

## Call for researchers to conduct a study on framing science in Albania's historical context

**Project-/mandate name:** 1404.02.1.0 PERFORM  
**Country:** Albania

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**Positions:** 5 Local Researchers

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**Contract Duration** 1 March – 31 July 2018

### 1. Background

PERFORM – Performing and Responsive Social Sciences, is a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, aimed at improving the contribution of social science research to socio-economic and political processes of change in Western Balkan countries. The project focuses on three outcome areas: (i) strengthened social science communities; (ii) systemic linkages with political reform processes, civil society organizations, private sector and media; (iii) and favourable framework conditions and financial mechanisms.

In line with its goals, PERFORM is interested in gaining a thorough overview and building the narrative of the role of science and research in the development of Albania's society in its historical context. This aims to contribute to the creation of a shared understanding and public debate on the relevance of science in the country's transitional processes.

In comparison to other former communist countries in Europe, Albania has had a slow deliberative start on the need to open up the Former State Security Service files (i.e. Sigurimi files). To date it is estimated that there are more than 120,000 files, 250,000 records and millions of pages of documents inherited from the former communist regime. In 2015, the Parliament adopted the first [law on the right to information on the documents of the Former State Security of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania](#). The law's mission is to provide public access to Sigurimi files and preserve the record of oppression in order to educate the public and support the democratic values of justice, truth, reconciliation, and responsibility for future generations. The implementation of this law has led to the establishment, a year later, of the Authority on Access to Information on the Former State Security Service.

Considering that historical memory and remembrance constitute a complex process, there is still a need for a broad and inclusive, informed and objective discourse on the role of science and history in Albania's processes of social transformation. It will contribute to strengthening the public debate on national memory policies, providing for different approaches and ensuring for genuine historical evidence.

In this framework, PERFORM is seeking to contract five local experienced researchers to undertake a comprehensive archival research study on the role of science in society's development during the early years of establishment of the communist regime in Albania (1945-1954), so as to contribute to the establishment of a public reflection process and to the research-policy nexus on Albania's historical memory.

## **2. Scope of the study**

The study aims to provide a detailed archival research on the role of science in society's development in the early years of establishment of the communist regime in Albania (1945-1954), to, in turn, initiate an evidence-informed public reflection process on national historical memory.

## **3. Objectives of the study**

The study should have as objectives the following:

1. Elaborate a public profile of science during the communist regime, focusing particularly (but not exclusively) on the following points:
  - 1.1. Gaining a thorough understanding and knowledge of the ways how intellectual elites used to operate in early communist Albania, including but not limited to, the following components:
    - a. Typology of intellectual elites in early years of communist regime's establishment in Albania:
      - field of studies, intellectual background and professional activity;
      - attitude towards the communist regime, etc.;
    - b. Legal arrangements on science and scientific research policy;
    - c. Transition of intellectual elites, focusing on:
      - regime's motives to gradually eradicate the Albanian traditional intellectual elites;
      - requirements on the process of fabricating of a new and ideologized intellectual elite;
    - d. Destiny of those intellectuals who dared to oppose openly the establishment, and related policies of the communist regime;
    - e. Ways how the intellectual elites tried to communicate their ideas to the wider audiences and the related impact on the decision-making process in the considered timeframe.
  - 1.2. Develop a clear and comprehensive overview on the effects that the eradication of traditional intellectual elites and ideologization of the new ones brought about in the intellectual thinking during communism in Albania;
  - 1.3. Understand the impact of intellectual thinking development during the communist regime has on intellectual thinking in nowadays Albania;
2. Advocate for an all-inclusive public debate on the construction of historical memory.

Experts shall submit a draft study with PERFORM NCU Albania for approval and revision, as necessary.

## **4. Expected results (or Outputs)**

- a. Develop a clear typology on the fields of study, ideas and goals of Albanian science in the early years of communist regime establishment in Albania.
- b. Accomplish a thorough archival research of the profiles of at least 10 Albanians intellectuals/scholars, who pursued their scientific activity during 1945-1954, and through these profiles understand:
  - i. Aims of the communist regime in the field of scientific research;

- ii. Communist regime relations with the intellectual elite;
- iii. Involvement of intellectuals/scholars in communist decision-making process;
- iv. Problems faced by intellectuals/scholars in their daily work.

## 5. Structure of research document

The structure of the study will be elaborated by the local experts in joint collaboration with the lead researcher.

## 6. Requirements for applicants

<b>Local Researcher</b>	
<b>Education:</b>	Post-Graduate Degree in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities.
<b>Experience and competences:</b>	At least 10 years of relevant research experience in the field of research of social sciences and humanities, preferably in history of Albania during the communist regime; Good knowledge of the mechanism of establishment of the communist regime in Albania; Good knowledge of communist regime's interaction with intellectual elites in Albania; Experience with internationally funded research projects; Excellent analytical and writing skills; Proven team worker.
<b>Language requirements:</b>	Full professional fluency in English.

## 7. Time frame of the assignment

This assignment will cover the period of 1 March 2018 – 31 July 2018.

## 8. Application process

### 8.1. Required documents

1. Cover letter/Expression of interest outlining clearly how you meet the requirements of the position;
2. Full professional curriculum vitae;
3. Full list of academic publications.

Please submit your application in English language to the following email address:

***PERFORM-Albania@helvetas.org***

**The deadline for submission is 22 February 2018.**