REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**Republic of Serbia**

**Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP)**

Project ID No.: P167634

**Assignment Title:**

**Ex-post Evaluation of the current Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2014-2024 and Preparation for the new Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2025-2034**

Reference No.: SER-SCAP-CQS-CS-23-68

The Republic of Serbia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The main objective of this project task is to perform an Ex-post Evaluation of the current Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy for the period of 2014-2024 and prepare for the new Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy for the period 2024-2034.

**Scope of Services**

**Phase I Ex-Post Evaluation of the current Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2014-2024 in line with the Law on Strategic documents**

**Under this activity the Consultant/Firm will be responsible for:**

* Reviewing and analyzing monitoring data that will be provided by the Contracting Authority.
* Proposing and designing methods and tools for collection of secondary data.
* Triangulating findings and information gathered from different sources to draft relevant and useful conclusions and recommendations.
* Elaborating the draft Ex-Post Evaluation Report which includes key findings and recommendations.
* Elaborating the Final Ex-Post Evaluation Report that will be in line with the comments and feedback provided by the Contracting Authority.

**Phase II Preparation of the framework for new Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2025-2034**

**Under this activity the Consultant/Firm will be responsible for:**

* Reviewing the relevant legal frameworks including EU and UN directives as well as national legal frameworks with which the new Strategy will need to be aligned.
* Preparing a methodological framework of the process of the development of a new Strategy based on a participatory approach, high level involvements of stakeholders and interested parties
* Carrying out a socio-economic analysis of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Serbia which includes the analysis of key macroeconomic factors that are relevant for the respective thematic fields addressed by the strategy.
* Reviewing the conclusions and findings of the Ex-Post Evaluation of the current strategy and incorporating relevant conclusions and recommendations during preparation of the new strategy.
* Performing SWOT analysis of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Serbia.
* Preparing a proposal for a vision and strategic orientations of the new strategy.
* Preparing a proposal for operational goals of the new strategy.
* Elaborating a Draft proposal.
* Elaborating the Final proposal that will be in line with the comments and feedback provided by the Contracting Authority.

It should be noted that the public disclosure and debate, a mandatory step in any strategic document approval and adoption, in line with the Law on strategic documents, will be organized and implemented by the MAFWM. The Consultant/Firm will support the preparation by providing necessary information and relevant documentation, but the organization, management and implementation of the public disclosure and debate of the Strategy will be the sole responsibility of the MAFWM.

**Required consultant’s (company) qualifications**

The Consultant/Firm must have experience in the following areas in the past 10 years:

* Experience in performing evaluations of strategies and operational programs.
* Experience in providing professional and advisory support for the development of strategic documents in agricultural or rural development sector.
* Experience in providing consultancy support to institutions in charge for agricultural or rural development sector.
* Experiences in conducting socio-economic assessments.
* Prior experience in working in the Republic of Serbia.

The Consultant/Firm must ensure the engagement of qualified experts, as well as the necessary equipment for the execution of works required to achieve the project’s objectives.

The engagement of following Key personnel is requested:

Team Leader

* University degree in natural sciences, biotechnical, social sciences or another related field;
* Minimum 15 years of general working experience
* Minimum 10 years in planning and development of sectoral development plans- strategies, action plans or guidelines;
* Minimum 10 years experience in performing evaluations or assessments of strategic documents or development programs;
* Minimum 10 years in managing team of experts on international donor funded projects in related fields;
* Fluency in English and Serbian.

Key expert 2 – Strategic planning and Evaluation expert

* University degree in natural sciences, biotechnical, social sciences or another related field;
* Minimum 10 years of general working experience in at least one of the following fields: agriculture, rural development, ecology, spatial planning, forestry, environment, nature protection or similar;
* Min 5 years of experience in performing evaluations or assessments of development strategies guidelines, action plans or operational programs;
* Min 5 years of experience in preparation of strategies, guidelines, action plans or operational programs;
* Fluency in English and Serbian.

Key expert 3 – Socioeconomic analysis expert

* University degree in economy or social sciences;
* Minimum 10 years of general working experience;
* Minimum 5 years of experience in conducting socioeconomic analysis as part of the process for development of strategies, guidelines, action plans, studies or operational programs;
* Prior experience in affordability analysis, developing SWOT analysis and financial evaluations of strategic measures;
* Fluency in English and Serbian.

Key expert 4 – Agriculture and Rural Development expert

* University degree in natural sciences - agronomy, forestry, or another related field;
* Minimum 10 years of general working experience in agriculture and rural development sector;
* Experience of 5 years in developing strategies, guidelines, action plans or operational programs related to rural development and agriculture;
* Fluency in English and Serbian.

Non key expert pool

* Minimum 5 years of experience in supporting sustainable sector development for agriculture, food industry, rural sector, or related fields;
* Prior experience working with national institutions in support to the development of strategies or operational programmes;
* Fluency in English and Serbian.

In addition to Key and Non key experts, the Consultant/Firm should present in their offer qualified project managers and administrative personnel in charge for contract management and backstopping.

Expressions of interest will be evaluated by applying the following criteria with allocated points:

Specific experience of the Company – 40 points

Qualifications of key staff – 60 points

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above referenced assignment is posted on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM): <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/category/javni-pozivi/javni-pozivi-u-2023-godini/>.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with Consultant`s Qualifications Based Selection (CQS) as set out in the **World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, World, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020** (“the Regulations”). The Consultant that obtains the highest score during evaluation of expressions of interest will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the Regulations setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The Central Fiduciary Unit of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered in a written form to the **e-mail** below by **October 6, 2023, 12:00 hrs, noon,** local time.

When submitting Expressions of interest please indicate assignment and reference number for which you are applying.

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| **Contact:** | **E–mail:** | **Address:** |
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