

Terms of Reference

Job title:	National Consultant to conduct a review of national and regional strategic documents to operationalize the National Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy
Duty station:	Chisinau, Moldova
Reference to the project:	Support to Agriculture and Rural Development through promotion of confidence building measures (SARD-CBM)
Contract type:	Individual Contract (IC)
Contract duration:	June – July, 2016 (up to 30 working days)
Starting date:	June 1, 2016

Job content:

1. Project Description

The overall objective of the project is to encourage confidence building in ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district, including neighboring communities, through improved development opportunities leading to enhanced competitiveness of the agro-food sector, promotion of local entrepreneurship, creation of jobs, and raising incomes. The project has the following components:

Component 1: Enhanced Dialogue and Community Empowerment;

Component 2: Local entrepreneurship and SMEs development;

Component 3: Small-Scale Infrastructure Refurbishment and Promotion of Inter-Municipal Cooperation.

The project will be implemented in line with the **confidence building approach**, connecting region's authorities and structures to the national ones, facilitating dialogue and inclusion in development of national strategies, as well as connecting neighboring villages through inter municipal cooperation.

The proposed intervention will aim to address key gaps identified in the main strategic document of the region's development in line with Moldova 2020 Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, Strategy for SME Development 2020, as well as National Regional Development Strategy.

Specific Background

Specifically focusing on promoting the awareness of and implementation of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (ARDS), the action will aim to address key gaps identified in other relevant strategic documents (Moldova 2020, Strategy for SMEs development 2020, National Regional Development Strategy, National Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation, National Waste Management Strategy, National Decentralization Strategy etc.); as well as specific documents related to targeted regions' development. The action will contribute towards fostering competitiveness of the agro-food sector in the targeted regions of (Territorial Administrative Unit of Gagauzia and Taraclia, district specifically), promoting of local entrepreneurship, creation of jobs and raising income. It will also enhance the capacities of local communities to create, develop and manage basic public services, as well as to rehabilitate small-scale social infrastructure to address agriculture and rural development priorities.

All relevant national and regional strategic documents will be analysed, updated, and when needed new versions developed. This process will guide the information of the proposed interventions and their efficiency in addressing the issues described in the background. Specific focus will be paid on the **supporting the implementation of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy** in the targeted regions, particularly TAU Gagauzia and Taraclia district. A model of inter-sectorial cooperation, aimed for at national level, will be piloted at the Gagauzian autonomy level, contributing to a **comprehensive and holistic approach towards rural development and agriculture**. Coordination and cooperation with key relevant actors will be pursued under this component, including FAO and IFAD.

Closed cooperation and synergies will be ensured with other strategic development processes, including development of the **Regional Development Strategy** for the ATU Gagauzia and the update for the **Regional Development Strategy for the Southern Regions**, looking for synergies and opportunities for enhancing cooperation within the framework of the Action. Based on the needs, and considering its importance for the overall development of the region, support for the development of the **new Strategy for Socio-Economic Development** will be considered. Support will be provided for implementing critical components under the strategy, including enhancing cooperation between sectorial (business) associations and strengthening representation of the targeted regions in national networks. Best European practices will be considered and their experience shared through targeted study visits (on specific themes identified during the assessments).

2. Scope of Services, Expected Outputs and Target Completion

The expected output for the consultant's assignment is review of existing national and regional strategic documents (ARDS, Regional Development Strategies for Gagauzia and South Region, Socio-Economic Development Strategy for ATU Gagauzia etc.) in view of identifying opportunities for supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development in the targeted region. The findings of this study will be utilized for Development/Update of regional Development Strategies as well as for support of **the implementation of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy** in the targeted regions, particularly TAU Gagauzia and Taraclia district.

In order to achieve the stated objective, the Consultant will have the following responsibilities:

- Identification of all relevant strategies, studies, national and regional legislation and executive acts and decisions, publications and other materials to be reviewed (the list is attached but not limited to);
- Conduct a thorough review of the content of main strategic documents and identify discrepancies between National ARDS and regional strategies, focusing on Agriculture and Rural development;
- Assess the efficiency of National and regional strategies implementation pace to date;
- Point out to concrete drawbacks, omissions, incorrect interpretations and assess their influence to Agriculture and Rural Development in targeted regions;
- Provide practical recommendations for mainstreaming the priorities from ARDS into national/regional/local strategic documents from the targeted region.

Interim report at this stage will be presented to SARD CBM/UNDP for review and coordination of further stage.

- Outline recommendations on step-by-step measures, both on National and regional levels to fully operationalize the National ARDS in targeted regions;

- Describe lessons learnt and recommend methodology, priorities and major principles to be utilized for upcoming development/update of ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia district Strategies of Socio-Economic Development
- Final Report.

Nr.	Tasks and Deliverables	Indicative time-frame and/or level of effort
<u>1.</u>	Task 1. Review of strategic documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of all relevant strategies and other materials to be reviewed • Thorough review of regional strategies with focus on Agriculture and Rural Development • Assessment of efficiency of strategies implementation to date. • Recommendations for mainstreaming the ARDS priorities into local strategic documents • Prepare the Interim Report Output 1.1 Regional development strategies reviewed and assessed; Output 1.2. Interim Report delivered	two weeks – by mid-June 2016
<u>2.</u>	Task 2. Interim report and further plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim report endorsed by SARD team • Further plan of actions is approved Output 2. Interim Report approved; Further plan of actions delivered and approved	3 days after delivery of the Output 1.2
<u>3.</u>	Task 3. Complete set of recommendations on step-by-step measures to operationalize ARDS both on National and regional level. <u>Output 3. Set of recommendations delivered</u>	1 week by the end of June 2016
<u>4.</u>	Task 4. Study findings presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation program to be developed and endorsed by SARD team • Presentation to be made at Joint meeting of National and regional public authorities. Output 4. Presentation of findings to both regional and national level Public authorities delivered	end of June 2016
<u>5.</u>	Task 5. Final report including recommendations. Output 5. Final Reporting delivered and approved	during July 2016

3. Deliverables and Timeframe

All deliverables shall be developed and submitted electronically in English, while final report shall be submitted in electronic and hard copies.

3.1. Institutional Arrangement

All above deliverables shall be endorsed by the SARD CBM Programme Manager and officers in charge in strong cooperation with the Chief technical Advisor. Annexed to the ToR is the List of Strategic Documents.

3.2. Duration of the Work

The whole activity (preparation, implementation and reporting) shall be carried out by June-July 2016. The work under the present assignment is expected to commence by beginning of June 2016 and be completed by the end of July 2016, and be carried out in the limits of the above-mentioned general timeframe.

4. Requirements for experience and qualifications

I. Academic Qualifications:

- Master's Degree or equivalent (5-year university education) in Public administration, Political Sciences, Social sciences, or other relevant field;

II. Working experience:

- At least 5 years of proven previous experience in institutional development and strategy development;
- Previous experience in working with international development partners and stakeholders in public sector development programs, especially in the area of strategy development;
- Previous working experience associated with the National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy is a strong asset;

III. Competencies:

- A solid experience in the areas of economic development, poverty analysis, development and planning, strategic planning of the projects focused on economic development through providing evidence-based policy advice;
- Practical experience in organization management, strategic planning of associations and public organizations at the national and regional level;
- Experience in formulating development strategies and policies;
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills;
- Ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks.
- Excellent writing, editing, and oral communication skills in English, Romanian and Russian; Knowledge of Gagauzian or Bulgarian languages is an asset.

Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.

UNDP Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.

List of Strategic Documents:

National

1. National National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (ARDS),
2. Moldova 2020,
3. Strategy for SMEs development 2020,
4. National Regional Development Strategy,
5. National Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation,
6. National Waste Management Strategy,
7. National Decentralization Strategy

Regional

8. Gagauzia Strategy for Socio Economic Development (2009-2015)
9. UTAG Analysis of the economic situation and development potential (Expert Group)
10. Gagauzia Opportunities for Investment (IDIS, LGI/OSI)
11. Strategy for SMEs Development and Support (2012-2014)
12. South Regional Development Strategy for 2010-2016