

Terms of reference

Job title: International Consultant on Financing Green Urban Development and Innovation Hubs

Duty Station for International Consultant: home based (with 2 missions to Chisinau, Moldova of at least 5 working days each)

Contract type: Individual Contract (IC)

Expected workload: approximately 35 working days over the period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Background

Currently, over 50 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas consuming over 70 percent of the global energy supply while being responsible for 70 percent of the world wide carbon dioxide emissions¹. By 2030, it is expected that 5 billion people worldwide will live in cities. This is mainly caused by people moving from rural to urban areas searching for better economic and employment conditions. Moldova is in line with the global trend of continuously growing urbanization from 47% in 2010 to 60% in 2030. Chisinau, Moldova's capital and also the largest city whose inhabitants make up over 22% of the total country population, is the largest energy user, emitter of GHGs, and consumer of resources in the country.

Therefore, UNDP and GEF are currently developing a project which aims to create a model for sustainable green cities in Moldova by supporting a shift towards low-emission and resilient urban development and implementing mitigation policies in the most efficient and cost effective manner. This project places specific attention on finding integrated solutions for increasing the involvement of the private sector and promoting the green economy, addressing the private sector as supplier of urban services, provider of innovative technologies and management practices, and implementer of low-emission policies. The five components of the project consist of:

1. The establishment of an innovation hub in Chisinau which identifies, develops, and secures financing for innovate green urban development proposals, thus providing support to the following three components.
2. Support for integrated urban planning in the area of waste with a focus on developing an integrated waste management strategy for the City of Chisinau including the development, scoping, financing, implementation and operation of a waste-to-energy project.
3. Support for integrated urban planning in the area of sustainable transport with a focus on developing and adopting a Sustainable Urban Transport Plan (SUTP), a parking strategy for Chisinau, and an integrated traffic management system (ITMS).

¹ Climate Action, 2013: Sustainable Cities – Building cities for the future. Available at: http://www.sustainablecities2013.com/images/uploads/documents/SC_2013.pdf

4. Support for the energy sector with a focus on developing a national database on energy consumption for all public buildings, an Energy Management Information System (EMIS), and detailed and comprehensive trainings on ESCOs all contributing to catalyze additional investment in energy efficiency.
5. The replication of the integrated urban planning approach to at least three other cities with special emphasis on outreach and dissemination of best practice including establishing innovation hubs.

In summary, the project will address the modernization of urban policies, develop integrated urban development plans and methodological guidance by using innovation hubs as the key mechanisms to drive investment and develop innovative approaches for broader citizen engagement through incentive schemes, awareness raising and capacity development targeting the urban population. Priority sectors for technology transfer and accelerated uptake of low-emission technologies, approaches and mitigation options are energy efficiency, transport, and waste management. The private sector will be systematically engaged as a partner since private sector investment mobilized is a key indicator of project success. In addition, dissemination of best practices will be replicated from Chisinau to other towns and cities.

Description of Responsibilities

The Consultant will be part of a team of consultants which will conduct a number of studies and stakeholder consultations with the view to further develop the approved project concept into a fully formulated project document. The final output of the initiation plan will be a UNDP-GEF project document and GEF CEO endorsement template ready for submission to UNDP and GEF including GEF tracking tools, and all co-financing letters. The consultant will mainly be involved in developing a business plan for the innovation hubs including detailed activities, management structures, financing opportunities that are ensuring the post-project sustainability of these hubs. The Consultant's responsibilities include the following:

OUTPUT 1: Develop detailed business plans for the innovation hubs in Chisinau and the other cities

Task 1: With support of a National Consultant, the International Consultant will be responsible for developing business plans for financial viable and sustainable innovation hubs which will be the creative force behind supporting cities in Moldova for a shift towards low-emission and resilient urban development as well as implementing mitigation policies in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

Task2: The consultant will develop business plans for the innovation hubs in a way that these hubs will identify, develop, and secure financing for innovate green urban development proposals and provide support to integrated urban planning in the areas of waste, sustainable transport and energy.

OUTPUT 2: Develop a detailed sustainability plan and exit strategy including a comprehensive list of activities, projects and financing opportunities that ensure the self-sustainability of innovation hubs after project support ends

Task 1: With support of a National Consultant, the International Consultant will be responsible for defining a detailed sustainability plan that will outline the principles and guidelines for ensuring the

long-term sustainability of project achievements as well as ensuring self-sustainability of innovation hubs after project support ends. The sustainability plan will also outline an exit strategy, seeking the continuation of key activities/achievements without the need of long-term international financing.

OUTPUT 3: Explore opportunities and develop solutions of catalyzing finance for integrated urban planning through green (municipal) bonds

Task 1: The consultant will be responsible to develop a detailed report elaborating the financial, legal, political and technical barriers and opportunities of catalyzing finance for integrated urban planning through green bonds with a particular focus on green municipal bonds issued by the City of Chisinau.

Task 2: Derive suggestions on how integrated urban planning interventions can be financed through innovative financing instruments including green bonds.

OUTPUT 4: Provide comments and support on activities related to the preparation of the UNDP-GEF project document as required.

Task 1: The consultant will be responsible for providing comments and support on activities related to the preparation of the UNDP-GEF project document such as to the preparation of a detailed 40-70 page Baseline Report which will describe in detail the baseline situation in the City of Chisinau with regards to green urban development as well as other activities as required.

Task 2. The consultant will support the UNDP CO Cluster Lead and a team of experts in developing a project concept on green sustainable development (with focus on energy efficiency measures, financing instruments, etc.)

Arrangements

The International Consultant will report directly to the Sustainable Development Cluster Lead and the Project Team Leader and will be part of the team of consultants.

The key products to be delivered and the timeframe are estimated to be broken down as follows:

No.	Deliverables/milestones	Indicative timeframe
1.	OUTPUT 1: Analyze all the various options for establishment of an innovation hub and then develop detailed business plans for the innovation hubs in Chisinau and the other cities and undertake mission 1 to Moldova and deliver draft innovation hub report within 2 weeks of mission 1	August – September 2015
2.	OUTPUT 2: Develop a detailed sustainability plan and exit strategy including a comprehensive list of activities, projects and financing opportunities that ensure the self-sustainability of innovation hubs after project support ends and undertake mission 2 to Moldova	October – November 2015
3.	OUTPUT 3: Explore opportunities and develop solutions of catalyzing finance for integrated urban planning through green (municipal) bonds and other innovative financing instruments and	October – November 2015

	include this in a finalized Innovation Hub report within 2 weeks of mission 2	
4.	OUTPUT 4: Provide comments and support on activities related to the preparation of the UNDP-GEF project document and GEF Request for CEO endorsement, including responding to all comments, as required	December 2015 – May 2016

Financial Arrangements

Payments will be disbursed in several installments, upon submission and approval of deliverables, and certification by Sustainable Development Cluster Lead that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

Competencies:

- Strong interpersonal skills, communication skills and ability to work in a team
- Ability to plan and organize his/her work, efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results
- Openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations
- Strong analytical, reporting and writing abilities

Qualifications:

Education

- Advanced University degree in economics, energy, engineering, international relations, environmental science, social sciences or a related field.

Experience

- At least 7 years of work experience related to the identification, development, and securitization of financing innovative green urban development interventions in several country settings
- Strong technical knowledge and work experience with innovative means of catalyzing financing for integrated urban development, such as through green bonds and other financing instruments
- Strong technical knowledge and experience with the development of business plans, preferably for innovation hubs/ centres in the field of integrated urban planning
- Knowledge and experience on international best practice of integrated sustainable planning preferably in the fields of energy, transport, and waste is an advantage
- Experience with partnerships/resource mobilization for urban interventions is an advantage
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and email communication software.

Language

- Excellent English writing and communication skills