

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



This project is funded by
The European Union



*The Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Water Management*

Terms of Reference Chapter 11, No 14

Senior Non-key expert (NKE-14) on Project Component 1 – Serbian and EU State Aid in agriculture sector

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 and 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

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for the required administrative structures.

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

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 1.1.1 Impact assessment of EU CAP implementation in Serbia, aimed to the preparation of detailed expert impact analysis, and/or studies related to direct payments, rural development measures, state aid, and others (e.g. Study on the Impact of the Implementation of Different EU Payment Schemes on Farmers; Simulation of Direct Payments Envelope Calculation;

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Study on Small Farmers; elaboration and definitions relating to active farmers, agricultural activity, eligible hectares, etc.).

Sub Activity 1.1.2 Preparation of the negotiation position for Chapter 11, aimed to assist the drafting of documents necessary for the preparation of negotiation position for Chapter 11, and accompanying analytical reports.

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 1.2 Supporting harmonisation with EU acquis for Chapter 11, supporting the harmonisation of national legal framework with EU acquis in agriculture and rural development.

Sub Activity 1.2.2 Drafting relevant legislation for direct payments, rural development, State aid, and other areas, in line with relevant EU regulations.

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:

- Collecting relevant materials and case studies in relation to EU and current Serbian State Aid for further needed impact analysis;
- Analysis of existing Serbian State aid schemes;
- Impact analysis of future implementation of EU State Aid in Serbia;
- Providing recommendations on requests to be included into the Negotiation Position, if further needed;
- Supporting beneficiaries in the review of 2020 Action Plan for Chapter 11, if needed;
- Presentation of the drafted Study to the main beneficiaries and other involved stakeholders during a planned Capacity Building Event;
- Assessing the Serbian legal framework for State aid in the area of agriculture and rural development and providing support in the needed amendment of legal acts related to State Aid in order to allow the full application of EU rules on State aid control at the moment of Serbia's accession to the EU;
- Providing support in the establishment of a competent authority in charge to manage State aid in agriculture and rural development;
- Drafting guidelines for the establishment of a Register of State Aid.

6. Related Outputs

- Collected relevant materials and case studies in relation to EU and Serbian State Aid for further needed impact analysis;
- Study on future implementation of State Aid in Serbia;
- PowerPoint presentation about the EU State Aid Policy delivered to beneficiary during a Capacity Building Event;

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- Assessment report on the Serbian legal framework for Serbian state aid in the area of agriculture and rural development;
- Drafted proposal for the amendment of the existing Serbian Law on Subsidies in Agriculture and Rural Development, for the part related to the State Aid, supported;
- Guidelines for the establishment of a Register of State Aid, drafted.

7. Timing and duration of mission/s

The assignment shall be implemented in Belgrade, Serbia, in the period September 2020 to May 2021, up to 60 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 (where a university degree has been awarded on completion of minimum three years' study in a university or equivalent institution) in Law, Economics, Agriculture or similar, relevant to the assignment;
- 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).

- General professional experience

- Minimum 7 years of general postgraduate professional experience.

- Specific professional experience

- Minimum 5 years of relevant specific professional experience, gained in Ministries of Agriculture or related public bodies in relation to the State Aid sector in EU Member States;
- Deep knowledge of EU State Aid;
- Previous experience gained in other candidate Countries or Neighbourhood Countries;
- Excellent communication, presentations and dialogue skills;
- Excellent organizational planning and writing skills;
- Ability to work in international environment.

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10. Evaluation of work

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

11. Application

Application letter, EU format CV and supporting documents linked with the working experience stated in the CV, all in English, are to be submitted by e-mail to hr@weglobal.org, olivera.maric@weglobal.org and tatjana.mihajlov@weglobal.org no later than **29th July 2020**, titled: "Application for the position – Senior Non-key expert 14 on Project Component 1 – State Aid". Please use the following form for the CV:



Standard_EU_CV_format.doc

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.