

Call for proposal:**Short-term expert contract****Context**

For numerous years, South Africa has registered recurring incidents of xenophobic violence. Contrary to the expectations that the end of apartheid would result in a peaceful coexistence among different communities in the country, post-apartheid South Africa has seen an increase in xenophobic attacks, targeting especially black African immigrants.

Currently, populist and repressive movements have emerged in multiple corners in South Africa. These groups, often referred to as 'volunteers', are made up of unemployed South Africans from the townships and inner-city metros operate as either officially authorised law-enforcement bodies by government departments, or as private movements.

These volunteers violently target black migrants, mostly women workers, blame them for the rise of unemployment, poorly managed public health facilities and rising drug abuse in townships, and in some cases, criminals participating in these groups extort undocumented migrants while pretending to be law-enforcement officers.

Scope

The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-Southern Africa office requires the services of expert podcasters in South Africa (specifically in Johannesburg CBD) to conduct a series of podcast episodes on the following:

- An episode detailing the migrants' perilous journey from Zimbabwe to South Africa, while evading border officials to crossing crocodile infested rivers.
- An episode detailing migrants' experience finding their way to and round Johannesburg, while facing the challenges of finding work (often being engaged in exploitative labour), shelter, evading law-enforcement and the 'volunteers'. Here, a focus on migrant self-organising and developing 'early-warning systems' is relevant.
- An episode detailing the volunteers' side of the story and their 'job'.
- An episode detailing the stories of those migrants who were unfortunate enough to be caught by law enforcement and get sent to detention centers such as Lindela.

Qualifications

The podcaster/s must have the following qualifications:

- Relevant professional background.

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- Experience in innovative ways of podcasting aimed at mobilising public opinion.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Experience and knowledge of agriculture/environment/Africa would be an advantage.

Selection Criteria for the applications:

- Total Price: 50%.
- Knowledge on Xenophobia topic as it relates to migrant exchanges with volunteers: 35%.
- Previous work and experience with podcasting: 15%.

Details about Applications

- Experts from anywhere may apply (see also language specifications below), it may be one individual author, several authors applying together, or an organization/institution.
- Submit applications by 18 March 2026, to Siviwe.Rikhotso@rosalux.org: Project Manager for Labour, Economic alternatives and political communications and include the following information:
- CV outlining the candidate's qualification and motivation for the mandate.
- Podcast episode breakdown design including description of methodology.
- Previous experience with similar assignments, ideally with a previously published podcast episode.
- Demonstration of alignment with RLS overall goals, a leftist approach.

Eligible experts are invited to submit proposals and a financial quotation (based on daily rates) to undertake this work. This must include all costs and expenses.

Time line:

- 20 March 2026 – application submission.
- 24 March 2026 – commission experts to begin work.
- 30 March 2026 – meeting between expert podcasters with RLS team.
- 24 April 2026 – submission of draft episodes.
- 22 May 2026 – submission of all final episodes with article.

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

Budget & Honorarium for expert/s:

Honorarium will be based on locally prevalent rates and may be proposed in the expert/s application (quotation based on daily rates).

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Payment

Payment will be made in instalments linked to the delivery of intermediate outputs. These will be agreed between the expert/s and RLS after the service contract has been awarded.

Expected output:

- Four fully edited and published 30 min podcast episodes.
- A 1500-word fully edited article ready for publishing.