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Tender for a Consultancy

In the FAR-DSI project - Feasibility Assessment of Regulation for Digital Sequence Information - we plan to assess the feasibility of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's decision on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) from the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) together with a group of case study partners from the German National Research Data Infrastructure NFDI.

As a preparation for the feasibility assessment, we plan to provide reports to translate a selection of "open issues for consideration" from COP15 into real-world scenarios for our case study partners, which are DSI users and service providers. DSI users and service providers include downstream database providers as well as researcher groups accessing DSI as reference information for their studies. The research for the reports and the case studies are conducted by a postdoctoral researcher (full-time position).

Since the practicalities and operation of the DSI decision are not yet defined, we decided to address three major unresolved issues which brings tension among the parties:

- Metadata transparency and feasibility of tracking and tracing
- DSI scope and possible trigger points
- Non-monetary benefit sharing options and feasibility of measuring them

In particular, we will describe the underlying concepts and address the questions (a) how policy negotiations on these issues may impact DSI-services and, (b) how they, DSI-users and service providers, can support/be helpful in the implementation of the decision.

To prepare these discussions, we are seeking consultancy for an in-depth assessment exercise. The consultancy is an activity in Work package 1 of the project. An initial policy issues assessment workshop with app. 15 participants is planned for July 12/13, 2023, where we plan to discuss the first research on these issues and collect feedback from experts in the DSI-services field and in the policy field.

The tasks at hand are

- Review input on the policy issues prepared by the postdoctoral researcher with regard to consistency and utility for the assessment exercise
- Collaborate with postdoc on the design and scripting of the policy issues assessment
- Participate in the workshop and help facilitate discussions
- Review workshop report and provide critical feedback for future strategic engagement

- Be available for a debriefing meeting in August or September

We are looking for a consultant with experience in political stakeholder participation (ideally foresight projects) and in-depth knowledge of the CBD negotiation processes and results. The consultancy will be needed in the time period June – September 2023.

The budget available is up to 10.000 Euro.

Offers should be sent (preferably electronically) by June 10th, 2023 to

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