

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Republic of Serbia

Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship (SAIGE)

Project ID No. P170185

Assignment Title:

- **Environmental & Social Specialist (part time), Reference No. SER-SAIGE-IC-CS-20-05**

Serbia has received a loan from the World Bank (Bank), through the “Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship Project” (Project), to contribute to the country’s growth and competitiveness by improving (i) relevance and excellence of scientific research and (ii) innovative entrepreneurship and access to finance for enterprise growth.

The specific functions and responsibilities of the Consultant will be:

- As part of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Consultant will conduct the whole environmental and social (E&S) screening process and determine the E&S impacts and vulnerabilities, assess an environment/social risk category/level, and identify risk management opportunities/strategies as to determine the adequate ESS instrument to be applied for the received applications (subproject proposals). This will be done to:
 - o Ensure compliance with the Bank exclusion list,
 - o Ensure that no subproject with substantial or high risks (impacts) type will be supported, but only those with moderate or low risks (impacts).
 - o Ensure that subprojects/grants will not necessitate involuntary land acquisition or any form of resettlement, and
 - o Ensure that no Bank Safeguard standards other than ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4 and ESS10 are relevant for proposed sub-project, any activities corresponding to the Bank Projects with Moderate risk will be required to have an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in place prior to approval that would identify potential environmental impacts and provide adequate mitigation measures.
 - o Any activities corresponding to the Bank Category 2 (“Moderate Risk”) Projects will be required to have an ESMP in place prior to approval that would identify potential environmental impacts and provide adequate mitigation measures.
- Evaluate the subproject based on the Environmental and Social Checklist (ESMF – Annex 02) and Ethic Self-Assessment provided by Applicant (ESMF – Annex 01C). The Checklist presents simple tool for identification of Project-related potential environmental and social impacts. This would also help simplify decision-making process whether the subproject can be financed or it is on Exclusion Lists (ESMF- Annex 01), as well as whether a site-specific ESMP is needed.
- Determine the category of subprojects – depending on subproject type, location, sensitivity and scope, nature and intensity of environmental and social risks and impacts.

- Advise applicants on the content and scope of the Environmental and Social Checklist (ESMF – Annex 02) and Ethic Self-Assessment provided by Applicant (ESMF – Annex 01C), as needed;
- Advise applicants on the content and scope of site-specific ESMPs, as needed;
- Assist the MoESTD and the applicants in information dissemination and conducting public consultations of draft ESMP/ESMP Checklist, preparation of minutes of the meetings and finalization of the documents;
- Conduct quality control of ESS instruments in line with ESF requirements prior to Bank submission and dealing with the comments as may be received from the Bank;
- Carry out, during the upgrading of laboratory infrastructure and existing facilities, that could potentially include some office space renovation activities and before, preliminary assessment and management of E&S risks and impacts, labor and working conditions, pollution prevention, community health and safety.
- Carry out stakeholder engagement and information disclosure;
- Evaluate the monitoring reports of grantees to ensure compliance with the ESMP;
- Undertake site visits and reviewing grantees' compliance with site-specific ESMPs, including determining and suggesting remedial actions; preparation of non-compliance reports and keeping track of respective responses/actions undertaken;
- Keep records of supervision of Project activities in a systemic manner that allows easy search-and-find of all documents upon request;
- Provide recommendation to amend environmental management procedures for the purpose of the implementation of the Bank's E&S requirements;
- Ensure that any Technical Assistance (TA) outputs supported under the Project are consistent with Bank ESF policies;
- Provide support and coordinate with the analytical and M&E experts in analysis of the environment and social impact related topics;
- Provide support to the PIU in preparing regular reports on Project implementation;
- Monitor social and environmental parameters as per the instructions provided in the Project's ESMF;
- Participate in regular Bank's supervision missions;
- Semi-annual reporting on compliance with ESMF, as part of Project semiannual reports;
- Other actions to enable the Project to meet the environmental and social requirements within the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia and in accordance with the Bank's environmental and social policies and procedures.

The Consultant will be engaged on part time basis for the duration of the Project with a probation period of 6 months. The current Closing Date of the Project is September 30, 2024. The expected time effort for the assignment is up to 10 working days (80 hours) per month.

Required qualifications:

- Graduate/advanced degree in environmental sciences, social, natural resources management, environmental or civil engineering, or related discipline;
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience, including applied experience in Environmental & Social risk management in investment projects (international and local);

- Experience in at least 2 international funded projects related to grants for research and/or commercial activities would be an advantage;
- Experience in at least 2 internationally funded projects in the field of environmental and/or social protection;
- Knowledge of international good practice for management of E&S risks, including World Bank ESF/Safeguards policies and International Finance Corporation (IFC) Sustainability Framework and supporting documents such as Guidance Notes, EHS Guidelines;
- Previous experience with World Bank-funded projects as environmental and social reviewer and an understanding of its requirements would be an advantage;
- No obstacles for traveling within Serbia for various field trips;
- Good analytical skills, ability to think strategically, analyze and synthesize diverse qualitative and quantitative environmentally/socially-related data and information.
- Excellent spoken and written Serbian and English;
- Computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheets.

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above referenced consulting services is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/saige/>

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) 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.

The evaluation criteria for the assignment:

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

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 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.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered in a written form to the email below, by **December 31, 2020, 12:00 hours, noon**, local time. 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**).

Contact:	E-mail:	Address:
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