

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

**Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD)
INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROJECT
Loan No. IBRD86930**

The Republic of Serbia has received financing from the World Bank (Bank) toward the cost of the Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan funds to payments under the contract:

**Component Two Consultant for Conducting Research of Preschool
Institutions Self-Evaluation Practices
(part term consultancy)
reference number: SER-ECEC-8693YF-IC-CS-19-33**

Tasks and responsibilities are:

- Collects quantitative and qualitative data relevant for the research of self-evaluation practices in the sampled preschool institutions based on the methodology devised by the Consultant for Devising Research Methodology of Preschool Institutions Self-Evaluation Practices;
- Conducts desk research of sampled preschool institutions' self-evaluation documents by using predetermined tools – forms/protocols for document analysis;
- Uses predetermined tools to gather information on the sampled preschool institutions' self-evaluation practices;
- Processes the collected data on the sampled preschool institutions' self-evaluation practices;
- Makes logistics preparations for and organizes focus group meetings with the representatives of the sampled preschool institutions on their self-evaluation practices;
- Based on the prescribed methodology, organizes six focus group meetings on the sampled institutions' self-evaluation practices (for discussing the methodology and tools used, the usage of the collected data for the improvement of preschool teachers' competencies and the quality of educational practices);
- Prepares focus group reports.

Deliverables: Data from the sampled preschool institutions collected and processed based on the prescribed methodology. Focus group reports prepared.

Estimated time: 9 working days.

Following is **required:**

- A University degree in Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, or other fields of Education, Social Studies and Humanities;
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in education policy and practice in Serbia;

- Experience in conducting research in the education field is a plus;
- Excellent knowledge of early childhood education and care policies and major initiatives in this area, including evaluating education quality is a plus;
- Knowledge of legal framework in education, focusing on preschool education and care is a plus;
- Excellent oral and written Serbian language skills and good command of English.

The Consultant shall provide part-time services under lump sum Contract paid upon acceptance of deliverables. Estimated time input of the consultant is 9 working days per 4 months (1 working day is maximum 8 working hours). Expected start of services is April 2019.

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide **Cover Letter** and **CV** representing description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions and availability of appropriate skills (scanned diplomas to be sent with CV).

The following selection criteria with corresponding points will be used for the evaluation procedure:

Qualifications	20 pts
Working experience relevant to the assignment	50 pts
Knowledge of Serbian and English language and computer skills	30 pts

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011, revised 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultants method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the CFU at the address below from 08:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest **in English language** must be delivered to the e-mail address below by **March 28, 2019, 12:00 Noon**, local time.

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

Central Fiduciary Unit
Ministry of Finance
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Sremska 3-5
Tel./Fax: +381 11 202 15 87
To: ljljana.krejovic@mfin.gov.rs
Cc: ljljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs
Cc: ecec@mpn.gov.rs

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMPONENT 2 CONSULTANT FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH OF PRESCHOOL INSTITUTIONS SELF-EVALUATION PRACTICES (PART-TIME CONSULTANT)

I. Background and objective of the project

Background Information

The Government of Serbia and the World Bank have identified skills development and inclusion of vulnerable groups as strategic priorities for their next phase of cooperation, based on a Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) and Country Partnership Framework between the two partners. In particular, the SCD highlights the importance of building human capital to increase labor productivity and enhance social inclusion through closing education enrollment gaps for low-income and Roma students starting in pre-primary. Quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs play a critical role in laying the necessary foundation for skills development early on and for narrowing the equity gap in education access and performance.

The Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care project also directly contributes to the goals outlined in the Strategy for the Development of Education in Serbia until 2020 (SED 2020) and to its related Action Plan. This strategy, which was adopted in 2012, defines mechanisms for assuring accessibility, quality, and equity in ECEC and sets clear priorities for: (i) increasing coverage; (ii) enhancing quality of the service delivery and outcomes; (iii) increasing efficiency; and (iv) attaining and maintaining relevance for the overall system. The project will directly support these priorities through its various components.

Objective

The objective of the project is to improve access to quality Early Childhood Education and Care, with a focus on children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds for all children ages 0 to 6.5 years. Activities for children ages 3 to 6.5 years focus on increasing access to inclusive quality preschools (i.e. child-centered and with age-appropriate learning opportunities) while also supporting their transition to the early grades of primary education. Activities for younger children, i.e. from birth onwards focus on empowering parents and families to support children's holistic development through increased knowledge about the importance of early stimulation at home and access to relevant services in the community.

The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) with the support of Project Management Unit (PMU).

The overall fiduciary responsibilities of the Project, procurement, financial management and disbursement issues, rest on the Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU). The CFU is housed under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) as per the agreement reached between the MoF and the MoESTD.

II. Objective and Scope of the Assignment Required

Sub-Component 2.3.b of the "Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care" Project deals with planning and implementing activities that add to the improvement of the preschool institutions quality evaluation system as a part of the new curriculum implementation support. Activities in this area should contribute to the evaluation serving a function of "quality building", supporting continual efforts put in the raising the quality of preschool education. The objective is that the information related to structural and process quality that are collected through different monitoring and evaluation instruments positively affects real-life curriculum and education of preschool teachers.

Preschool practitioners (nursery teachers, preschool teachers, expert associates, preschool principles) are regarded as key participants in preschool education and therefore are expected to be the agents of change in preschool practices in line with the new curriculum framework. In that sense, self-evaluation is perceived as a process that can help the practitioners, who fully understand current practices, make decisions that would change and develop preschool practice in line with the new curricular concept.

In order to improve the self-evaluation methodology and practice, as a starting point for planning further activities, it is necessary to conduct a research on self-evaluation practices of preschool institutions and primary schools involved in pre-primary education as well as on the usage of self-evaluation results for improvement of practices and development of preschool teachers' competencies.

Detailed Tasks and Responsibility

Without limiting the generalities of the foregoing, the following are the specific tasks and responsibilities of the Consultant for Conducting Research of Preschool Institutions Self-Evaluation Practices:

- Collects quantitative and qualitative data relevant for the research of self-evaluation practices in the sampled preschool institutions based on the methodology devised by the Consultant for Devising Research Methodology of Preschool Institutions Self-Evaluation Practices
- Conducts desk research of sampled preschool institutions' self-evaluation documents by using predetermined tools – forms/protocols for document analysis;
- Uses predetermined tools to gather information on the sampled preschool institutions' self-evaluation practices;
- Processes the collected data on the sampled preschool institutions' self-evaluation practices;
- Makes logistics preparations for and organizes focus group meetings with the representatives of the sampled preschool institutions on their self-evaluation practices;
- Based on the prescribed methodology, organizes six focus group meetings on the sampled institutions' self-evaluation practices (for discussing the methodology and tools used, the usage of the collected data for the improvement of preschool teachers' competencies and the quality of educational practices);
- Prepares focus group reports.

Deliverables: Data from the sampled preschool institutions collected and processed based on the prescribed methodology. Focus group reports prepared.

Estimated time: 9 working days.

III. Reporting obligations

The Consultant for Conducting Research of Preschool Institutions Self-Evaluation Practices will work under supervision of and report directly to the focal point in the Institute for the Education Quality and Evaluation (IEQE), Project Coordinator for Component Two and focal point for component 2 in the MoESTD.

IV. Consultants Qualification

- A University degree in Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, or other fields of Education, Social Studies and Humanities;
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in education policy and practice in Serbia;
- Experience in conducting research in the education field is a plus;
- Excellent knowledge of early childhood education and care policies and major initiatives in this area, including evaluating education quality is a plus;
- Knowledge of legal framework in education, focusing on preschool education and care is a plus;
- Excellent oral and written Serbian language skills and good command of English;

V. Duration of the assignment

The Consultant shall provide part-time services under lump sum Contract paid upon acceptance of deliverables. Estimated time input of the consultant is 9 working days per 4 months (1 working day is maximum 8 working hours). Expected start of services is April 2019.

VI. Selection method

The selection method is Individual Consultant in accordance with the procedures specified in the Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by the World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 (revised July 2014).