



Request for Proposals for Research Expert

About FECh:

Forum for Educational Change - FECH is a grassroots Civil Society Organization (CSO) that aims to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of higher education in North Macedonia and to empower students to contribute to the local and international community through their active participation in the decision-making processes.

FECH is a joint investment of people of goodwill who have joined with precise goals - that Macedonia should have high-quality public education while the students should be the ones who decide, not only to follow the rules set by some people of advanced age in four walls and without transparency.

Introduction:

The purpose of this **Request for Proposal (RFP)** is to invite qualified research experts or vendors to execute the research on the hidden fees in higher education as part of the “**Beyond Activism**” project financed by **European Endowment for Democracy**. This research aims to outline the real costs of the students' life in North Macedonia.

Scope of work:

The selected expert will be responsible for carrying out a comprehensive research, analysis on the hidden fees in higher education. The scope of work will include, but is not limited to:

- Identifying and cataloging various types of hidden fees charged by Universities
- Investigating the rationale behind the imposition of hidden fees.
- Assessing the financial burden of hidden fees on students and their families.
- Analyzing the impact of hidden fees on student retention and graduation rates.

Qualifications:

The candidate should possess the following qualifications:



- A proven track record of conducting research in the field of higher education, preferably with a focus on financial matters.
- Expertise in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.
- Familiarity with data collection and analysis techniques.

Timeline:

The research is expected to span for three months, with a final report due by January 10th 2024.

Application Process:

Interested candidates/vendors are invited to submit the following documents to **[fech.mk@gmail.com]** by **[30th September 2023]**:

- A detailed project plan outlining the research methodology, timeline, and deliverables.
- An overview of relevant experience and qualifications of the proposing individual or team (CV)
- A clear budget proposal, including a breakdown of fees and anticipated expenses.
- Samples of previous research work or publications, if available (portfolio)

Selection Process:

A selection committee composed of representatives from the Forum for Educational Change will review all applications and select the most qualified candidate/vendors based on their qualifications, experience, and proposed approach. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview.

We look forward to receiving your applications and partnering with a skilled expert to advance transparency and equity in higher education by uncovering hidden fees and their impact.