



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **7 June 2019**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National consultant to conduct the assessment of the national SDGs indicator framework

Project name: UN Joint Project on Strengthening the National Statistical System

Period of assignment/services:

Proposals should be submitted online to emails indicated in the request letter no later than [13 June 2019](#).

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: aurelia.spataru@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

In September 2015, the **2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development** has been adopted by 193 member states of the United Nations, including the Republic of Moldova, that aim at ending poverty and reducing of inequalities, ensure welfare for everyone and economic development through protection of the planet. Being a successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), It is a plan of action for people, planet, peace, partnership and prosperity, is the consists of 17 goals, 169 targets and 244 global indicators¹, and has a much wider focus beyond poverty, gender, hunger and core health problems, but also breaks new ground by addressing inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, energy, natural resources and environment, climate change, human settlements, and peace and justice, among others.

“Leave No One Behind”, as the core principle shared by the participants to the 2030 Agenda, aimed at equitable sustainable development will be fulfilled when we would be able to know where the **poorest and most vulnerable** are, and what services and assistance they need. This requires highly granular data, employment of methods that allow for sub-national and multi-dimensionally disaggregation, geospatial visualization, diversification and combination of data sources, exploration of new data sources, data sense-making and re-using.

The need for strengthening of statistics and so-called “**data revolution**”², through exploring of new technologies and innovative approaches with the support of and expertise of academia, private sector and civil society, are among the critical elements of the post-2015 framework.

In the described context, the monitoring of the SDGs agenda requires substantive improvements in national statistical capacity. Collecting high frequency, quality data on the varied dimensions of sustainable development requires the **modernization of statistical systems**. New partnerships are required to support SDG implementation by strengthening government capacity to **manage and utilize data**. This necessitates stronger and more systematic collection of administrative data to improve service delivery and enable evidence-based decision-making, more systematic integration of new technologies and approaches to data collection and processing.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

² UN, A World that Counts (2014). <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/execsum.pdf>

National context

The adaptation of the 2030 Global Agenda to the national context in the Republic of Moldova has passed through a few phases. Firstly, in 2016, UNDP Moldova in collaboration with the State Chancellery and the National Bureau of Statistics, have undertaken, as part of a global initiative in 6 pilot countries³, the **mapping of the national data ecosystem**⁴, required for measuring the sustainable development progress. Complex consultations⁵ with policy-makers, line-ministries, public institutions, private organizations, civil society and development partners and an online questionnaire, had the main objective to assess the availability of data and institutional modernization capacity needed to implement the 2030 Development Agenda – the national potential for data revolution was assessed.

In the context of the **2030 Global Agenda nationalization**⁶ carried out in 2017, the inventory of the development policy framework revealed that national policy agenda is partly aligned with the SDGs: only 11% of the global targets are fully aligned with national policy documents, while the rest of targets are partially (57% of targets) or not reflected (1/3 of the global targets) in any national policy documents of the Republic of Moldova. Therefore, the relevant national strategies will have to be adjusted to reflect better the spirit of the SDGs targets and human-orientation.

Also, the SDGs nationalization concluded with a list of **226 national indicators** agreed to be used for monitoring & evaluation of the SDGs in Moldova. The significant gap in availability of about half of SDGs nationalized indicators and required disaggregation (45% of indicators are missing and 5% are partially available) to tackle the needs of vulnerable people is a serious challenge towards the national monitoring and reporting on SDGs implementation. This call for serious investments in M&E system for SDGs, as well as innovations for SDGs monitoring.

Moreover, the main **challenges** in mapping out global indicators and their nationalization were related to the lack of calculation methodologies for about 40% of *UN global indicators list* (assessment against these indicators was approximative) and, as well as the lack of national metadata associated with the data collection methods which limited the possibility to evaluate the indicator's level of compliance with the globally agreed definitions. While the data collection doubling and overlapping in different institutions for some of the indicators made difficult to identify a relevant and credible data source, to establish the institutions responsible for monitoring the indicator. The "ownership" over the production or monitoring of the nationalized indicators has been also affected as a consequence of the Public Administration Reform⁷ given the revised (extended and multi-segmental) mandates of the new ministries (9 ministries replaced 16), reduced (by 44%) and replenished staff and partially lost institutional memory and technical capacities, in particular in the fields of administrative statistics.

Currently, UNDP is implementing the UN Joint Project on Strengthening the National Statistical System of RM in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova and other 4 UN agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO). The Project is aiming at improving data collection, production, dissemination and use of statistical information with particular attention to national needs and official statistics overall conformity with international standards. One of the Statistics Project's intended results is the **improved national capacities to produce and disseminate reliable and disaggregated statistical data** for evidence-based monitoring of policies, development strategies, programmes, etc.

In the framework of the mentioned Project, in July 2018 NBS has been supported by UNDP to launch the **review of the nationalized SDGs indicators** against the latest methodological guidance (metadata)⁸ of the global list of SDGs indicators. The review was needed because of the challenges described above and it aimed at updating the status of nationalized SDGs indicators and bring clarity on the improvement actions needed and efforts required. It started with the assessment of the SDGs indicators produced by NBS⁹. Then, the evaluation of the indicators produced by other institutions was performed (under finalization) in collaboration with more than 40 central public authorities that produce data for SDGs.

To improve the communication on the SDGs M&E framework, the set of **national metadata** to describe the assessed indicators is currently compiled. Upon completion of the revision, the **timeseries** for the assessed SDGs indicators will be gathered aimed to provide an update on the current progress on the SDGs targets and represent a valuable input/evidence to the Government's preparations on the first Voluntary National Review (and its Statistical Annex) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

³ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/data-ecosystems-for-sustainable-development.html>

⁴ <http://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/library/sdg/cartografierea-ecosistemelor-pentru-revoluia-datelor-in-republic.html>

⁵ <http://md.one.un.org/content/unct/moldova/en/home/presscenter/press-releases/moldova-on-its-first-step-towards-data-revolution-for-sustainable/>

⁶ SDGs nationalization report "Adapting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development to the context of the Republic of Moldova", <https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/content/guvernul-republicii-moldova-demarat-procesul-de-adaptare-agendei-de-dezvoltare-durabila-2030>

⁷ The Public Administration Reform Strategy (2016-2020), approved by the Government of Moldova on 6 July 2016, http://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/strategie_actualizata_par_strategy_2016-2020_30jun16.pdf. The Action Plan for PAR Strategy implementation (2016-2018), approved on 2 December 2016, http://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/02.12.2016_plan_2016-2018_final.docx.

⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

⁹ <http://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&dc=30&id=6068>

During the assessment, gaps related to SDGs indicators produced at the national level are identified and type of resources required to address those gaps are to be included in a **National Roadmap** aimed to ensure full availability of national statistical data for sustainable development monitoring, reporting and evaluation by the Republic of Moldova.

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

Under this assignment the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Moldova through the UN Joint Project “Strengthening National Statistical System” is seeking a **national consultant to develop the report on assessment of the national SDGs indicator framework and a national roadmap to close the identified data gaps.**

The overall objective of assignment is to support the Government of Moldova, and in particular the National Bureau of Statistics, as the national coordinator of the SDGs monitoring & evaluation, in formulation of the overall conclusion regarding the current status and level of compliance of the nationalized SDGs indicators with the UN global list, as well as the level of availability of disaggregated data for the reviewed indicators. This will cover data the country is already producing to monitor the progress in SDGs implementation, and where it may need support to change direction and make improvements.

The main output of the whole assignment will represent the revised set of nationalized SDGs indicators, accompanied by the pertinent time series (tentatively for 2010-2018), and a roadmap for action to further develop a robust SDGs indicator and monitoring framework at the national level. The envisaged task should also enable the inventory of disaggregation dimensions available for internal policy-making and reporting at international level on SDGs and conclude whether they are sufficient to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

The expected results should be officially endorsed by the Government and used by the public institutions to advocate for donors’ support on improvement of statistics and data for SDGs. The reviewed SDGs indicators would be further integrated as part of the national M&E frameworks when developing new national and sectorial policy papers.

Thus, with the completion of this assignment, UNDP seeks to ensure the nationalized SDGs indicators are adjusted to the current development framework and harmonised with the UN global list, have “institutional home” and will be further improved and used as an integrated monitoring framework for SDGs implementation by all concerned stakeholders. The entire set of expected outputs should help to measure the full spectrum of SDGs and their targets through a compact indicator framework that is technically robust, operationally feasible, and provides the information that government and other stakeholders need.

The assignment will be built on the previous and on-going activities undertaken by the Project partners, as well as other resources available, and will be undertaken in compliance with the Law on Official Statistics¹⁰, Strategy for Development of the National Statistical System¹¹ for 2016-2020 and other national/ sector policy and regulatory documents and in compliance with international standards in official statistics and relevant practices of other countries. The activity will be implemented in close coordination and under the guidance of the National Bureau of Statistics and participation of the State Chancellery.

Under the current assignment, using the results of the review conducted by the NBS and UNDP specialists in collaboration with concerned producers of SDGs indicators, the following expertise is expected on behalf of the hired national consultant:

1. to validate the methodological description of revised SDGs indicators, to homogenise it and to compile the **final set of national metadata**;
2. to support the data gathering exercise by NBS through **validation of the timeseries** for the revised SDGs indicators;
3. to develop an **assessment report on the updated level of compliance and availability** of the reviewed nationalized SDGs indicators;
4. to develop the **National Roadmap** to address the existing **data gaps** for improvement of statistics for SDGs, including insights for innovative approaches;
5. to prepare for **dissemination** all obtained outputs (updated list of nationalised SDGs indicators, updated dataset, national metadata, roadmap) on NBS website and other relevant communication channels.

For detailed information on Tasks and Activities to be performed and expected deliverables, please refer to Terms of Reference.

¹⁰ Law no.93 as of 26.05.2017 on Official Statistics, <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=370784&lang=1>

¹¹ <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=368820>

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Academic Qualifications:

- Master **degree** (or equivalent) in statistics, economics, social sciences and/or other relevant areas;

Working Experience:

- Minimum **10 years of relevant professional experience** (expertise, consultancy, advising, managing, executing function, etc.) in public administration, institutional development, public service provision, applied and/or academic research or other relevant;
- Minimum **4 records** of practical experience related to the development of (or participation at) **data-related assessment and methodological works** (assessments, evaluations, reviews or inventories of statistical indicators, development of statistical methodologies and/or questionnaires) in the areas of economic, social, environmental development and/or human rights [*confirming documents will be provided with clear specification of the data fields addressed and description of applicant's involvement*]
- At least **4 records** of practical experience related to the **use of national/sectorial monitoring & evaluation frameworks** (official and administrative statistics) **for analytical works** (thematic policy advisory,), if in the context of MDGs – [*confirming documents will be mandatory provided*]
- Previous experience in **participating/undertaking** of complex team-works, joint research activities, moderating working groups, organizing national/local level consultation events;
- Experience of **work with international organizations/projects** (including UN/UNDP), and **public institutions** (incl. multi-stakeholders), in particular in the areas relevant to the assignment;
- Records on knowledge and use of **data base applications**, ability to work with large datasets or even use of statistical analysis software (i.e. SPSS, STATA) -;

Competencies and Skills:

- Romanian **language** proficiency; Good skills in written English;
- Excellent **analytical**, writing and communication **skills**;
- Ability to analyse, plan, communicate effectively orally and in writing, draft reports, solve problems, organize and meet expected results, adapt to different environments (cultural, economic, political and social);

Personal Qualities and other requirements:

- Good interpersonal skills, solid judgment/decision making, initiative and creativity;
- Ability to be independent, impartial and credible in a challenging environment;
- Availability to work with UN and Project's national stakeholders during the indicated/approved period;
- Adherence to UN's values and ethical standards;
- Cultural and gender sensitivity.

The United Nations in 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

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

1. Technical Proposal explaining how applicant responds to each of the qualification requirements and why he/she is the most suitable for the work, as well as a short vision on achievement of tasks;
2. Personal information (as a detailed CV or as a Personal History Form /P11) including records on past experience in similar projects/assignments and concrete outputs obtained, and at least 3 references.
3. Financial proposal - in USD, specifying a total lump sum amount and the number of anticipated working days;
4. Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability.
5. (optional) Documents that confirm Applicant's records of practical experience required (copies or links to documents developed by the Applicant).

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). The payment for services provided by the Contractor under the Statistics Project will be made post factum on a lump-sum deliverables basis, as per contract, after the work has been accepted by the Project Manager. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of offers, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including fee per day, number of anticipated working days, etc.).

Travel

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources. In the 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.

For the current assignment not travel is required.

6. EVALUATION

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

- Master **degree** (or equivalent) in statistics, economics, social sciences and/or other relevant areas;
- Minimum **10 years of relevant professional experience** (expertise, consultancy, advising, managing, executing function, etc.) in public administration, institutional development, public service provision, applied and/or academic research or other relevant;
- Minimum **4 records** of practical experience related to the development of (or participation at) **data-related assessment and methodological works** (assessments, evaluations, reviews or inventories of statistical indicators, development of statistical methodologies and/or questionnaires) in the areas of economic, social, environmental development and/or human rights

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

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contracts shall be made to the individual consultants whose offers have 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).

Criteria applied	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Technical		
1. Master degree (or equivalent) in statistics, economics, social sciences and/or other relevant areas	Master's – 10 pts, PhD – 20 pts	20
2. Minimum 10 years of relevant professional experience (expertise, consultancy, advising, managing, executing function, etc.) in public administration, institutional development, public service provision, applied and/or academic research or other relevant	10 years –30 pts, each additional year – 10 pts, up to max 50 pts	50
3. Minimum 4 records of practical experience related to the development of (or participation at) data-related assessment and methodological works (assessments, evaluations, reviews or inventories of statistical indicators, development of statistical methodologies and/or questionnaires) in the areas of economic, social, environmental development and/or human rights (<i>4 areas of sustainable development</i>)	4 records –40 pts, each additional record – 10 pts, up to 70 max pts Additional pts will be added for records covering the 4 areas of sustainable development – 5 pts for 1 area, up to 20 pts (for all 4 areas)	90
4. At least 4 records of practical experience related to the use of national/sectorial monitoring & evaluation frameworks (official and administrative statistics) for analytical works (thematic analysis, progress evaluation, impact assessments, policy advisory, monitoring activities, country reviews, etc.), in particular in the context of MDGs – would be an asset	4 records –20 pts, each additional record – 5 pts, up to 40 max pts	40
5. Experience of work with international organizations/projects (including UN/UNDP), and public institutions (incl. multi-stakeholders), in particular in the areas relevant to the assignment	collaboration with public instit. and multi-stakeholder – 15, donors – 15 pts	30
6. Experience of work with or related to marginalized or vulnerable groups , human rights and gender equality	No experience – 0 pts Limited (1-2 records) – 20 pts	30

frameworks, social inclusion (<i>would be an asset</i>)	Extensive (3 and more records) – 30 pts	
7. Records on knowledge and use of data base applications , ability to work with large datasets or even use of statistical analysis software (i.e. SPSS, STATA) - (<i>would be an asset</i>)	No record – 0 pts Available record – 20 pts	20
8. Excellent communications skills in Romanian ; Good knowledge of English	Romanian – 10 pts, English – 10 pts	20
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300

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

Financial	
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 200$ 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

ANNEX 3 - Offeror confirmation of Interest and Availability