



NATIONAL CONSULTANCY

Terms of Reference

TORs are classified at the national pay rate of NOC.

Abla El-Solamy, HRBP Associate

11 April 2022

This consultancy is requested by:

Unit:	WCO TUN
Department:	Observatoire National des Maladies Nouvelles et Emergentes (ONMNE)

1. Background

The COVID-19 pandemic presents major challenges to the health and well-being of communities, resilience of health systems, stability of national economies, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

An early warning and response system EWARS including outbreak detection and surveillance primarily through an integrated system with indicator based (IBS) and event-based surveillance (EBS) can enable the detection and reporting of COVID-19 and other emerging diseases of concern while they are still localized, facilitating rapid intervention that can mitigate its adverse impacts.

EBS depends on different information sources including publicly available and open access information. Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) is an initiative that strengthens and solidifies the surveillance system's early detection, verification, assessment, and communication functions by utilizing publicly available, open-access information.

The EIOS initiative is a collaboration between different entities working on Epidemic Intelligence (EI) that convenes a network to decrease the effects of emerging public health threats. The initiative is supported by the EIOS system "system of systems" that consolidates existing EI systems, incorporates other sources, and is tailored to meet public health needs and priorities. The EIOS compiles many years of experience, networks, systems, establishing an all-hazard "one health" approach.

The adaptation of the EIOS in Tunisia will minimize the impact of emerging risks to human health through timely detection, assessment, early warning, forecasting, and reporting of public health risk from open sources and media.

2. Objective of the Assignment:

The aim of this consultancy is to deploy and functionalize the EIOS system in Tunisia.

3. Planned timelines:

60 days spread over 6 months :

- Start date : 1 May 2022
- End Date : 30 October 2022
- Publication of ToR: 13 April 2022
- Deadline for submitting applications: 28 April 2022

4. Work to be performed

The tasks that the selected candidate will have to perform during the assignment are:

- Create routine media monitoring boards based on priority event/signal list for EBS
- Perform a daily media scanning to detect priority signals according to the list of pre-established priority diseases.
- Save signals in the signal database.
- Triage the detected signals to decide if the signal is relevant for EWAR and clean to remove duplicates
- Track signals sent for verification until verification is obtained, within 24 hours of detection.
- Participate in regular EBS meetings to review detected signals and their verification and response status.
- Update the signals database, their verification, and their risk assessment status.
- Regularly review boards with the rest of the team for any changes, additions and extensions as needed
- Communicate with EMRO EIOS team for editing, adding, and changing in media source list, event/signal keywords and any other process as needed
- Train new members on the use of EIOS
- Communicate with EWARS team at ONMNE and EPICOV

5. Expected outcomes

- Routine media monitoring boards created
- Priority signals detected according to the list of pre-established priority diseases.
- Detected signals are saved in the signal database.
- Signals are sorted, checked and triaged
- Regular EBS meetings to review detected signals and their verification and response status are conducted.
- The boards are regularly updated.
- Communicate with EMRO's EIOS team for editing, adding, and changing in media source list, event/signal keywords and any other process as needed
- New members are trained on the EIOS regularly

6. Technical Supervision

The selected Consultant will work under the supervision of:

Responsible Officer:	Dr ARFAOUI EP ASSIDI Latifa	Email:	arfaouil@who.int
Manager:	Dr Joumana George HERMEZ	Email:	hermezj@who.int
General Director ONMNE	Pr Nissaf Ben Alaya	Email:	nissafba@yahoo.fr
FP ONMNE	Dr Souha Bougatef	Email:	souhabg@yahoo.fr

7. Regional oversight

Dr Heidi Ghanem, Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS), Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) unit, WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE), EMRO

8. Specific requirements

Qualifications:

- Essential: University degree in public health, epidemiology, Medical Diploma or related field
- Desirable: Advanced (Master's level or higher) university degree in epidemiology, public health, international/global health

Experience:

- Essential: From 5 to 10 years of experience in applied epidemiology or public health, engaging with stakeholders and building networks.
- Desirable: experience with event-based surveillance systems, their functionality, and a good understanding the main principles of public health intelligence are significant assets.

9. Language requirements:

- Required: Expert knowledge of French (Read–Write–Speak)
- Desirable: Intermediate knowledge of English (Read–Write–Speak)

10. Place of assignment

The work is expected to be carried out from the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE), and the consultant is expected to work closely with EWARS team at the ONMNE and the WCO TUN and WHE/HIM unit in EMRO, Cairo.

11. Medical clearance

The selected consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.

12. Travel

There is a need to travel to some governorates inside the country

The application must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the ONMNE registry with the mention For the attention of the "WHO, national consultancy" project coordinator. The stamp of the registry being authentic

La Directrice Générale
Signé: Prof.
NISSAF BOUATTA EP. BEN ALAYA