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Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Short-Term assignment

Technical assistance requested:	One (1) Senior Non-Key Expert in the area of mental health care
Project Title:	Policy and Legal Advice Centre (PLAC II), Serbia
Ref:	Europe Aid/137065/DH/SER/RS
Service Contract No.:	(CRIS) 2016/375-724
Main beneficiary:	Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and the Negotiating Team
Target Beneficiaries:	Ministry of Health; Ministry for Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (MLEVSA)
Content of the assignment:	Support in drafting the first version of the Strategy on mental health policy in the Republic of Serbia with Action Plan for deinstitutionalisation
Budget Line / Expert Category:	Senior Non-Key Expert
Duration of the assignment:	10 WDs in total, spent in the period from April – (tentatively) June 2018

1. Relevant background information

Background information in relation to PLAC II Project:

The scope of PLAC II Project is to provide support to relevant national institutions in charge of alignment of national legal acts with the EU acquis and to contribute to further building of capacities of relevant national structures for successful carrying out of accession negotiations.

The PLAC II Project should achieve two results:

RESULT 1 - Enhanced compatibility of national legislation with EU legislation and its effective implementation,

RESULT 2 - Enhanced capacities of the relevant national structures for successful carrying out of accession negotiations.

In general, the Project aims at fostering the process of accession negotiations of Serbia by supporting the effective alignment of national legislation with the acquis and its implementation and by further building the capacities of involved carriers of the EU integration process in Serbia. After completion of screening process in 2015, Serbian public administration has entered into much more demanding and obliging exercise of accession negotiations, whereby each step and every decision should result in approaching actual membership in the EU. For this scenario to happen in accordance with planned dynamics, preparedness, adequate institutional capacity of public administration with highly competent staff is of crucial importance. In the core period of the negotiations, PLAC II Project shall support domestic line institutions and the negotiating structures both in performance of quality operational work in relation to harmonisation process and in the effective coordination during various stages and phases in the process for different negotiation chapters.



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Background information in relation to Chapter 28 - Consumer and Health Protection:

In 2007, Serbia adopted its national Strategy for the Development of Mental Health Care (OG RS, No. 8/2007).

In 2013, the Law on the Protection of People with Mental Illness (RS OG, No. 45/2013) was adopted and the Rulebook on Detailed Conditions for Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Persons with Mental Illness who are Undergoing Treatment in Psychiatric Institutions (OG RS, No. 45/2013), as well as the Rulebook on Detailed Conditions for the Establishment of Organisational Units and Conducting of Community Mental Health Care (OG RS, No. 106/2013).

According to the Law on the Protection of People with Mental Illness, physical restraint and seclusion can only be used in emergencies, for the purpose of ensuring physical security of a given person or provided that all less restrictive interventions have been previously exhausted or have proven to be ineffective. As regards mental health care at the local community level, Serbia aims to further reduce capacities in psychiatric hospitals and develop a network of community mental health care units, already existing in Serbia. Health workers have been trained in particular on the legal framework regarding the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental health problems. Educational material on the rights of hospitalised psychiatric patients is currently being prepared.

Screening Report for Chapter 28 – Consumer and Health protection stated that “The legal framework in the field of mental health is comprehensive. Further support is needed in community mental health services as an alternative to institutionalisation”.

In order to further align its national legal framework with the EU legal framework, in particular with the European Joint Action (on) Mental Health and Well-being and European Framework for Action on Metal Health and Well-being and address the issue of alternatives to institutionalisation, the preparation and adoption of the national Strategy on mental health policy is foreseen in 2018 Work Plan of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

As part of the co-operation framework by the European Union and the Council of Europe, known as the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, since May 2016 the Council of Europe has been implementing in Serbia the “Action” with the aim of strengthening human rights protection of mental disordered patients and facilitation of their reintegration and rehabilitation, especially as regards detained and sentenced persons, persons detained under involuntary psychiatric hospitalisation and persons with mental disabilities detained in social welfare institutions. The Ministry of Health is taking part in the implementation of this Action, implemented in scope of Chapters 23 and 24 and relating to mental health protection of detained and sentenced persons, which should be taken into consideration by the selected expert providing assistance requested in this ToR.

2. Description of the assignment

2.1 Specific objectives

The specific objective of this assignment is to assist the competent national bodies in elaboration of the national Strategy on mental health policy and the Action Plan as regards new demands in the process of deinstitutionalisation of special psychiatric hospitals, by a means of establishing a network of community based mental health services, in accordance with the European Joint Action (on) Mental Health and Well-being and European Framework for Action on Metal Health and Well-being.



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2.2 Requested services

The Senior NKE is expected to provide the following services:

- a) To analyse the existing legislation of the Republic of Serbia in the area of mental health;
- b) To develop main elements of the Strategy on mental health policy and Action Plan for deinstitutionalisation, with rough estimation of the financial, human and material resources needed for the implementation and finalise the first version of the Strategy and Action Plan;
- c) To deliver training to the representatives of MoH, MLEVSA and members of the Negotiating group for Chapter 28 responsible for drafting of this Strategy and the Action Plan, on the main elements of the proposed Strategy and the Action Plan, at a workshop or internal training.

2.3 Outputs

The Senior NKE is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- Report on the analysis of the existing legislation of the Republic of Serbia in the area of mental health;
- First version of draft Strategy on mental health policy with Action Plan for deinstitutionalisation, with rough estimation of the financial, human and material resources needed for the implementation of the AP;
- Training material that is suitable for the representatives of MoH, MLEVSA and members of the Negotiating group for Chapter 28 and delivery of training on the main elements of the Strategy and the Action Plan for deinstitutionalization.

2.4 Reporting

The NKE shall provide the following reports by using the templates of the Project:

- Brief Mission Report with description of activities and outputs provided, at the end of each mission under this assignment,
- Final Mission Report, no later than 1 week after completion of tasks under this assignment. This Report will include description of all activities and outputs provided by the NKE in the context of this assignment.

Submission of reports:

- Draft Mission Report shall be submitted to the Team Leader of the Project for review and comments at the end of the mission.
- Final version of the Mission Report prepared in the relevant quality shall be submitted to the Team Leader of the Project for review, comments and final approval. The reports shall be signed by the NKE and the Team Leader, responsible for endorsing the Reports.
- The Report and all prepared documents shall be submitted in hard copy and electronic version to the Team Leader of the Project.



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2.5 Specifics

The NKE shall work under the guidance and follow the instructions of the Team Leader. The NKE shall collaborate with the project team, other experts involved and representatives of beneficiary institutions and national structures, as relevant.

The NKE's activities and outputs mentioned above may be adjusted by the Team Leader at any stage in the implementation of the Project, depending on the evolving needs of the Project and main beneficiaries. Each of the short-term mission, its timing and duration shall be agreed with the Team Leader prior to each mission.

2.6 Final use of intervention and perspectives for the future

By drafting national Strategy on mental health policy and the Action Plan for deinstitutionalisation, public health standards in Serbia will be upgraded, by which better treatment, protection and well-being will be ensured for the most vulnerable members of Serbian population. This way, Serbia will share European values and vision for mental health set by European Joint Action (on) Mental Health and Well-being and European Framework for Action on Mental Health and Well-being, including fighting against discrimination and segregation.

3. Expert input

3.1 Total working days

10 working days (WDs) in total have been planned for this assignment.

3.2 Period of the assignment

April – (tentatively) June 2018

3.3 Starting day

It is expected that the work will be performed during two missions in the period from April until (tentatively) June 2018, and starting at the earliest, from 16 April 2018 onwards. However, exact starting date will be agreed at a later stage.

3.4 Location/Place of assignment

The NKE has to deliver 100% of the input in Belgrade, Serbia.

3.5 Working language

English

4. Expert Profile

4.1 Qualifications and skills (25 points)

- University degree (where university degree has been awarded on completion of three years study at university or equivalent institution) in the area relevant to the assignment
- Proficiency in English language
- Computer literacy (MS Office applications)



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4.2 *General professional experience (25 points)*

- Minimum 10 years of postgraduate professional experience in the field of public health in an EU Member State, candidate or potential candidate country

4.3 *Specific professional experience (50 points)*

- Proven professional experience in the area of mental health care in an EU Member State, candidate or potential candidate country
- Previous professional experience, and/or knowledge of the legislation, of the Republic of Serbia in the respective area would be an advantage

5. **Applications**

Applications (EU format CV and application letter, both in English) need to be submitted by e-mail to SEPLAC@altairasesores.es not later than 17:00 hrs, **20 March 2018** titled: **“Application for the position – Senior Non-Key Expert in the area of mental health care”**

References must be available on request. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

The Project is an equal opportunity employer.
All applications will be considered strictly confidential.

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

For more information, please contact Project Manager at Altair Asesores S.L.:
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