

## CALL FOR TENDER FOR

### A Study on Alternatives to the EU-ASEAN Free Trade and Investment Agreement

The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation is an internationally active, left wing, non-profit organization for political education and affiliated to the German party "Die Linke". Since 1990, the Foundation has been dedicated to the study of social, political and economic processes and developments worldwide. We work in the context of the growing manifold crises of our current political and economic system. In cooperation with other progressive organisations from all parts of the world, we work for democratic and social participation, empowerment of disadvantaged groups and alternative economic and social development. Through our international activities, we aim to provide political education through scientific analysis, public programs and joint projects with our partner organizations. To accompany and coordinate these different projects, the Foundation maintains regional and country offices in more than 20 locations worldwide. We work for a fairer world based on international solidarity.

The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Southeast Asia, Hanoi Office will commission a study to examine the consequences of the possible free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the ASEAN countries on the respective regions. Furthermore, proposals for a progressive interregional trade policy that takes into account the socio-ecological challenges will be elaborated.

The assignment will be awarded as a work and service contract.

#### Context of the study

The European Union intends to conclude a new generation of free trade agreements in order to increase its global competitiveness. In doing so, the EU generally prioritizes rules-based multilateral trade agreements. Since the increasing liberalization and deregulation efforts within the framework of the multilateral trade policy of the World Trade Organization (WTO) were interrupted, the EU, contrary to its earlier rather restrained position, has increasingly relied on bilateral free trade agreements in recent years. The EU signed a free trade and investment protection agreement with Singapore at the ASEM summit in October 2018. The EU Parliament approved both agreements in February 2019. With Vietnam, a free trade and investment protection agreement was signed in Hanoi in June 2019. While the FTA entered into force in August 2020, the latter, on the other hand, has yet to be ratified by EU member states. Negotiations on a joint FTA with Malaysia started in October 2010, but have been on hold since 2012. The EU is seeking to resume negotiations. Negotiations have also been ongoing with other countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines since 2016.

Despite these numerous bilateral trade agreements, the overarching goal remains the conclusion of interregional free trade and investment agreements. On 1 December 2020, the EU and ASEAN countries agreed at the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting to further strengthen relations. To strengthen their economic (and security) cooperation, both parties have committed to holding regular summits.

The EU's new generation of FTAs are wide-ranging, covering tariff and protectionist barriers such as tariffs and export subsidies, but also include provisions to reduce non-tariff barriers (quantitative restrictions, technical barriers or government procurement), increase reciprocal investment and trade in services (digital trade, telecom services, financial services, etc.).

### **Aims of the study:**

- To explore the causes and rationale behind the efforts for an interregional free trade agreement.
- The study provides a statistical overview of trade between the two regions and of European foreign direct investment in Southeast Asia.
- An assessment of the future of economic (and political) relations between the EU and ASEAN.
- Left vision or concept of an interregional trade agreement between the EU and ASEAN that is equitable and takes into account the demands of a socio-ecological transformation.

### **Tasks of the contractor**

The contractor is responsible for the conception and implementation of the study in terms of organization and content. In detail, this includes:

- Conception and structure of the trade study in coordination with the responsible persons of the RLS Vietnam and the Thematic Advisor for Economy and Trade in Brussels.
- Preparation of the study in German and English on the basis of literature research and background discussions with relevant actors (academics, politicians, activists, etc.) in the scope of 60 to 80 pages (standard page of 1800 characters), including recommendations for political decision-makers in the EU and the ASEAN countries. Preparation of a summary in German and English of a maximum of five pages (standard page of 1800 characters).
- Preparation of a descriptive design and target group specific dissemination of the contents and the summaries in consultation with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.
- Presentation and discussion of the results of the study at the RLS and, if necessary, in other project-relevant contexts.
- Documentation of the course of the project in the form of a final report
- Organization of a webinar on the launch of the study (in English and German).

### **Application**

The application should include a CV and a cover letter stating the applicant's suitability for the advertised position. In addition, we expect a concept (max. two pages), which should include ideas for the structure and content of the study as well as a timetable.

Please consider the following information for your offer and break it down as follows (see price sheet in the appendix)

1. conception and structure of the study - state daily rates and total price

2. Conducting the study in German and English, incl. summary and incorporation of feedback - state daily rates and total price
3. presentation of the study, launch event - state daily rates and total price

**Payment:**

Payment is made in instalments linked to the delivery of intermediate products. These will be agreed between the client and the contractor after the work and service contract has been awarded.

Please send applications - with the reference "Application EU-ASEAN Trade Agreement" - in the subject line - by e-mail by 07 February 2022 to [philip.degenhardt@rosalux.org](mailto:philip.degenhardt@rosalux.org); [arif.ruezgar@rosalux.org](mailto:arif.ruezgar@rosalux.org).

If you have any questions regarding the call for applications, please contact: [philip.degenhardt@rosalux.org](mailto:philip.degenhardt@rosalux.org); [arif.ruezgar@rosalux.org](mailto:arif.ruezgar@rosalux.org).

*Receipt of documents will not be acknowledged. The decision will be made based on the submitted application according to the following weighting of the evaluation criteria: Concept: 20% / Experience in study preparation: 10% / Regional and contextual expertise: 20% / Language: 10% / Price: 40%.*

Time frame:

Public invitation to tender until	07.02.2022
Award of contract by	15.02.2022
First meeting by	28.02.2022
Abstract and detailed concept by	31.03.2022
Completion of the first draft of the study (one language) by	31.07.2022
Feedback from the RLS by	31.08.2022
Completion of the second draft and summary (one language) by	31.09.2022
Feedback from the RLS by	31.10.2022
Completion of the study and summary in both languages by	30.11.2022
Webinar on the launch of the study by	31.12.2022

The time frame specified may deviate slightly from the time frame specified in the work contract by mutual agreement.

Once the contract has been awarded, a contract for work and services will be concluded with the selected bidder. Important: all rights to use the study are transferred to the client without limitation in time and space. The simple right of use applies.