

April 2025

If you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact:

Email:
iapb@dignity.dk

Deadline:
24th of April 2025



Terms of Reference

External Evaluation of the International Accountability Platform for Belarus (IAPB)

The International Accountability Platform for Belarus (IAPB) is seeking an experienced consultant (hereafter 'evaluator') to undertake an objective and independent evaluation of its work since its establishment in March 2021. The evaluation will take place between March and November 2025.

A. BACKGROUND

The IAPB is a consortium of four human rights organisations, the Belarusian partners Human Rights Center Viasna and International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus, its lead organisation DIGNITY – Danish Institute against Torture, and its co-lead organisation Redress, who share the tasks with the IAPB Secretariat. A Steering Committee composed of the four consortium partners and the Head of the Platform meets regularly to discuss strategic issues.

- 1) We collect, consolidate, verify, and preserve evidence of gross human rights violations constituting crimes under international law allegedly committed by Belarusian authorities and others in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath.
- 2) We apply a survivor-centered approach and provide mental health and psychological support to victims and witnesses, including access to referral pathways.
- 3) We directly support national prosecutors and international accountability bodies in investigating violations of international criminal law in Belarus by making available tailor-made evidence, information and analytical products.
- 4) We promote accountability by national, regional, and international courts, tribunals and human rights bodies.
- 5) We continuously build the capacity and enhance the methodology of work of the four partner organisations in the documentation and analysis of violations.

The platform provides information and evidence in support of:

- National prosecutions under domestic frameworks of liability
- National prosecutions under principles of universal jurisdiction
- International prosecutions (International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice)
- International investigations (UN Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus, OSCE Moscow Mechanism)

The IAPB also seeks to support lawyers and civil society organisations working on accountability for international law violations in Belarus, while consent forms limit the ability to share witness statements to prosecution services and international bodies

The IAPB was created in March 2021 in response to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Moscow Mechanism report published on 5 November 2020 in light of its many recommendations calling for accountability for the serious violations of international law in Belarus, and for the documentation, preservation of evidence to this end.

In current phase III of the IAPB, the objectives are:

- **Strategic Outcome 1:** Consolidate the IAPB's evidence hub by continuing to expand evidentiary sources, centralise the preservation of information and evidence, and analyse crimes under international law committed in Belarus in the context of the August 2020 election and its aftermath.
- **Strategic Outcome 2:** Expand the range of evidentiary and analytical products, accountability processes and other actors the IAPB's work outputs will effectively serve (including the OHCHR examination, other human rights mechanisms and bodies and criminal justice authorities).
- **Strategic Outcome 3:** Mainstream a survivor-centred, trauma informed approach to all aspects of the IAPB's work.
- **Strategic Outcome 4:** Ensure creation of standing infrastructure and the sustainability of the IAPB's operations.

A. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

The evaluation will have both, a backward-, and a forward-looking dimension. Its aim is to:

- 1) assess the emerging impact and success of the IAPB;
- 2) assess the relevance and added value of the project;
- 3) inform the possible continuation of work related to documentation and accountability of severe violations of human rights and international criminal law in Belarus, and
- 4) identify lessons learned and good practices that can inform future documentation initiatives, including specific recommendations on how to further improve a survivor-centered, trauma-informed and gender-responsive approach.

The evaluation will seek to understand whether the project design is optimally linked to achieving the intended objectives, taking into account external factors that are contributing to or are constraining the delivery of outcomes.

The final evaluation will include all relevant activities undertaken indicatively between April 2021 and September 2025.

B. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation will focus on a subset of criteria of the six Development Assistance Criteria (DAC) as laid out in the DAC Principles for evaluation of Development Assistance: relevance, effectiveness, impact, sustainability)¹, and the evaluation criteria of added value.

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/development/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

The development of the evaluation methodology should be inclusive of the partner organisations, in particular the Belarusian partners.

The evaluation will consider these aspects for the following project beneficiaries:

- a) the survivors of serious human rights violations in Belarus, and their interest in accountability and redress;
- b) national prosecution services in relation to the IAPB's support by providing evidence, information and analysis;
- c) international accountability bodies in relation to the IAPB's support by providing evidence, information and analysis;
- d) the Belarusian co-lead organisations Viasna and International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in respect of the capacity-building activities provided through the IAPB;
- e) other initiatives dedicated to the documentation of international criminal law violations.

The evaluation should include consideration of the structure of the IAPB, a consortium, with a Steering Committee, a Secretariat and an Advisory Council.

A detailed evaluation design will be developed by the evaluator and should make use of a mix of quantitative and qualitative data collection tools: desk review, surveys, questionnaires and interviews, as well as review of other documentation.

The evaluation will be carried out with full consideration of the safety and confidentiality of all persons participating in the project, and with a non-disclosure agreement.

Please note that the IAPB can provide an interpreter fluent in Belarusian, Russian, and English to assist with both written and oral interpretation if needed.

C. INDICATIVE EVALUATION PLAN

Evaluation phases	Main activities	Proposed schedule	Working days
1. Introductory phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and analysis of project documents - Collection of additional information about the project and a list of contact persons/organizations (to be provided by the IAPB) - Interview Dignity management, IAPB staff and consultants 	May 2025	2
2. Desk phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In depth analysis of documents - Development of evaluation questions and criteria - Development of tools and methods - Agreeing with IAPB on precise evaluation questions and methodology – submission to IAPB in writing 	May 2025	4

3. Data collection phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveys/questionnaires/online interviews/phone interviews - Possible prioritisation of a number of key stakeholder interviews to inform initial feed-back to donors (May/ June 2025) - TBC: travel to Poland and Lithuania for interviews and focus groups (4 additional days) 	May - August 2025 (to be confirmed)	10 - 14
4. Initial feed-back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short presentation to donors and IAPB supporters on the evaluation methodology and interim feed-back from selected interlocutors 	June 2025 (tbc)	1
5. Data analysis and report writing phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of responses, documentation - Drafting of report and submission to IAPB 	September/ October 2025	5
6. Report presentation and finalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online presentation of draft report - Discussion, feedback and agreement on adjustments 	Last week of October	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalization of report - Submission to IAPB 	15 November	1
Total number of days			24 - 28

D. DELIVERABLES

The evaluator should submit the following deliverables (deadlines will be determined during initial meeting with the IAPB):

Deliverable 1: Evaluation proposal:

- Preparation and participation in meeting consulting with the IAPB lead and co-lead organisations to inform the evaluation methodology.
- Delivery of a general proposal about focus, methodology and timeline for the evaluation, which will be discussed with IAPB/ Dignity interlocutors, possibly presented at the IAPB Steering Committee.

Deliverable 2: Detailed evaluation plan:

- The evaluator will draft a detailed evaluation plan, including the specific evaluation questions, which will be agreed with IAPB's Head and Dignity's management. The plan should also include a proposed timeframe and work plan for the conduct of the final evaluation.

Deliverable 3: Presentation of initial findings and methodology:

- The evaluator will present the emerging findings from the data collection phase at a meeting of IAPB supporting states (date tbc, possibly June 2025).

Deliverable 4 - tbc:

- Depending on outcome of consultation with IAPB's lead and co-lead organisations, travel to Poland and Lithuania for interviews and focus groups.

Deliverable 4: Final Evaluation Report:

The evaluation report will include:

- an executive summary that provides a clear, concise presentation of the evaluation's main conclusions, key recommendations and salient issues identified;
- a description of the methodology used;
- responses to the final evaluation questions (observations, findings, conclusions and recommendations);
- Analysis of lessons learned and good practices, including specific recommendations to a) the IAPB, b) the consortium partners, and c) States supporting the IAPB.

The report shall also contain at least the following annexes:

- List of persons interviewed;
- Data collection tools (copies of surveys and questionnaires);
- A list of references;
- the ToR for the evaluation.

All deliverables shall be submitted to the IAPB's Head in accordance with the agreed timeline. The Head of IAPB and Dignity management will review the quality of the deliverables submitted and request any improvements necessary to reach the professional standards required.

E. QUALIFICATIONS OF EVALUATOR

The evaluator should have the following expertise:

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in law, political science, international relations, international development, peace and conflict, human rights, or other relevant disciplines. A combination of relevant academic qualifications and extensive experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.
- Extensive experience (minimum 10 years) of designing/implementing and conducting evaluations, in particular of projects implemented at the international level.
- Experience with evaluations of human rights projects in an international environment, including civil society organisations.
- Understanding of gender mainstreaming in projects and experience in applying gender mainstreaming in evaluation methodology.
- Understanding of the security implications of work with data of survivors of an authoritarian regime.
- GDPR-compliance of data collection.
- Proficiency in English language and excellent drafting skills.
- Ability and professional experience of inter-cultural environments and professional conduct with significant political tact.

F. REMUNERATION

The evaluation is expected to involve 24 to 28 consultancy days between 1 May and 15 November 2025, depending on whether travel to Lithuania and/ or Poland will be incorporated in the evaluation methodology.

The contract will be conducted remotely, with potential for 4 days travel in the contract period.

Payment will be made upon the Head of the IAPB/ Dignity management's approval of all deliverables with a breakdown of the activities carried out and the number of days worked for each of them.

Travel arrangements in relation to the evaluation will be made by the IAPB in accordance with the rules and provisions of the IAPB's host organization DIGNITY.

G. CONFIDENTIALITY

The evaluator is required to exercise utmost discretion and will not discuss the information he/she acquires, while performing the tasks described in this Terms of Reference.

Please send your application to iapb@dignity.dk, specifying it is for the External Evaluation of the International Accountability Platform for Belarus (IAPB).

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