



TERMS OF REFERENCE

International Consultant in EU approximating Moldovan methodology on laboratory control of zoonotic salmonellosis

Job title: International Consultant in EU approximating Moldovan methodology on laboratory control of zoonotic salmonellosis, for the National Food Safety Agency

Duty station: Chisinau, Moldova

Reference to the project: Building Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Contract type: Individual Contract (IC)

Expected workload: Up to 25 working days

Starting date: July 2014

BACKGROUND:

Relations between the Republic of Moldova (RM) and the European Union (EU) formally started with the signing of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in 1994 that entered into force in 1998. The PCA established the basic principles of cooperation between RM and EU and was designed for a 10 year period.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will soon be replaced by an Association Agreement which includes a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). The documents provide for political association and economic integration and have been initialed in Vilnius in November 2013.

For the Republic of Moldova the AA represents a reform agenda which is based on a comprehensive program of legal harmonization with EU norms.

Exceeding the classical arrangements of free trade, DCFTA provides not only a mutual opening of markets for most goods and services but requires a gradual rapprochement of norms and standards such as

quality standards and rules, sanitary rules, intellectual property rights, trade facilitation, public procurement and competition, energy trade and other.

Except for European Economic Area and EU candidate states, never before has the EU opened its internal market to such an extent to a third country. This reality is possible due to the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to take over the *acquis communautaire*.

In exchange to effective implementation of EU legislation Moldova will gradually become part of the EU internal market.

A deeper economic integration through DCFTA will boost the country's economic growth, will create business opportunities and promote real economic modernization and integration into the EU. The direct result of establishing free trade area with EU is that citizens will benefit from higher quality and safer goods and services while manufacturers will be supported to access international markets.

UNDP and its international partners are committed to assist Moldova, through technical and financial assistance, in promoting costly legal and institutional reforms that DCFTA entails.

The Project "Building Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (MFAEI)" aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of the MFAEI as lead institution in the AA negotiation process. In the same context, the Project seeks to contribute to developing EU integration capacities of key line ministries through aligning relevant policies, administrative and institutional arrangements, legislation, procedures and best practices to EU standards and requirements.

Objective

The Project will contract an International Consultant to provide assistance to the National Food Safety Agency (NFSA) in approximating Moldovan methodology on laboratory control of zoonotic salmonellosis, in line EU norms and practices.

This objective should be met through the following activities and through the following deliverables:

Key activities

- Preparatory phase
 - Carry out, in close coordination with NFSA, a comprehensive critical analysis of the existing legal framework, facts and figures in the area of laboratory control of zoonotic salmonellosis
 - assess laboratories' functions and capacities to diagnosis of zoonotic salmonellosis (*S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*)
- Develop the methodology for laboratory control of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*
- Provide necessary training for the staff involved in the laboratory control of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*
- Elaborate a development plan (including costs) for bringing laboratory control of highly pathogenical salmonellosis (*S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*) in line EU norms and practices
- Present final mission report during a workshop with beneficiaries.

Deliverables

- Report on the current legislation in force and situation in laboratories
- Draft the methodology for laboratory control of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*

- Training courses for the staff involved in the laboratory control of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*
- Plan with the necessary resources for the laboratory control of highly pathogenically salmonellosis (*S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*)
- Workshop with beneficiaries including presentation of final mission report.

Result

NFSA capable of implementing an EU compliant methodology on laboratory control of zoonotic salmonellosis.

Resources

25 working days (a minimum 15 of which in Moldova) within maximum two missions.

Mission Schedule:

The mission shall be undertaken, tentatively, in the period July-August 2014 with detailed timetable to be agreed with the Beneficiaries.

The 25 working days allocated for this task should be used approximately as follows:

Deliverable/milestone	Indicative timeframe
Report on existing legal framework, facts and figures in the area of laboratory control of zoonotic salmonellosis	5 days
Develop the methodology for laboratory control of <i>S. enteritidis</i> and <i>S. typhimurium</i>	9 days
Train the staff involved in the laboratory control of <i>S. enteritidis</i> and <i>S. typhimurium</i>	5 days
Elaborate a development plan (including costs) for bringing laboratory control of highly pathogenical salmonellosis (<i>S. enteritidis</i> and <i>S. typhimurium</i>) in line EU norms and practices	4 days
Reporting	2 days
Total	25

All deliverables should be agreed with the UNDP and NFSA, and be provided in English or Romanian, in hard and electronic copy.

Institutional arrangements:

The International Consultant will work in close collaboration with the UNDP and NFSA – for substantive aspects of the assignment, and under the direct supervision of the Project Manager – for administrative aspects.

The International Consultant will be located in the premises of the NFSA and will work closely with its staff. NFSA will provide the Consultant working space, access to Internet, printer and telephone line.

Qualifications Required:

Academic Qualification

- Relevant Bachelor degree in veterinary medicine, microbiology area or other related area. Relevant Master's Degree or PhD would be an asset.

Experience

- Minimum 10 years of work experience in veterinary medicine or microbiology area.
- At least 7 years of work experience in one or more EU Member States and / or current or former candidate states to the EU.
- Minimum 7 years of experience in laboratory activities for control of salmonellosis.

Competencies

- Strong analytical and drafting skills.
- Ability to analyse, plan, communicate effectively with stakeholders and present ideas clearly and effectively.
- Demonstrated interpersonal and diplomatic skills.
- Ability to enter new environments, adapt quickly and produce immediate results.
- Computer literacy - competent user of Microsoft Office programs.

Language requirements

- Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of Romanian or Russian would be an asset.

Documents to be included when submitting the proposals:

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

1. Proposal: explaining why they are the most suitable for the work;
2. Financial proposal specifying a total lump sum amount;
3. Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and **at least 3 references.**