

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Project “Building Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration”

Terms of References

International Consultant to assess the impact of the Republic of Moldova participation in the regional initiatives during 2008-2009

Background:

The UNDP Project “Building Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration” has been formulated through a joint effort of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI) and UNDP with the overall objective of strengthening the institutional capacity of the MFAEI so that it can exercise its functions in a more efficient manner, operate transparently and fulfill its European Integration commitments. The project has three interlinked, yet distinct components:

1. Institutional Capacity Building
2. Regional Cooperation
3. Communications and Public Relations

The Regional Cooperation component aims at providing the necessary conditions for an active involvement of the Republic of Moldova on all levels of regional cooperation processes in the South-Eastern Europe with the scope of increasing the impact of Moldova’s participation in the regional cooperation processes on its social and economic development leading towards European Integration. This project component is implemented with contribution of the Austrian Development Cooperation through the UNDP Thematic Trust fund. Some of the activities are implemented with contribution from the state budget.

European Integration

The Parliament of Moldova has expressed (through a unanimously signed declaration on March 24, 2005) its commitment to the European integration as the country’s main strategic objective. As a first step, to prove reliance and commitment, Moldova assumed the obligation to implement the provisions of the EU-Moldova Action Plan, which set specific targets in seven broad areas of co-operation. In addition, the European integration policy of the Republic of Moldova is based on the full use of all of the opportunities offered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as the possibilities offered by the participation of the country in various initiatives and processes in South Eastern Europe, Central Europe and Eastern dimension (GUAM). The EU enlargement has brought new development opportunities for Moldova as an EU neighbour.

Regional cooperation – a prerequisite for European Integration

The European integration policy of the Republic of Moldova is based on the full and successful implementation of the EU-Republic of Moldova Action Plan and the opportunities presented by the active participation of the Republic of Moldova at the regional initiatives and processes in the Southeastern Europe, such as the Stability Pact for the South Eastern Europe; South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC); Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), South

Eastern Europe Cooperation Initiative (SECI); Central European Initiative (CEI); Danube Cooperation processes; the Energy Community Treaty and new CEFTA.

For more than 10 years, the Republic of Moldova, actively participates at the processes of regional cooperation. The cooperation in the region of Central and South Eastern Europe became one of the main objectives of the foreign and internal policy of the Republic of Moldova. The active implication in the initiatives and processes from the Central and South Eastern Europe have marked a significant advancement in the process of strengthening the objective of alignment of the country to the values, principles and European standards.

In this context, the Republic of Moldova, during 2008-2009, took over the presidency to several regional initiatives as the:

- South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)
- Central European Initiative (CEI)
- Multinational Advisory Group of RACVIAC (MAG RACVIAC)
- South East European Health Network (SEEHN)
- CEFTA Agreement

The Presidencies in Central and South Eastern Europe are directly connected and aimed at contributing to the advancement of the Republic of Moldova in the process of European Integration, especially through the implementation of the EU processes and programs of adjustment to the European values.

Background of presidencies

In accordance with the priorities, objectives and the Program of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova to the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), Central European Initiative (CEI), Multinational Advisory Group of RACVIAC (MAG RACVIAC), South East European Health Network (SEEHN) and CEFTA Agreement, during 2008 -2009, the Moldovan Chairmanship organized a series of political and sector-meetings and activities.

The South East European Cooperation Process is a political Forum that represents an efficient mechanism in approaching and promoting the common policies of the countries involved, as well as represents an active tool of the European Union in the region, with the aim of supporting the countries in their process of European Integration. During 2008- 2009, the Republic of Moldova, held for the first time the Chairmanship at the South East European Cooperation Process. In the framework of the current mandate, the Republic of Moldova have organized several high level events as: International Conference “Regional Cooperation – Opportunities, Challenges and Synergy”, Meeting of the Heads of the SEECP Supreme Audit Institutions, “South East Europe SAIs: Developments and Prospects”, Joint Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors and SEECP Directors responsible for EU Affairs, Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs, The XIIth Meeting of the Steering Group of the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI), Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Health, Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP, Meeting of the Heads of Consular Services of the SEECP participating states. The SEECP Presidency was concluded by the 12th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) which culminated with the endorsement of a range of significant documents as the Chisinau Political Declaration, Chisinau Joint Statement, Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on the Regional Cooperation in South East Europe etc.

Central European Initiative is composed of 18 member states and was established in 1989 as an intergovernmental forum for political, economic and cultural co-operation among its Member States. Its main aim was to help transition countries in Central Europe come closer to the EU. During its presidency the Republic of Moldova (2008) had the responsible task of implementing the structural changes outlined in the Decisions of the Summit, setting the base for the future organizational framework of the CEI. The Moldovan CEI Presidency had organized a series of events as: Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators (CNC), CEI Parliamentary Committee, Meeting of the CEI Ministers of Transport, The Roundtable of the CEI Ministers of Economic Sectors, The 11th Summit Economic Forum, High Level Meeting on Tourism, High level Meeting on Agriculture, International Scientific Conference, The CEI Parliamentary Assembly, CEI Youth Forum, Meeting of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators and Meeting of the CEI Ministers of Foreign Affairs. In the contest of the events numerous documents have been adopted and projects initiated. The major political event that concluded the Moldovan CEI Presidency was the CEI Summit of the Heads of Government, held on 28th of November 2008, in Chisinau.

RACVIAC is an international, independent, non-profit, regionally owned, academic organization, with the mission to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South Eastern Europe through a partnership between the countries of the region and their international partners. The Mandate of the Chairman to the Multinational Advisory Group of RACVIAC Centre was to contribute to the image of the Republic of Moldova in the process of strengthening its status as a reliable and viable partner in South Eastern Europe in the field of regional defense and security. The Moldovan MAG RACVIAC Chairmanship culminated with chairing of the 20th MAG Meeting, held on 31st October 2008, in Zagreb. The project is providing support to the Republic of Moldova's representative at the RACVIAC Center. The representatives of Moldova, on one side, are able to guarantee Moldova's presence in the political and economic cooperation processes and, on the other, gain very important experience while serving in such positions. Hence, upon return, they bring valuable knowledge to their colleagues and institutions.

South East European Health Network is a regional arrangement established in 2001 under the auspicious of the Social Cohesion Initiative of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe which ensures the political regional framework related to the development of joined activities and actions in health domain. According to the rotational principle, the Republic of Moldova took over the Presidency to the South Eastern Europe Health Network, exercising the mandate during half year, from 1st of January to 30th of June 2008. In this context, the Moldovan SEEHN Presidency focused on a series of activities as: organization of the 18th Meeting of the SEEHN, Launch of the signing process of the Memorandum of Understanding on the future of the SEEHN in the framework of the South East European Cooperation Process 2008 and beyond etc. Also, the Republic of Moldova, in its capacity of SEEHN Presidency, was the first member state to sign the two Ministerial Declarations regarding mental health and implementation of the International Sanitary Health Regulations.

CEFTA Agreement Starting with January 1st 2008, the Republic of Moldova took over the Presidency of the regional arrangement, Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). Within the Presidency to CEFTA, the Republic of Moldova organized an ordinary meeting of the CEFTA Joint Committee, meeting of the CEFTA Prime Ministers and 3 sub – committees (April - June 2008). The Sub-committee dealing with agricultural issues was chaired by the Republic of Moldova but that of customs and standards by Serbia and Montenegro. Within the Presidency a special attention was given to the creation of the CEFTA Secretariat.

Objectives:

The expected output for the International Consultant's assignment is to assess the impact of the presidencies held by the Republic of Moldova during 2008- 2009 on its social and economic development towards the European Integration.

Key activities:

1. Evaluate the activities organized by the Republic of Moldova within the SEECP, CEI and other regional initiatives (including activity of the Moldova's representative to the RACVIAC) with regards to the priority domains of cooperation in the region of South Eastern Europe;
2. Assess impact of the presidencies held by the Republic of Moldova during 2008- 2009 on its social and economic development towards the European Integration;
3. Analyze the quality of policy documents and project proposals adopted and initiated throughout the high level meetings;
4. Assess the impact of the newly adopted documents on different domains of activity and their prolongation;
5. Recommend specific actions to be taken in order to improve Moldova's participation in the regional cooperation processes and achieving developments towards European Integration;
6. Evaluate Moldova's new opportunities in contributing to the sustainable development of the South East Europe.

Deliverables and Timeframe

The International Consultant is responsible for delivering of the following results/output:

Results/output	Timeframe
1. Assessment report: identifying the output of the regional presidencies held by the Republic of Moldova during 2008 – 2009 (including but not limited to: quality of policy documents and project proposals adopted and initiated throughout the high level meetings; impact of the newly adopted documents on different domains of activity and their prolongation;)	By November 14, 2009
2. Recommendations report: on specific actions to be taken in order to improve Moldova's participation in the regional cooperation processes and achieving developments towards European Integration ;	By November 27, 2009

All the deliverables should be agreed with the UNDP's counterpart at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration – Regional Cooperation Directorate and be provided in English, hard and electronic copy.

The timeframe for the work of International Consultant is tentatively October 2009 through the end of November 2009. The consultancy presumes up to 30 working days and at least one mission to Moldova.

Institutional arrangements

The international consultant will work in close collaboration with the UNDP's counterpart at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration – Regional Cooperation Directorate, and under the direct supervision of the Project Manager – for administrative aspects.

The consultant will be located in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The Ministry will provide consultant with working space, access to Internet, printer and telephone line.

Qualifications

The following qualification criteria will be applied during the selection:

1. The consultant should have an advanced degree in international relations, public administration, political science or other sector-related areas. Knowledge of and/or experience in the region of Central and Eastern Europe would be highly desirable;
2. In-depth knowledge and proven experience in conducting foreign policy analysis and impact assessment of Regional Initiatives towards European Integration process;
3. Experience in projects' evaluation funded by international organizations;
4. Work experience in the sector of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Regional Cooperation Processes and regional initiatives or other related sector;
5. Excellent analytical and communication skills;
6. Strong communication skills (written) and fluency in written and spoken English, knowledge of Romanian would be an added advantage.