

## INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 12 July 2017

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Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: 2 National Consultants to conduct structural analysis of the export potential of the business community in the Transnistria region (3 positions), in the following sectors:

1. Consultant in Economics
2. Consultant in SPS (Sanitary and phytosanitary measures)

Project name: Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme

Period of assignment/services: August – October 2017, estimated workload: 40 working days/per consultant

Proposals should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Now" button no later than 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2017, by 16:00 (Moldova local time).

Requests for clarification only must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: [angela.frunze@undp.org](mailto:angela.frunze@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.

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### 1. BACKGROUND

Since 2006, the Republic of Moldova has benefited from a preferential trade regime with the European Union, starting with the Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) and moving in 2008 towards the Autonomous Trade Preferences (ATP) scheme. In June 2013, Moldova and EU finalized the negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), as part of the Association Agreement, which provisionally entered into force in September 2014 and was fully activated at the beginning of 2016.

Companies from the left bank of the Nistru have also benefitted from GSP+ and ATP arrangements, **registering and obtaining export certificates in Chisinau, hence doubling the region's exports to the EU.** At the end of 2015, an agreement was reached on a set of trade facilitation measures that would enable companies from the left bank to benefit from DCFTA provisions.

A practical expansion of DCFTA/trade facilitation provisions on both banks of the Nistru requires solutions to a host of issues related to customs tariffs **regime, companies' compliance with standards and** certification of quality of exported goods, as well as a subsequent elimination of all non-tariff barriers that could obstruct mutual access to markets.

To further facilitate the access of companies from the left bank to new trade opportunities, they have to be integrated in local, regional and global trade facilitation frameworks. This should facilitate cross-river

cooperation and integration of exporters, expand access of left bank's enterprises to export promotion mechanisms on the right banks, as well as provide tailored support, taking into account specific needs of current and future exporters from the region.

In order to assess the integration capacity of the market participants from the Transnistrian region, there is a need for a structural analysis identifying main industries with export potential in the Transnistrian region, as well as assessing management, capacity, compliance and regulatory bottlenecks among enterprises from the selected industries. This analysis would propose practical solutions to be supported as part of a further technical assistance project. Therefore, based on this, UNDP will further design specific capacity building activities and will identify a number of project beneficiaries (SMEs), classifying the latter according to several criteria such as: industry, type of product, quality standards and export readiness.

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

UNDP seeks 2 Consultants (one leading Consultant in Economics and one Consultant in Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) issues, hereinafter the Consultants) to conduct a structural analysis of the export potential of the business community in the Transnistria region, containing an identification of main industries with export potential, an assessment of management, capacity, compliance and regulatory bottlenecks among enterprises from the selected industries as well as practical solutions to overcome them.

The Consultants will work in a team of 3 (2 Consultants to be recruited in the current competition), along with another consultant in Export/Trade facilitation. The analysis should build upon international methodologies that prioritize sectors and markets for trade development activities based on detailed trade and market access-data. It should take into consideration the post-conflict setting on both banks of the Nistru River, should identify possibilities for cross-river cooperation, and allow sufficient attention to the needs of women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

**The Consultants' services will include, inter alia, a desk research, carrying out focus group meetings, interviews with companies from the left bank of the Nistru and the public presentation of the findings.**

This is a part-time consultancy. The National Consultants will work under the direct supervision of and in cooperation with the UNDP Project/Programme Manager and project staff. The consultants will work outside the project premises and will participate in all assignments related working meetings organised by the project.

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference.

## 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Important Note: National Consultants shall clearly indicate the position/SECTOR AREA they are applying for.

### For the Consultant in Economics (with responsibilities of leading Consultant)

#### I. Education:

- Advanced **University degree or Bachelor's degree with 5 years of experience in Economy, Public Administration, Business Administration, Law, or other relevant fields;**

#### II. Working experience:

- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the field of Economics, development of analytical reports (at least 5) in the socio-economic field, including programmes and projects;

- Proven working experience in the Transnistria region;
- At least 3 years of experience in supervising/team leading similar projects;
- Previous work for UNDP/ major multilateral/ or bilateral development support programmes will be an asset;
- Proven familiarity with the Transnistrian region setting, knowledge and in-depth understanding of the working environment, its sensitivities, economic and political challenges. Ability to build solid ground for joint work between the two sides are strongly desirable.

### III. Competences and skills

- Strong communication and presentation skills, ability to facilitate discussions;
- Ability to analyze, plan, communicate effectively with stakeholders and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Ability to enter new environments, adapt quickly and produce immediate results;
- Fluency in Russian is compulsory. Knowledge of English is an asset;
- Computer literacy - competent user of Microsoft Office programs.

## For the Consultant in SPS (Sanitary and phytosanitary measures)

### I. Education:

- Advanced **University degree or Bachelor's degree with 5 years of experience in Economy, Business Administration, Law, or other relevant fields;**

### II. Working experience:

- At least 4 years of relevant experience in the field of SPS, development of analytical reports in the SPS field, including programmes and projects;
- Proven working experience in the field of SPS on the left bank of the Nistru River will be considered an advantage;
- Proven experience of working with and international agreements related to SPS measures;
- Previous work for UNDP/ major multilateral/ or bilateral development support programmes will be an asset;
- Proven familiarity with the Transnistrian region setting, knowledge and in-depth understanding of the working environment, its sensitivities, economic and political challenges, ability to build solid ground for joint work between the two sides are strongly desirable.

### III. Competences and skills

- Strong communication and presentation skills, ability to facilitate discussions;
- Ability to analyze, plan, communicate effectively with stakeholders and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Ability to enter new environments, adapt quickly and produce immediate results.
- Fluency in Russian is compulsory. Knowledge of English is an asset;
- Computer literacy - competent user of Microsoft Office programs.

Personal qualities (for all candidates):

- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations; in particular, is respectful of differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status;
- Responsibility;
- Flexibility;
- Punctuality.

The United Nations Country Team in the Republic of 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.

#### 4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

This call is for individual applications only.

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications (in separate files):

1. Proposal: explaining why they are the most suitable for the work and providing a list of relevant publications and a brief methodology on how they will approach and conduct the work;
2. Financial proposal in lump sum, USD. The individual travel related costs are required to be included in the financial proposal of the each Consultant;
3. The duly filled Personal History Form (P11 – template attached to the announcement) including past experience in similar assignments and the contact details of at least 3 reference persons.

#### 5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal shall specify a per application 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). The payment for services provided by the Contractors under the SCBM Programme will be made post factum on a lump-sum deliverables basis, as per contract, after the work has been accepted by the SCBM Project/Programme Manager. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of offers, the financial proposals will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including fee per day, travel, per diem, mobile phone costs, number of anticipated working days, etc.).

#### Travel and other logistic arrangements

The Consultants are expected to carry out field research that involves extensive travel into the Transnistrian region, and should budget the travel accordingly. The estimated distance to be included in the financial offer should correlate with the activities included in the methodology (interviews, focus group meetings etc.).

Travel outside duty station (Chisinau), other administrative costs and logistical aspects (related to carrying out the field research, interviews and organization of focus group meetings except the presentation event for the study) shall be arranged and borne by the Lead Consultant and shall be included in his/her financial proposal. Even though, the individual travel related costs are required to be included in the financial proposal of each Consultant.

## 6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be short-listed based on the following minimum qualification criteria indicated for each position separately:

### 1. *Consultant in Economics (with responsibilities of leading Consultant)*

- Advanced University degree or **Bachelor's degree with 5 years of experience in Economy, Public Administration, Business Administration, Law, or other relevant fields;**
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the field of Economics, development of analytical reports in the socio-economic field, including programmes and projects.

### 2. *Consultant in SPS (Sanitary and phytosanitary measures)*

- Advanced **University degree or Bachelor's degree with 5 years of experience in Economy, Business Administration, Law, or other relevant fields;**
- At least 4 years of relevant experience in the field of SPS, development of analytical reports in the SPS field, including programmes and projects.

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.

Each position will be evaluated separately.

### 1. *Consultant in Economics (with responsibilities of leading Consultant)*

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
<u>Technical</u>		
1. <b>Advanced University degree or Bachelor's degree with 5 years of experience in Economy, Public Administration, Business Administration, Law, or other relevant fields</b>	<i>Masters or BA + 5 years of experience – 30 pts., PhD – 40 pts.</i>	40
2. At least 5 years of relevant experience in the field of Economics.	<i>5 years -10pts, each additional 2 years – 5 pts; up to max. 20 pts.</i>	20
3. At least 5 analytical reports in the socio-economic field development (including programmes)	<i>5 reports -10 pts, each additional 2 reports – 5 pts; up to max. 20 pts.</i>	20

4. Proven working experience in the Transnistria region	<i>None – 0 pts., 1 year – 15 pts., each additional year – 5 pts. up to max. 30 pts.</i>	30
5. At least 3 years of experience in supervising/team leading similar projects	<i>3 year – 20 pts, each additional year – 5 pts; up to max. 40 pts</i>	40
6. Previous work for UNDP/ major multilateral/ or bilateral development support programmes will be an asset	<i>None – 0 pts., 1 year - 10 pts., &gt;1 – 20 pts.</i>	20
<u>Interview</u>		
7. Proven familiarity with the Transnistrian region setting, knowledge and in-depth understanding of the working environment, its sensitivities, economic and political challenges. Ability to build solid ground for joint work between the two sides are strongly desirable.	<i>None – 0 pts., fair knowledge/understanding – 10-20 pts., good knowledge/understanding – 30-50 pts., excellent knowledge /understanding – 60-70 pts.</i>	70
8. Strong communication and presentation skills, ability to facilitate discussions	<i>None – 0 pts., poor ability – 5 pts., good ability – 10 pts., excellent ability - 15 pts.</i>	15
9. Ability to analyze, plan, communicate effectively with stakeholders and present ideas clearly and effectively	<i>None – 0 pts., poor ability – 5 pts., good ability – 10-15 pts., excellent ability - 20 pts.</i>	20
10. Fluency in Russian is compulsory. Knowledge of English is an asset	<i>Russian - 10 pts. English - 10 pts.</i>	20
11. Belonging to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment*	<i>Yes – 5 pts., No – 0 pts.</i>	5
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300

## 2. Consultant in SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary measures)

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Technical		
1. Advanced <b>University degree or Bachelor's degree with</b> 5 years of experience in Economy, Business Administration, Law, or other relevant fields	<i>Masters or BA + 5 years of experience – 30 pts., PhD – 40 pts.</i>	40
2. At least 4 years of relevant experience in the field of SPS, development of analytical reports in the SPS field, including programmes and projects	<i>4 years -10 pts, each additional year – 5 pts; up to max. 30 pts.</i>	30
3. Proven working experience in the field of SPS on the left bank of the Nistru River	<i>None – 0 pts., 1 year – 15 pts., each additional year – 5 pts. up to max. 30 pts.</i>	30
4. Proven experience of working with and international agreements related to SPS measures	<i>Less than 1 year – 10 pts., 1 year – 30 pts, each additional year – 5 pts; up to max. 50 pts</i>	50
5. Previous work for UNDP/ major multilateral/ or bilateral development support programmes will be an	<i>None – 0 pts., 1 year - 10 pts., &gt;1 – 20 pts.</i>	20

asset		
Interview		
6. Proven familiarity with the Transnistrian region setting, knowledge and in-depth understanding of the working environment, its sensitivities, economic and political challenges, ability to build solid ground for joint work between the two sides are strongly desirable	<i>None – 0 pts., fair knowledge/understanding – 10-20 pts., good knowledge/understanding – 30-50 pts., excellent knowledge /understanding – 60-70 pts.</i>	70
7. Strong communication and presentation skills, ability to facilitate discussions	<i>None – 0 pts., poor ability – 5 pts., good ability – 10 pts., excellent ability - 15 pts.</i>	15
8. Ability to analyze, plan, communicate effectively with stakeholders and present ideas clearly and effectively	<i>None – 0 pts., poor ability – 5 pts., good ability – 10-15 pts., excellent ability - 20 pts.</i>	20
9. Fluency in Russian is compulsory. Knowledge of English is an asset	<i>Russian - 10 pts. English - 10 pts.</i>	20
10. Belonging to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment*	<i>Yes – 5 pts., No – 0 pts.</i>	5
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300

Financial Evaluation valid for all 3 (three) positions:	
<p>Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula:  <math>S = F_{min} / F * 200</math>  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.</p>	200

\*) Under-represented groups in UN Moldova are persons with disabilities, LGBT, ethnic and linguistic minorities, especially ethnic Gagauzians, Bulgarians, Roma, Jews, people of African descent, people living with HIV, religious minorities, especially Muslim women, refugees and other non-citizens.

#### Winning candidate

The winning candidate is the one 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

#### Important notice

The applicant who has the statute of Government Official / Public Servant, prior to appointment will be asked to submit the following documentation:

- a no-objection letter in respect of the applicant received from the government, and;

- the applicant is certified in writing by the government to be on official leave without pay for the duration of the Individual Contract.

A retired government official is not considered in this case a government official, and as such, may be contracted.