



***Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture, rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy***

*EuropeAid/138038/DH/SER/RS*

**Terms of Reference Chapter 11, No 28**

**Senior Non-key expert on Project Component 1 (NKE-28) – Competent Authority – EAGF/EAFRD**

**1. Project Background**

The overall objective of the project is to improve the capacity of the MAFWM to manage the process of integration with the EU policies in the agriculture and rural development.

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) constitute the main legislation body of the Common Agricultural Policy could be transposed directly to the candidate countries.

The correct administrative application is crucial for the functioning of the Common Agricultural Policy and the EU internal market. The EU legislation from Chapter 11 may have a significant impact on the current policy support to agriculture in the Republic of Serbia.

Through the implementation of Component 1, this project supports the MAFWM, and other bodies, stakeholders involved in the EU accession process with support in transposition of *acquis* and preparations for implementation of EU Common Agriculture Policy and associated *acquis*. The project shall provide high quality expertise to the EU integration process in the Republic of Serbia for Chapter 11.

The project will have two-fold approach: (1) provide support to coordination and managing the process (2) provide technical (content-oriented) support end expertise on demand to the relevant structures in the MAFWM and other institutions.

**Component 1.** Strengthened capacity to effectively administer and implement alignment of the Serbian agriculture and rural development with the Common Agricultural Policy in the process of EU accession (Chapter 11).

Accession negotiations in Chapter 11 focus amongst others on market organisation, quality policy, organic policy, direct payments and rural development.

Chapter 11 covers a large number of binding rules, many of which are directly applicable.

The proper application of these rules and their effective enforcement and control by an efficient public administration are essential for the functioning of the CAP.

Implementation, management and control of the CAP require the creation, modification and/or strengthening of appropriate administrative structures (e.g. Paying Agency and Integrated Administrative and Control System (IACS)). In some cases, the *acquis* sets out detailed specifications for the required administrative structures.

Through this contract, the Contractor should assist beneficiary in following activities related to Chapter 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development).



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The results forecasted in the project in the current development are the following:

- Result 1.1 Assistance to MAFWM and other relevant stakeholders in preparation for – and in support of accession negotiations pertaining to chapter 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development) provided.
- Result 1.2 Support to the ongoing process of harmonization of national legislation with EU acquis in agriculture and rural development.
- Result 1.3 Institutional and administrative capacity is upgraded and strengthened so as to be fully capable to implement EU acquis on agriculture and rural development by the date of accession.
- Result 1.4 Communication Strategy and Communication Plan for accession negotiation process in Chapter 11 is prepared and implemented, including but not limited to training, development of communication tools and implementation of the awareness campaign.

## 2. Reference document

Terms of Reference of the Project: EuropeAid/138038/DH/SER/RS Capacity building for the alignment with the acquis in the area of agriculture and rural development.

## 3. Terms of Reference Relevance

This mission will be carried out in the framework of the project activities as described in the Terms of Reference, Project Proposal and Implementation plan.

The present assignment will contribute to the achievement of Component 1 by providing expertise and supporting the beneficiary institutions to build up well-functioning process of transposition of EU acquis related to Chapter 11.

## 4. Assignment objective(s)

In this respect the project needs the expert's support to and will be engaged in the following Project activities:

**Activity 1.1 - Supporting Negotiation process for Chapter 11**, aimed to provide assistance to the MAFWM and other relevant stakeholders in preparation for – and in support of - Chapter 11 accession negotiations.

**Sub Activity 1.1.3 Revision of Action Plan for Chapter 11**, supporting the MAFWM in the revision of the Action Plan for Chapter 11.

**Activity 1.3** Strengthening capacity of MAFWM and other stakeholders involved in process of planning and implementation of CAP

**Sub activity 1.3.2** Assistance in establishment of Competent Authority and other relevant bodies respecting accreditation criteria for EAGF and EAFRD (proposal of organization, definition of tasks and responsibilities, planning of work, etc.);



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## **5. Main Tasks**

Within the above-mentioned activities the Senior NKE, in close cooperation with the TL and other NKEs, will implement the following actions:

- Development of the proposal for the organizational structure of the Competent Authority with definition of tasks and responsibilities including the job descriptions respecting the accreditation criteria for EAGF and EAFRD
- Drafting the guideline on internal procedure for coordination or performance of the pre-accreditation review of the Paying Agency as well as monitoring of the accreditation criteria
- Providing the draft work plan on establishment of the Competent Authority with timeline of the activities
- Supporting beneficiaries in the review of the Action Plan for Chapter 11 related to the Competent Authority in the area of accreditation
- Training of the relevant staff on accreditation criteria, establishment and functioning of the Competent Authority

## **6. Related Outputs**

Bearing in mind planned accreditation requirements for the next programming period the Senior NKE should deliver the following outputs:

- Proposal for the organizational structure of the Competent Authority with definition of tasks and responsibilities including the job descriptions respecting the accreditation criteria for EAGF and EAFRD developed
- Guideline on internal procedure for coordination or performance of the pre-accreditation review of the Paying Agency as well as monitoring of the accreditation criteria drafted
- Work plan on establishment of the Competent Authority with timeline of the activities provided
- Support in the review of the Action Plan for Chapter 11 related to the Competent Authority in the area of accreditation provided
- Training of the relevant staff on accreditation criteria, establishment and functioning of the Competent Authority conducted

## **7. Timing and duration of mission/s**

The assignment shall be implemented in Belgrade, Serbia, in the period February 2020 to July 2021, up to 20 working days. The number of days is subject to extension as needed.

## **8. Reporting**

The expert will deliver weekly reports in the English language on every last workday of the week she/he worked, with attached all written deliverables. The report will be attached to the expert's draft timesheet.

## **9. Expert profile**

### ***- Qualifications and skills***

- University degree in agricultural sciences, economy, law or other relevant discipline;



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- Master degree in Agriculture, economy, law or other relevant discipline, will be an asset;
- Good command of English;
- Good command of Serbian, will be considered as asset;
- Computer literacy (command of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) and the Internet).
- Excellent communication, presentations and dialogue skills;
- Excellent organizational planning and writing skills;
- Ability to work in international environment.

**- General professional experience**

- Minimum 10 years of general postgraduate professional experience in the sector of agriculture.

**- Specific professional experience**

- Minimum 5, preferable 7 years of relevant specific professional experience, gained in the Ministry of Agriculture or related public institutions/bodies responsible for accreditation process of the Paying Agency in an EU Member state;
- Previous experience in the accreditation process of the Paying Agency;
- Familiarity with reform package for CAP implementation, draft CAP horizontal regulation in particular;
- Deep knowledge of the accreditation criteria and EU rules related to the Paying Agency;
- Previous experience gained in other candidate Countries, Neighbourhood Countries or new EU Member States will be considered as asset;
- Experience with the work of Competent Authority in the EU Member States will be considered as asset

## 10. Evaluation of work

The TL and the Beneficiary's representative, will assess the expert's performance.

## 11. Application

Application letter and EU format CV, both in English, must be submitted by e-mail to [hr@weglobal.org](mailto:hr@weglobal.org) and [olivera.maric@weglobal.org](mailto:olivera.maric@weglobal.org) no later than 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, titled: "Application for the position – Senior Non-key expert 28 on Project Component 1 – Competent Authority – EAGF/EAFRD".

References must be available on request.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

The Project is an equal opportunity employer, in respect of the principles of good governance, sustainable development and gender equality.

All applications will be considered strictly confidential.

Advertised posts are not available to civil servants or other officials of the public administration in the beneficiary country, Serbia.