

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES -FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT – FIRMS SELECTION)

Local Infrastructure and Institutional Development Project

Assignment Title:

Preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans and Land Acquisition and Resettlement Action Plans for LSG infrastructure investment projects

Reference No.SER-LIID-FA-QBS-CS-24-29

The Republic of Serbia has received a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), toward the cost of the Local Infrastructure and Institutional Development (LIID) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for consulting services to be procured under this project.

The objective of the LIID Project is to improve the capacity of local self-governments (LSGs) to manage sustainable infrastructure and improve access to economic and social opportunities in a climate-aware manner. The LIID Project is expected to have only minor negative environmental and social impacts as most investments would be in transport infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation within the existing infrastructure perimeters. The LIID Project involves no dislocation (alignment relocation) or land acquisition. Slight negative impacts would be temporary during construction and restricted to infrastructure works. These include potential influence on workers' health and safety, temporary disruption in traffic, access to services or land, dust, noise, and waste disposal.

The objective of the assignment is to support Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI) as the Client in ensuring full project compliance with the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia and the World Bank standards for environmental and social risk management by conducting adequate E&S risk assessments and developing proportionate risk mitigation instruments.

To comply with the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), effective as of October 1st, 2018, the following set of framework E&S instruments, which will serve as guiding documents for the development of site-specific environmental and social risk management measures, have been developed:

- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP),
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF),
- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF),
- Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and
- Project Level Stakeholders Engagement Plan (PSEP).

Framework LIID E&S instruments are publicly available on the official MCTI website: <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/en/aktuelnosti/public-consultations-serbia-local-infrastructure-and-institutional-development-project>

The final goal is to prepare and implement adequate instruments for mitigating the potential environmental and social impacts and risks in a timely during the performance of LSG infrastructure investment projects. This includes the following activities:

- preparation of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for a particular LSG infrastructure investment project to be integrated into the works contract;
- conducting public consultations for prepared ESMP and integration of consultation reports into final site-specific ESPM;
- preparation of individual Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) or Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for a particular LSG infrastructure investment project when required;
- transfer of experience and knowledge to LSG staff in E&S risk assessment and management (training LSG employees).

The Client intends to appoint a Consultant for the Assignment and sign a Framework Agreement by the end of November 2024. The Assignment is expected to last at least until the end of November, 2027.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the primary procurement stage for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/request-expressions-interest-consulting-services-preparation-environmental-and-social>

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible consulting firms (“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.

To be shortlisted, a Firm or joint venture (JV) submitting the expression of interest (EoI) must meet the following requirements:

- Proven experience in preparing environmental and social risk mitigation instruments in compliance with IFI’s standards and requirements;
- Proven experience cooperating with local self-governments and ministries of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in providing technical and expert support on similar projects shall be considered as an advantage;
- Capability and experience in knowledge transfer/training programs at the national and local levels;
- Prior experience cooperating with international donors on the provision of support to the local self-governments and ministries of the Government of the Republic of Serbia shall be considered as an advantage.

To substantiate the above, the firm or JV must submit as part of the EoI, a table listing information, demonstrating the fulfillment of the above criteria.

The table should include the following information: name of the assignment (and Project) and location, types of deliverables provided (ESIA, ESMP, RAP, SEP, etc.) with links to any publicly disclosed deliverables; name of contracting entity, time period within which the assignment was carried out, names of companies or JV who participated in the assignment; contact details of persons who may be contacted for references (from the contracting entity or involved financial institution).

The Shortlisting will be based on the following criteria:

- General company experience (30 Points)
- Specific company experience relevant to the Assignment (70 Points)

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage and their CVs should not be submitted as part of the EoI.

The Client, intends to shortlist up to 8 eligible firms to whom a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP), shall be sent.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” (July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020) (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a JV and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a JV, all the partners in the JV shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Furthermore, EoI of JVs will be evaluated solely based on experience and qualifications of JV, whereas the experience of other firms not constituting formally in the JV will not be considered in the evaluation.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Framework Agreement arrangements described in the Procurement Regulations and to be specifically set out in the Request for Proposals.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, Monday to Friday, between 09:00 and 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in English language in a written form to the e-mail address by **August 13, 2024, 12:00 hours, noon, local time.**

Contact:	E-mail:	Address:
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