

**Terms of Reference for Assignment of a Senior Non-Key
Programming Expert in Drinking and Waste Water
on IPA III Multiannual Programming, Window 3, Thematic Priority 1:
Environment and Climate Change**

1. Background

This assignment shall be carried out within the framework of the project “Development of the System for the Management of Cohesion Policy” financed by European Union under IPA III, having as Project Partner and Main Beneficiary the Ministry of European Integration (MEI).

The overall objective is to prepare the Serbian public administration for the effective implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Republic of Serbia. The purpose of the contract is to set up and enhance the capacities of all relevant stakeholders for timely and efficient preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects supported by Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.

The results to be achieved by the Contractor are as follows:

Result 1: Legal and institutional framework for the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy in place.

Result 2: Relevant planning and programming documents for IPA III multi-annual programming prepared.

Result 3: Capacities of institutions and bodies nominated for preparation / implementation of multi-annual Operational Programmes under IPA with a view of their future role under Cohesion Policy, as well as partners and potential beneficiaries at national level, and as appropriate at sub-national level, increased via Capacity Building programmes.

The Project started on 11 July 2019 and shall last until 10 July 2024. Support to achievement of Result 2 shall accommodate the new approach by the European Commission aiming at accelerating convergence of the current IPA structures to the management and control systems established in EU Member States that benefit from Cohesion Policy funds, through the preparation and implementation of **Operational Programmes (OPs) under IPA III in the period 2024-2027**.

It is predicted that preparation and management of Operational Programmes under the indirect management with the Republic of Serbia method of implementation shall contribute to improving the level of preparedness for Chapter 22 “Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments”. Policy-wise, Operational Programmes can also provide a significant contribution to deliver the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP) and the Green Agenda, which both aim at reinvigorating the economies of the Western Balkans through investments and support to competitiveness and inclusive growth, sustainable connectivity, and the twin green and digital transition. In this context, Operational Programmes provide a multi-year fiscally framed plan for investments, with a predictable implementation of a pipeline of flagship projects in the medium term, which is mirroring the programming process by EU Member States under the EU Cohesion

Policy. One of the flagships in the EIP is **Flagship 7 – Waste and Waste Water Management** which supports sustainable and reliable ways of managing water supply, waste water and waste disposal as crucial for the protection of the environment and of the health of citizens. This is essential for the green perspectives of the region, and safeguarding the health and welfare of its people, and can also have positive impacts on tourism in the region.

The Contracting Authority for the above-mentioned project is the **EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia (EUD)**. The Service Contractor is **GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in consortium with Mott MacDonald, Archidata and Ismeri**.

The assignment of a Pool of Senior Non-Key Programming Experts is required to provide the expertise needed for preparation of the Operational Programme “EU GREEN AGENDA FOR SERBIA”¹ for the period 2024-2027 that shall be funded under IPA III – Window 3, Thematic Priority 1 focusing on *Environment and climate change*. An indicative scope of the interventions to be financed under the above-mentioned thematic priority under the Operational Programme is attached as **Annex 1**. The total budget for the Operational Programme is EUR 282 300 000 covering investment both in the Energy Sector and the Environment and Climate Sector.

The following **senior non-key Programming Experts** shall be recruited in parallel to support preparation of the Operational Programme in reference to:

- Programming Expert on Energy Efficiency of Buildings
- Programming Expert in TTP Environmental protection measures
- Programming Expert in Renewable Energy Sources
- Programming Expert in Drinking and Waste Water (selected under this Terms of Reference)
- Programming Expert in Waste Management

Interested experts are encouraged to apply for more than one position in case they meet the requirements.

The **Operational Programme “EU GREEN AGENDA FOR SERBIA”** (indicative title) shall be managed by a **Managing Authority**, one or more **Intermediate Bodies for Policy Management** and one or more **Intermediate Bodies for Financial Management**. These authorities shall be designated by Government Decision.

The contribution of the Expert shall be primarily framed by the Commission guidelines/instructions and annotated template on preparation of Operational Programmes under IPA III for the period 2021-2027, and any updates of these documents which are eventually communicated by the Commission during the assignment.

2. Description of the Assignment

The selected Expert shall support the Beneficiary and the Serbian institutions in the environmental and climate change sector preparation of the following contributions to the OP:

- **Project Component 2, Activity 2.3.** Support the preparation of the Environmental and climate change related chapters/sections of the Operational Programme, consisting of

¹ Indicative title.

supporting needs analysis and development of the intervention logic to be presented under Deliverable A) Analysis of the drinking and waste water thematic sub-priority including SWOT analysis backed by underpinning evidence, and, Deliverable B) Intervention logic for the above-mentioned thematic sub-priority with identification of appropriate output and result indicators, baseline and targets, and mainstreaming of horizontal policies. The identification of outputs and results shall take into account the indicative costing of the proposed strategic actions comprising major projects, if applicable.

- **Project Component 2, Activity 2.2.** Support to conduct the consultation process on the Operational Programme, with specific reference to the proposed intervention logic for the drinking and waste water thematic sub-priority. The assistance shall include support to organise dedicated meetings, the facilitation of meetings and assistance with processing the inputs by partners and stakeholders on draft documents. Reporting on the consultation process shall be a deliverable under the assignment (Deliverable C).

The approach to be adopted, to be confirmed at the start of the mission, is as follows:

- 1) Meeting with the Project Beneficiary (MEI), the Policy Body/Bodies and sectoral structures (Sector's Serbian Institutions which may include local self-governments and shall include the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies for Policy Management once these are established), and the EUD, to present the mission work plan, gathering information and agree on the joint work modalities.
- 2) Desk research to gather data and other information as necessary to carry out the assignment.
- 3) Outline and agree with EUD, MEI and the Serbian institutions in the drinking and waste water sector the detailed contents of the deliverables to be prepared under the assignment, reflecting the European Commission's guidance/instructions and the OP annotated template. The format of the documents (including fonts and all editing details) is also to be agreed.
- 4) Support the Sector's Serbian Institutions with the preparation of the sectoral contributions mentioned above.
- 5) Support the MEI and the Sector's Serbian Institutions in the drinking and waste water sector to conduct consultations on the above-mentioned sectoral documents. The work with the partners will be conducted in line with the provisions of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership and taking into account the composition of the partnership established (or in the process of being established) by the Serbian institutions for the relevant Operational Programme.
- 6) Finalise the above-mentioned deliverables A, B, C.

Having in mind the multidisciplinary scope of the Operational Programme and connected measures to be supported by the Operational Programme, and the need to design them with the support of an inclusive partnership, the Expert shall conduct both individual work and joint work with the other programming experts assigned to programming tasks under the Operational Programme in subject, as appropriate in relation to the approach agreed for the assignment.

The Expert shall prepare brief monthly reports which describe the work that was conducted, its results, and put forward recommendations that can be made to the Beneficiary from the expert's perspective. Monthly reports prepared by using the Project template, will be submitted to the Key Expert 2 and the Team Leader.

3. Expert profile

Programming Expert in Drinking and Waste Water

Required Qualifications and Skills

University Degree (Master/PhD).

Fluency in both written and spoken English, Serbian an advantage.

Advanced Computer literacy (MS Office including Excel, PowerPoint, Internet).

Very good organisational, coordination and reporting skills.

General Professional Experience

Min. 8 years relevant professional experience in the environment sector.

Experience in programming in the environment sector.

Knowledge of the EU Cohesion Policy and/or Instrument for Pre-Accession framework.

Specific Professional Experience

Min. 5 years of specific experience in programming measures/investment related to drinking water and/or waste water.

Knowledge to advise how OP thematic priorities best fit to actions defined in appropriate pillars of Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for Western Balkans (i.e. Depollution and Circular economy pillars)

Knowledge of State aid aspects of investment in drinking water and waste water infrastructure an advantage.

3. Location, duration, (provisional) start/end date

Location: the expert will be working in Belgrade, Serbia, at Project Office and other locations in Belgrade. Missions outside Belgrade could also prove necessary – these shall have to be pre-authorised by the Team Leader and the Contracting Authority.

Starting/ending date: January 2023/June 2023.

Total number of working days: up to 50.

No home-based work or work during week-ends allowed, except if duly authorised by the Contracting Authority.

Please send you applications on e-mail: nikola.bajski@giz.de

Deadline 31.01.2023

ANNEX 1

Indicative scope of the interventions to be financed under the Environmental and climate change Sector under the Operational Programme 'EU GREEN AGENDA FOR SERBIA'

Water management: (Drinking water and waste water (≤ 30 million), River basin management/flood prevention).

Examples of interventions (not exhaustive list):

- *Investments in WWTP including digestion of the sewage, production and use of the produced Methane, PV panels to contribute to the energy needs of the plants.*
- *Construction/re-construction of water supply systems that are heavily leaking and therefore wasting water resources as well as energy*
- *Construction of regional water supply that will contribute to better management of water resources and respond to the consequences of climate change including cope with drought*
- *Facilitate implementation and sustainability in order to achieve results*

Waste management: Waste management centres (≤ 30

million), closure of non-compliance landfill, Waste management equipment. Examples of interventions (not exhaustive list):

- *Waste management activities promoting recycling of waste*
- *Waste management activities promoting Circular economy principles*
- *Investments in facilities for treatment of Construction and demolition waste*
- *Investment in hazardous waste treatment plant*
- *Facilitate implementation and sustainability in order to achieve results*

Air quality/noise: Works and Equipment related to Air quality/noise. Examples of interventions (not exhaustive list):

- *Equipment for the control of the level of pollutants in the atmosphere as well as the emission of pollutants*
- *Facilitate implementation and sustainability in order to achieve results*

Nature protection: Management of natural resources, resource protection

(deployment of reservoirs, irrigation; ecological green and blue infrastructures; ecosystem restoration and resilience; restoration of carbon rich habitats; water retention), with focus on natural based solutions.

- *Facilitate implementation and sustainability in order to achieve results*

Industrial pollution: Cleaning of chemical dump-sites on local level).

- *Facilitate implementation and sustainability in order to achieve results*