000 Asians and Europeans have participated in its activities and it has reached wider audiences through networks and web-portals, exhibitions and lectures.

For more information, please visit www.asef.org

Since its establishment on April 11, 1967, the Hanns Seidel Foundation has been practicing political education work with the aim of supporting "the democratic and civic education of the German people with a Christian basis" – as the foundation's statutes say. Hence, the political education work of the Hanns Seidel Foundation is based on a human ideal that includes both free personality development and autonomy as well as social responsibility and solidarity. Today, this mission is more important than ever, since requirements for more autonomy, a new "culture of independence" and an "active society of citizens" are increasingly evolving.

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization with member states across all continents. International IDEA aims to support sustainable democracy worldwide. At the interface between research, fieldwork and the donor community, International IDEA provides a forum for democratic dialogue, comparative knowledge production and strategic advice at the international, regional and national level.

For further information, please contact Mr Raul Cordenillo, Head of Inter-Regional Democracy Resource Centre at R.Cordenillo@idea.int.

Annex A: Terms of Reference