

Consultant Recruitment

National Study and Mapping of Community Radio Stations in Mauritania

Fondation Hironnelle is a Swiss non-profit organisation that provides people affected by crises with access to reliable, local and independent information. For over 30 years (since 1995), it has supported local media and journalists in fragile contexts. With a global mission and a strong local presence, Fondation Hironnelle creates spaces for dialogue to strengthen ties and social cohesion in fragmented societies.

Assignment details:

Fondation Hironnelle is seeking a consultant or a team of consultants to carry out a national mapping exercise of community radio stations operating in Mauritania and to analyse their capacity to keep the public informed, particularly in remote, rural or poorly connected areas.

Context

Mauritania's information landscape is highly fragmented, marked by significant inequalities in access depending on geographic areas, languages and social groups. While the development of digital media and social networks has profoundly reshaped the production and circulation of information, particularly in urban and peri-urban centres, a large proportion of the population remains poorly connected or excluded from digital information spaces.

In this context, community media, local information relays, civil society organisations and other stakeholders can play a significant role in providing access to information. Recent studies have highlighted a lack of data concerning community radio stations.

Fondation Hironnelle wishes to deepen its understanding of the local information ecosystem in Mauritania by developing an updated national mapping of community radio stations. By community radio, Fondation Hironnelle refers to media rooted in a community that produce local, reliable and independent information in formats and languages adapted to their audiences, foster dialogue among social actors, give voice to populations and contribute to social cohesion, civic participation and conflict prevention.

The study is exploratory and qualitative. It seeks to identify trends, mechanisms and avenues for action that may guide future Fondation Hironnelle interventions.

Specific objectives

- Map the community radio stations that make up the local information ecosystem in Mauritania.
- Document their editorial offer, effective coverage, operational model and regulatory environment.

- Understand the information practices of populations that follow these media.
- Analyse information circulation dynamics between offline and accessible online spaces.
- Formulate operational recommendations for future interventions.

Scope of the Study

➤ Axis 1: National Mapping of Community Radio Stations

The study will establish an updated mapping of community radio stations in Mauritania and analyse their role in providing access to information. It should identify all public, private, associative, citizen-led and de facto community radio stations.

For each identified media outlet, the study should analyse: legal status and governance; location and coverage area; broadcasting languages; editorial line; target audiences; distribution channels; human resources; technical capacities; economic model and sustainability; participation in professional networks; and institutional or community partnerships.

Research questions include:

- Which community radio stations are active?
- Which are present in each wilaya?
- Are there de facto community stations?
- Which enjoy a strong local presence?
- What challenges do they face?
- Are there professional networks or unions?

➤ Axis 2 : Access to Local Information

This axis seeks to understand the specific role played by community radio stations in access to local information and information circulation within communities. Particular attention should be paid to linguistic diversity, participatory formats, topics covered, public service information, dialogue mechanisms with communities, the capacity to reach rural populations, and to mobilize their audiences.

Research questions include:

- Which media are most recognized for local information?
- In which languages do they broadcast?
- Which have a digital presence?
- To what extent do they meet community information needs?
- What information is most sought after?
- How can audiences interact with stations?
- Are there unmet information needs?
- Do digital media complement or replace traditional radio listening?
- Which audiences remain insufficiently served?

The study will cover the entire territory of Mauritania by region (wilaya): Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi, Hodh Ech Chargui, Tagant, Adrar, Inchiri and Tiris Zemmour.

Expected Methodological Approach:

The consultant or consulting team shall propose a methodology suited to the objectives of the study. This should combine a desk review, semi-structured interviews with key informants, focus group discussions and/or interviews with target populations, and any other relevant methods.

Particular attention should be paid to diversity among respondents, especially in terms of gender, age, language and level of connectivity. The role of women in radio stations and programmes should be addressed throughout the study.

Timeline, Budget and Deliverables:

The budget allocated to this study is set at between **EUR 6,500** and **EUR 8,500**, which includes all costs, including those for field travel.

Should a consultant based abroad be selected, airfare, accommodation and per diem expenses will be covered separately by Fondation Hironnelle.

Preliminary findings and the interim report are expected no later than the **week of 28 September 2026**.

The final report must be submitted during **the week of 5 October 2026**.

Deliverables:

- Methodological note
- National mapping (map and database)
- Interim report
- Final report and recommendations
- PowerPoint presentation for oral presentation.

All deliverables shall be submitted in French or English.

Qualifications:

The study may be conducted by an individual consultant or a team of consultants. Preference will be given to local and/or regional bids.

- The expected profile includes:
- Expertise in information sciences, media sociology or media development;
- Knowledge of the Mauritanian context;
- Mastery of qualitative methods in fragile or hard-to-access environments;
- Experience in studies on information practices, media or social cohesion;
- Sensitivity to gender and inclusion issues;

- The ability to work in French or English, as well as Hassaniya or Pulaar.

Submission :

The proposal must include:

- A section demonstrating understanding of the Terms of Reference;
- The proposed methodology and preferred data collection tools;
- The estimated number of key informants;
- A work plan including estimated days;
- A detailed budget; CV(s) of the expert(s); and two references.

The proposal must not exceed 15 pages including annexes.

It should be sent to julie.godignon@hirondelle.org **before 19 July 2026.**

Fondation Hironnelle has a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, as well as abuse of power within the organisation. **Consultez notre politique de prévention et de lutte contre le Harcèlement et les abus sexuels.**