

MIDEQ Consultancy: SCOPING MODELS FOR A MIDEQ NETWORK

Terms of Reference

24th January, 2023

SUMMARY

This short-term consultancy opportunity is to explore options for the future of the [South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Research Hub](#) (MIDEQ) as a global network. MIDEQ comprises more than 100 scholars, practitioners and artists, primarily in the Global South, five UN agencies (ILO, IOM, UNRISD, OHCHR and UNU-CPR) and the OECD Development Centre. Collectively we work across 6 ‘migration corridors’ namely Nepal-Malaysia, Haiti-Brazil, Burkina Faso-Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia-South Africa, China-Ghana and Egypt-Jordan and through global platforms. MIDEQ’s world-leading research is contributing to more informed understanding about the relationships between migration, inequalities and development. To date, the Hub has been funded by a substantial grant from the [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\) Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\)](#). This funding will come to an end in March 2024 and the MIDEQ Directorship and Advisory Board are currently planning options for the future which will secure and build on MIDEQ’s legacy. We are now commissioning a consultant to help MIDEQ’s Directorship and Advisory Board explore future options for a financially sustainable MIDEQ Network which retains our ethos, albeit at an inevitably reduced scale. The MIDEQ Network will be an important route to maintain – and grow - our existing collaborations between people and organisations. This will ensure that we are able to continue to support MIDEQ’s early career researchers in the Global South as well as amplify our knowledge-base and impact activities. We envisage that the consultancy will start in at the beginning of March and be completed by the end of May.

BACKGROUND

The MIDEQ Global Research Hub, funded from late 2018 to 2024, is transforming understanding of migration, inequality and development including through the construction of a substantial evidence-base. We are now translating this knowledge into concrete interventions, policies and practices which improve the lives of migrants, their families and the communities in which they live. Furthermore, MIDEQ is increasingly providing a global focal point for work on South-South migration, drawing together academic and non-academic partners from a wide range of organisations and countries. Our research and policy reports, articles and books as well as our creative outputs can be found on the [MIDEQ website](#) and associated social media.

However, MIDEQ is more than a research project. Our central objective is to decentre knowledge production on the relationships between migration, inequality and development away from the Global North. In so doing, MIDEQ has generated a strong, cohesive, global team committed to the politics of decentring. Global South partners co-designed MIDEQ and lead the Hub's work in the six corridors, generating research questions, collecting data and leading the analysis. Partners in the Global South are also central to MIDEQ's leadership with equitable representation at Directorship levels. This reflects MIDEQ's long-term aim of capacitating researchers in the Global South, enhancing existing leadership visibility and creating opportunities for early career researchers to gain leadership experience.

As MIDEQ enters the final full 12 months of UKRI funding the MIDEQ Directorship and Advisory Board are now considering how we can retain, evolve and grow what we have achieved to date through a future global MIDEQ Network. We would like to commission a consultant to help us think this through.

CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES

1. Investigate feasible and sustainable models for a future MIDEQ Network

The primary objective of this consultancy is to research and present appropriate models for the MIDEQ Directorship and Advisory Board to consider in preparing for a MIDEQ Network in advance of UKRI funding ending in March 2024. This includes conducting research into relevant network models utilised elsewhere and which are applicable to MIDEQ. These are likely to include academic networks as well as civil society networks. We expect the consultant to work with us to identify relevant networks to be included in the research. The research should consider:

- What have the identified networks aimed to do and how are they applicable to a future MIDEQ Network? (e.g. research, impact, knowledge exchange, mobilisation, advocacy)
- Who has been included in these networks? (e.g. academics, practitioners, activists, representatives from international organisations and businesses, individuals or organisations)
- Where have the networks been hosted and why? (e.g. geographically and institutionally)
- How have the networks been resourced and governed? (e.g. staffing, leadership, governance structures)
- What types of activities have been conducted through the networks? (e.g. website, newsletter, funding applications, advocacy, events)
- How have these activities been conducted? (e.g. online, in person, written)

- What has worked well in these networks and what has not? (e.g. participation, impact, mobilisation)
- How have these networks been financially sustained? (e.g. memberships, grants).

2. Consider options and make recommendations to the MIDEQ Directorship and Advisory Board for a future MIDEQ Network

Drawing on the research, we would like the consultant to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each of the identified models and present recommendations to us. In particular, the consultant should consider the following questions:

- What can and should be retained from MIDEQ as a global research hub in the future Network?
- Who – and what – else should be included in the MIDEQ Network?
- Where should the MIDEQ Network be hosted or co-hosted?
- How can we ensure that the MIDEQ Network stays consistent with its decentred ethos and practices?
- How should the MIDEQ Network be resourced, including financially?
- What structures should be put in place to govern the Network which are consistent with our decentred ethos?
- Should the Network be legally incorporated? If so, how and where?
- What activities can a MIDEQ Network feasibly achieve?
- How can a MIDEQ Network support an online repository of past – and future – outputs?

CONSULTANCY SCOPE

The methodology and specific scope for this consultancy will be agreed between the MIDEQ Directorship and the successful consultant(s). We envisage that this is likely to include:

1. Inception presentation to the MIDEQ Directorship outlining scope, methods and relevant identified networks to be included in the research.
2. Desk research on identified networks and applicability to the MIDEQ context, including consideration of questions outlined above.
3. Interviews with up to 10 relevant identified network organisers to explore these issues further, including challenges, what works and what does not.
4. Presentation of findings, conclusions and recommendations to Directorship and Advisory Board, followed by a final report.

DELIVERABLES

The consultant(s) will produce the following:

- Inception presentation to Directorship outlining scope, methods and relevant identified networks to be included in the research
- Presentation to Directorship and Advisory Board outlining key findings from desk research, consultancy conclusions and recommendations
- Final report (max. 25 pages) outlining key findings from desk research, consultancy conclusions and recommendations.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The research should be completed by the end of May. The specific date can be negotiated between the consultant and MIDEQ Directorship. The following is the provisional schedule of activities:

- 24th February: Consultancy advert closes
- 27th February – 3rd March: Directorship considers applications, including conducting interviews with interested consultants where appropriate.
- 6th March – 13th March: Contracting
- Mid-March: Consultancy begins
- Late March/ early April: Inception report (max. 5 pages) and presentation to Directorship confirming scope and to agree identified network models for further research.
- Early – mid May: Presentation of emerging findings and draft recommendations to MIDEQ Directorship.
- Late May: Final report.

PAYMENT

A final budget for the consultant will be agreed after finalisation of the scope of work. We envisage that this will allow for approximately 15-20 days of an individual consultant's time. We expect that the consultant will work remotely and will not require travel expenses.

MIDEQ will forward payment according to the following schedule and upon receipt of invoices:

- 30% payable on receipt of inception report and presentation to Directorship
- 70% payable on receipt of final report.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The research consultant(s) should have:

1. Demonstrable knowledge / experience of relevant networks (e.g. academic, civil society)

2. Demonstrable knowledge / experience of the migration research sector
3. Experience of working with an international team
4. Experience in international development or a related field
5. Excellent and demonstrable research and writing skills
6. Excellent time-management skills, including keeping to agreed timelines.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Interested consultants are invited to submit a proposal (maximum 3 pages), including:

- Letter of interest clearly stating understanding of the assignment, relevant experience and qualifications
- Scope and methodology proposed for this assignment.

The following should be appended to the main proposal:

- Sample of (or link to) at least one similar piece of work
- Copy of CV(s) including the name and contact details of at least one referee for similar work undertaken
- Financial proposal for consultant(s) time.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following:

- Relevant experience and qualifications of consultant(s), especially in relation to networks
- Understanding of assignment
- Proposed scope and methods.
- Understanding of aims of MIDEQ
- Value for money.

Proposals to be submitted to migrationhub@coventry.ac.uk with Katharine.jones@coventry.ac.uk in cc by 24th February, 2023.

Queries can be addressed to Katharine.jones@coventry.ac.uk