

REdiS 2030

EU support to Reform of Education in Serbia

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Contract no: 2019/405-242

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Non-Key Expert on Public Finances and Budget Planning

Background:

Project Title: EU support to Reform of Education in Serbia

Ref: EuropeAid/139264/DH/SER/RS

Contract no: 2019/405-242

Main beneficiary: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD)

The overall objective of the project:

To assist the Government of Serbia in implementing reforms in the education sector by improving the quality, equity and relevance of the education and training

Purpose of the project:

Strengthening institutional and human capacities of key institutions in the education sector to manage comprehensive education reform; and timely, efficient and effective coordination and implementation of the Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC)

Components:

- C1. Institutional and human capacity building of key institutions to apply a sector-wide approach in the education sector
- C2. Support for improving evidence-based policy making, monitoring and reporting in education
- C3. Support for improving quality assurance mechanisms across the education system
- C4. Support for raising awareness and visibility of education reforms and their benefits for Serbian citizens
- C5. Support to the implementation of the Sector Reform Performance Contract in Education and maintaining a continued policy dialogue

Expected Overall Project Results:

- Strengthen institutional capacities for improved coordination and cooperation among education institutions
- Promote the system of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation relating to the field of education
- Strengthen data collection capacities as a basis for monitoring and reporting on educational reforms
- Improve the information system in the education sector and utilization of data

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- Develop the Education Development Strategy 2030 and the relating action plan
- Develop mechanisms for improving the national curriculum based on the results of international surveys (PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS, TALIS), final examination at the end of primary education and national testing
- Improve the system of external evaluation in pre-university education
- Improve the system of quality assurance in higher education
- Supporting MoESTD and stakeholders to develop and implement a communication strategy on reforms and SRPC
- Capacity building for MoESTD and other educational institutions for communication and visibility techniques
- Support to MoESTD and other public institutions in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of SRPC and support to policy dialogue in the field of education

Component and related activities:

This ToR refers to:

Component 2 of the project - Support for raising awareness and visibility of education reforms and their benefits for Serbian citizens

Assignment objective(s)

The assignment is related to the task within the following activities:

Activity 2.3. Develop the Education Development Strategy 2030 and the Relating Action Plan and its related sub activities:

2.3.3. Provide analytical and other expert support for revising the current action plan by 2020, and for drafting the strategy by 2030 and the relating action plan

Main tasks and duties:

NKE Senior Expert on Public Finances and Budget Planning will work closely with the Project team and support the Project Key Expert 2 and Beneficiary in the delivery of activities and outcomes listed in the table below.

Sub activity no	Task	Indicative input:	Expected deliverables:
2.3.3.	2.3.3.2. <i>Provision of analytical support to MoESTD/WG:</i>	24 wd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised budget of the Action Plan 2021-2023 of Education Strategy 2030. ▪ The team of MoESTD trained on the principles of financial

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<p>Total</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Revision of the budget of the Action Plan 2021-2023 of Education Strategy 2030</i> - Training the team of MoESTD on the principles of financial planning and budgeting related to the strategic documents such as Action plans - Coaching the team of MoESTD during the process of revising the budget of Action plan 2021-2023 	<p>24 WD</p>	<p>planning and budgeting related to the strategic documents such as Action plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The team of MoESTD coached during the process of revising the budget of Action plan 2021-2023
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Qualifications Required:

<p><u>Qualifications and skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A University Degree in economy, finance or other similar field or at least 5 years of relevant professional experience in addition to General Professional Experience</i> • <i>Proficiency in written and spoken English</i> • <i>Have excellent oral and written communication and analytical skills</i> • <i>Have excellent team working abilities</i> • <i>Strong communication and presentation skills and the ability to transfer his/her knowledge effectively</i> • <i>Knowledge of Serbian language (or other local languages- Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin) will be considered as an advantage</i>
<p><u>General Professional Experience:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At least ten (10) years, preferable twelve (12) of proven professional experience in financial management and reporting</i>
<p><u>Specific Professional Experience:</u></p> <p><i>Minimum five (5), preferably seven (7) years of experience in:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Cooperation with ministries and other national authorities on budget planning and execution issues, including participation in different inter-sector working groups</i>



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- *Development and evaluation of policy documents, their financial impact analysis, methodologies and tools in the field of public finances*
- *Experience in on-the job- training delivery and coaching will be considered an advantage*
- *Excellent knowledge of overall Serbian budgetary system will be considered an advantage*
- *Experience in donor-funded projects will be considered an advantage*

Logistics and Timing

The activities are planned to be carried out *in the period of December 2021 until March 2022.*

The exact starting date will be agreed at a later stage, pursuant to the expert's approval by the Contracting Authority.

The number of working days foreseen for this assignment is up to 24.

Reports

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

- Brief Mission Reports with a description of activities and outputs provided, at the end of each mission/month under this assignment. *(NKEs who work less than a month shall complete a mission report at the end of each assignment whereas long-term NKEs complete a mission report on a monthly basis)*
- Final Mission Report, no later than 1 week after completion of tasks under this assignment. This report will include a 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 and Project Director for review and comments at the end of the mission/month.

- The final version of the mission report prepared in the relevant quality shall be submitted to the Team Leader and Project Director for review, comments and final approval. The reports shall be signed by the NKE and the Team Leader responsible for endorsing the report.

The report and all prepared documents shall be submitted in hard copy and in electronic version to the Team Leader of the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

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The NKE shall work under the guidance and follow the instructions of the Team Leader and KE2. 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 and KE2 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 and KE2 prior to each mission.

Location:

The NKE must deliver 100% of the input in Serbia. The project office in Belgrade will be the main operational base of this activity; however, if necessary, for the completion of the assignment, other locations throughout Serbia will be considered.

Working Language:

The working language is English. However, the Serbian language can be used whenever is deemed as necessary or required by Beneficiaries.