



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **27 September 2013**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National Consultant to develop, together with an international consultant, (a) RIA of prospective Law and (b) draft Law on the Technological Transfer and Innovations Fund

Project name: Innovation Fund: Fostering transition towards inclusive and sustainable development of Moldova

Period of assignment/services: 55 working days during October-December, 2013

Application instructions: Proposals should be submitted **on-line** by pressing the “**Apply on-line**” link, no later than **7 October, 2013**.

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: dumitru.vasilescu@undp.org. UNDP will respond by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all applicants.

1. BACKGROUND

The most recent independent evaluations, conducted by national or international teams of consultants, on the current national system for the promotion of innovations at national level reveal important gaps and malfunctions, particularly in terms of legal and institutional frameworks. Local innovation activities could bring about more and better results, with more creative products. The UNDP supported the initiative of the Ministry of Economy to develop a modern Innovation Strategy for the Republic of Moldova, which would build upon the existing or foreseen strengths and weaknesses of the national system, and thereby tackle some of the key existing gaps in a comprehensive manner. The conducted SWOT analysis of the current system reveals that the key current strengths are relatively strong state financial support for the education system, high level of the development of the digital infrastructure, relatively high percentage of employment in knowledge-intensive sectors, high number of inventions, among others. Key weaknesses are mainly related to policy framework and result in an underdeveloped infrastructure conducive to promotion of innovations, underdeveloped research institutions, and low private investments in research and development, excessive centralization of the national R&D system, insufficient protection of the right of investors and so on. In this context, the Government is engaged to undertake consistent reforms of the legal system to ensure a comprehensive framework of horizontal policies that would increase the international competitiveness of the country and build a

knowledge-based economy. The currently endorsed strategic vision of the Government until 2020 is to re-think the national innovations system through consolidating the capacities of the national companies connected via innovation partnerships with academia and research institutions at home and abroad. This would ultimately translate in more and better jobs and making local population resilient to various existing risks, such as poverty, scarcity of resources, including human resources, environmental degradation, among others.

Based on the current Code on Science and Innovations, the key competencies to coordinate the national innovations system are with the Moldovan Academy of Sciences. In particular, the Academy is responsible for development and promotion of strategies in the area of science and innovations, implements the state policies in these areas, coordinates the development of national programmes and mechanisms for their implementation. The newly developed national Innovations Strategy underlines the need to reform the national system and rethink the role the Academy of Sciences should play as part of the system. The national Agency for Innovations and Technological Transfer, subordinated to the Academy of Sciences, is responsible for the coordination, facilitation and implementation of mechanisms to stimulate innovations and technological transfer. The Agency collects technological transfer projects, coordinates the selection and financing process, monitors the implementation progress, and evaluates results. To support innovations, the Agency is making use of only two available instruments, i.e. innovation and technological transfer projects and support to scientific and technological parks and innovation incubators. As the entire national innovations system will be reformed based on modern best practices, including the experience of the EU countries, the Agency for Innovations and Technological Transfer will be also modernized and reformed into an institution established by the Government, as an implementing structure for the promotion of innovation policies. This would imply the creation of a Technological Transfer and Innovations Fund, to be managed by the Agency. The named Fund shall be institutionalized by law and will function based on a tailored financing mechanism, being governed by a Council of Directors.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

The specific objectives of the consultancy are, as per below:

- Substantially contribute to the development of a robust Regulatory Impact Analysis to assess the prospective impact of a new law to institutionalize the Technological Transfer and Innovations Fund; based on the results of RIA, the consultant shall proceed with all of the below items in tandem with the international expert;
- Develop a thorough gap analysis of the current legislative framework and share with the international consultant and key national counterparts the main findings;
- Contribute to the drafting of the Law for the institutionalization of the Technological Transfer and Innovations Fund;
- Coordinate the national consultative process around the draft Law and finalization of the document;
- Contribute to the development of a Road Map for the implementation of the Law, to contain also an estimation of the costs and resources needed for the implementation; develop the financing regulation for the Fund and the regulation on the management structure.

Note: The national consultant will work in close collaboration with an international consultant, who will lead and coordinate the exercise.

For detailed information, including the list of responsibilities of the international consultant, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

I. Academic Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Economics, Social Science or other relevant fields.

II. Experience:

- At least 5 years of proven analytical skills and previous experience in policy analysis, development of comprehensive analytical reports in socio-economic field;
- Previous extensive experience in drafting regulatory acts and laws, experience in conducting extensive national level consultations for validation of draft legislative documents;
- In-depth knowledge of the national innovations system in the Republic of Moldova; knowledge of the regional best practices and relevant similar projects is an advantage;
- Knowledge of the EU regulations, including institutional, legal and policy frameworks, in the area of innovation and technological transfer.

III. Competencies and Skills:

- Excellent analytical and writing skills;
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills;
- Fluency in English is mandatory. Knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian is an advantage.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Cover letter, explaining why he/she is the most suitable for the work;
2. A brief methodology on how he/she will approach and conduct the work;
3. Financial proposal;
4. Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and at least 3 references, or duly filled Personal History Form (P11).

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in installments or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including daily fee and number of anticipated working days).

Travel is not envisaged under this assignment. In case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be short-listed based on the following minimum qualification criteria:

- Advanced degree in Economics, Social Science or other relevant fields;
- 5 years of proven analytical skills and previous experience in policy analysis, development of comprehensive analytical reports in socio-economic field.

The short-listed individual consultants will be further evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight – 60% (300 pts);

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (200 pts).

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
<u>Technical</u>		
Advanced degree in Economics, Social Science or other relevant fields	(Master's – max 35 pts, PhD's – max 40 pts)	40
5 years of proven analytical skills and previous experience in policy analysis, development of comprehensive analytical reports in socio-economic field	(5 years – max 40 pts, >5 years – max 45 pts)	45
Previous extensive experience in drafting regulatory acts and laws, experience in conducting extensive national level consultations for validation of draft legislative documents	(max 50 pts)	50
In-depth knowledge of the national innovations system in the Republic of Moldova; knowledge of the regional best practices and relevant similar projects is an advantage	(max 50 pts.)	50
Knowledge of the EU regulations, including institutional, legal and policy frameworks, in the area of innovation and technological transfer	(max 30 pts.)	30
Excellent analytical and writing skills	(max 30 pts.)	30
Strong communication and teamwork skills	(max 30 pts.)	30
Fluency in English and Romanian is mandatory. Knowledge of Russian is an advantage	(Romanian– max 10 pts., English - additional max 10 pts., Russian – additional max 5 pts)	25
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: <u>$S = F_{min} / F * 200$</u> S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.		200

Winning candidate

The winning candidate will be the candidate, who has accumulated the highest aggregated score (technical scoring + financial scoring).

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS