



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BUILDING CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL CONSULTING ORGANIZATIONS IN PROMOTION OF INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

Drawing upon Moldovan and global expertise in facilitating local self-governance and community-led development, UNDP and UN Women in partnership with the Government of Moldova (State Chancellery) are implementing the Joint Integrated Local Development Programme (JILDP). The JILDP was designed to improve the policy framework, as well as to support the administrative systems and procedures focused on efficient transfer of competencies to Local Public Administrations (LPAs), decentralization and promotion of LPAs' role in decision making. It also helps in building the capacity of LPAs to plan, implement and monitor their strategic plans and improve local public service delivery, involving civil society and community efforts and participation. Actions in the project seek to secure positive change in areas of human rights, tackling social exclusion and ensuring gender equality. The program undertake a specific focus on supporting target communities to pay adequate attention to the women facing multiple forms of discrimination and most vulnerable groups of population, including elderly, Roma, religious and ethnic minorities, disabled etc. It is also envisaged that the local communities' initiatives in the area of empowerment, especially among women, will be given due consideration.

SPECIFIC BACKGROUND:

The actual administrative-territorial organization of the Republic of Moldova is characterized by a very fragmented system: over 902 first level administrative-territorial units (towns and villages) and 32 second level districts/rayons. Furthermore, ¼ of the 1st LPA level have a population less than 1500 residents, and 86% - less than 5000 residents.

In addition to insufficient financial resources, the limited size of localities is negatively affecting the administrative capacity of LPAs to fulfill their functions. This entails reduced managerial capacity (greater difficulties in recruiting knowledgeable and skilled staff) and higher per capita costs (diseconomies of scale) in service delivery. These drawbacks have resulted in poorer quality of services, have clouded the citizen image of local government and are now hampering the decentralization process.

Consequently, a very significant part of rural LPAs (which represent 94% of the total number) do not have sufficient capacities to deliver communal public services. These LPAs have neither staff nor necessary financial resources for the assurance of complex development functions.

Within the context of local public administration reform and decentralization, the Government of the Republic of Moldova (with the support of UNDP/JILDP) is committed to actively promote, stimulate and support the application of 'inter-municipal cooperation tools' aiming to strengthen the joint LPAs public service delivery.

One of the priorities of JILDP/UNDP for 2012 will consist in initiation and supporting the implementation of 10 IMC projects throughout Moldova.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this 'Call for Expression of Interests' consists in selection and training of a pool of national experts (representing relevant consulting entities) in the field of Inter-Municipal Cooperation.

The trained experts (and affiliated institutions) will be subsequently competitively selected for the initiation and implementation of 10 IMC projects throughout Moldova.

OBJECTIVES:

The training session aims to achieve this by:

- Enabling participants to learn the theoretical and practical tools in how to assist local public authorities from the Republic of Moldova to initiate and promote IMC projects.
- Adaption of the 'IMC Toolkit Manual'¹ (prepared by the Council of Europe, UNDP and LGI) to the context of the Republic of Moldova.

METHODOLOGY:

The Training Session will be organized in a participatory manner on the following main topics:

- IMC definition and concept
- Why and when is IMC relevant?
- What are the benefits of IMC?
- What are the main domains of IMC applicability?
- Legal and financial issues in establishing an IMC project?
- How many LPA functions could be performed through IMC?
- How many municipalities could be involved in IMC?
- What could be the most appropriate legal forms of IMC?
- What are the most common forms of IMC legal forms in Europe?
- How is IMC financed?
- What are the steps in establishing an IMC?
- What are the potential negative side effects of IMC?

PERIOD:

The Training Session will be organized during 24-26 October (from 09:00 to 17:30) in Chisinau, Moldova.

TRAINER:

The training session will be conducted by Mr. John Jackson – the co-author of the 'IMC Toolkit Manual' (elaborated by partnership by UNDP, Council of Europe, and LGI/OSI).

TRAINING LANGUAGE:

The workshop will be conducted in English. Simultaneous translation in Romanian will be provided.

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA:

Moldovan consultancy entities specialized in local development related fields are invited to participate within this Call for Expression of Interests.

The applicants are expected to delegate a group of 3-4 highly qualified experts based on the following minimum qualification criteria:

- Advanced university degree in economics (1 expert), law(1 expert), public administration or other relevant field (1-2 persons), with a proven record of specialization
- At least 5 years proven experience in the fields related to local development
- Proven experience in implementing local development projects
- Robust analytical skills and writing skills
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Demonstrated capacity of team-orientation work
- Training experience for public servants and elected officials
- Fluency in Romanian. Knowledge of English would be a strong advantage

¹ 'Toolkit Manual. Inter-Municipal Cooperation', LGI, UNDP, Council of Europe, 2010
[<http://www.municipal-cooperation.org>]

- Proficiency in computer applications (Windows, MS Office, IE, Outlook)

APPLICATION FOLDER:

will include:

- Application form
- Organization Registration Certificate
- CVs of proposed experts

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

October 17, 2011, 16:30