

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS)

**Republic of Serbia
PHRD GRANT ON STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE SECTOR CAPACITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY
MAKING (PHRD)
Project ID No. P167786**

Assignment Title:

Evaluation of the implementation of the IPARD II Programme of the Republic of Serbia for 2020-2021, Reference No. SER-GA-IC-CS-21-11

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Development/International Development Association (“Bank”) has granted to the Republic of Serbia (RoS) USD 1,8 million loan for strengthening the M&E capacity and systems of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia (MoAFWM) and its decentralized services for evidence-based strategic planning in agriculture and rural development”. The Grant’s objective is in line with the broad objective of the PRIME window, which is to enhance the use evidence-based decision making in government systems, by strengthening the M&E systems of recipient ministries in priority sectors, including agriculture.

RoS intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for consulting services to be procured under this project.

The scope of work of the Consultant to conduct Evaluation of the implementation of the IPARD II Programme of the Republic of Serbia for 2020-2021 shall include, but not be limited to the following: i) Activity 1. Follow-up of recommendations of on-going evaluation of the IPARD II programme for 2017-2019 implementation period; ii) Activity 2. Assessment of the obstacles to absorption (including barriers to access to finance) and administrative simplification based on follow-up of recommendations of ongoing evaluation of the IPARD II programme for 2017-2019 implementation period and a recommendation of measures for further improvement based on the achieved results in this area; iii) Activity 3. Assessment of the IPARD II monitoring and evaluation system, including appraisal of monitoring and data collection for result indicator relating to the number of new created jobs within Measure 3 and Measure 7; iv) Activity 4. Appraisal of targets, achieved results and impacts of the IPARD II Programme; v) Activity 5. Appraisal of evaluation capacity-building

The Consultant shall have the following Qualifications and Experience: University Degree in agriculture, management, economics, organization sciences, natural sciences, monitoring and evaluation; Postgraduate Degree in one or more of the above is highly desirable; Extensive knowledge of EU policy and legislation related to agriculture and rural development; Very good command of written and spoken English; Knowledge of the Serbian language will be considered as an asset; Excellent communication skills will be considered as an asset.; At least 7 years of professional experience in implementation of EU funded programmes (Agriculture and Rural Development policy or Cohesion policy); Participation with an active role in at least two evaluations of an EU funded programme, including one evaluation of a rural development programme; Participation in ex-ante evaluation will be considered an asset; Previous experience in implementing monitoring and evaluation standards and procedures in the EU funded programmes will be considered an asset; Knowledge of the local context, legal and institutional framework in the field of rural development will be considered as an asset;

Starting and end date (month/year) of experience must be clearly specified in the CV (overlapping activities will be counted once).

The detailed Terms of References for the above referenced consulting services is posted on the official website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/javni-pozivi/javni-pozivi-u-2022-godini/>.

The MoAFWM now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants should provide Cover Letter and CV representing description of qualifications, experience in similar assignments and possession of required skills (scanned diplomas to be sent with CV).

The evaluation criteria for the assignment are as follows:

- Specific Experience relevant to the Assignment (60 Points)
- Qualifications and Competence relevant to the Assignment (40 Points)

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.16 and 3.17 of the *World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018* (“the Regulations”) setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the *Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants* as set out in the Regulations.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the CFU at the address below from 09:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest **in English language** must be delivered to the e-mail address below by **March 7, 2022, 12:00 noon, local time**.

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

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