CALL FOR CONSULTANT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Organization: International Organization for Migration

Department: Migration Research Division, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships

Consultant specialization: Social media analyst

Duty Station: Home based

Duration of Consultancy: October-December 2020 – Narrative and financial offer to be submitted to IOM by close of business 25 September 2020 to IOM using research@iom.int.

Deliverable: An analytical paper of no more than 3,500 words (including references) that presents findings of social media trends from 3-4 under-researched countries on the topic of misinformation and migration/migrants.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Current predictions are that by the end of 2022, most people in mature economies will consume more ‘fake news’ than accurate information through their media feeds. This is a particular problem for high profile and politicized policy issues, such as migration, which is being increasingly distorted by interest groups utilising technological innovation and social media platforms. The “misinfodemic” that has spread in parallel with the COVID-19 virus has made the problem of misinformation more apparent.

While significant social media research has been conducted on how migration information is distributed among users living in destination countries in the “Global North,” social media behaviors among users in some countries in the “Global South” remain under-researched. To fill this gap in the evidence-base, the Migration Research Division (MRD) will support a consultant to write a publishable paper analysing misinformation in social media on the topic of migration/migrants. This paper is to include at least three country case studies, and will undergo editing and revision in coordination with IOM MRD staff.

The Consultant will contribute a draft research paper based upon a systematic analysis of social media activity on the topic of misinformation and migration. This paper will be published either as a standalone research paper or as an entry in the Migration Research Series.
SUPERVISION, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Consultant is expected to work in close consultation and collaboration with Marie McAuliffe, Head of Migration Research at IOM and Editor of IOM’s *World Migration Report* and Celine Bauloz, Editor of IOM’s *Migration Research Series*. The Consultant is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Submitting a draft paper of no more than 3,500 words based on a systematic data analysis of social media trends on the topic of misinformation and migration. The analysis will cover three (3) to four (4) case study countries to be agreed but must be from under-researched geographies. The consultant will represent the research findings using data visualizations as well as narrative discussion and analysis. The draft paper should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than **11 December 2020**.

2. Revising and finalizing drafts of the paper in two stages: i) Editorial review: a draft that incorporates initial comments from MRD editors, ii) Peer review: a final draft that incorporates comments from a review conducted by IOM specialists and/or academic reviewers. Note: *Editorial and peer review may be combined into one review round, however, this may only be done if the draft chapter submitted is of a high standard.*

3. Working and collaborating with the editors to make final updates and edits to the research paper by **31 January 2021**. The Consultant will be acknowledged as the author of the paper as per standard publishing practices. Subject to timeliness and quality, the paper may be considered for potential inclusion (in part) in the next *World Migration Report*.

4. Assisting with any other tasks as may be necessary (and agreed between the parties) including activities/outputs to disseminate and promote the knowledge gathered and published in the paper amongst students, academics, practitioners and policymakers.