

Projects: Modernization of Local Public Services

PN: 08.2167.8-001.00

TERMS OF REFERENCE for a consulting company to support MRDC and RDAs in the development of the new

National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD) for 2016-2020 and the (3) Regional Development Strategies (RDSs)

1. Context

Since the beginning of 2010, the GIZ Project Modernization of Local Public Services (MLPS) supports various Local Public Administrations of the Republic of Moldova in extending and modernizing service provision in water and sanitation, solid waste management and energy efficiency of public buildings.

The project is funded and commissioned by the Government of Germany, namely, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and receives additional support from the European Commission, Government of Sweden and Government of Romania. It is (currently) supposed to end in December 2015.

The overall objective of the project is as follows:

“Local public services in selected towns and villages in the three priority sectors waste water management, water supply and sanitation and energy efficiency are improved.”

The project comprises two intervention areas:

Intervention Area 1 (IA 1) has the objective:

“Local Public Authorities effectively cooperate and manage the improvements of local public services.”

The major focus of the activities is on the introduction and pilot implementation of appropriate development measures in the three priority sectors and the cooperation with Local Public Authorities. Partner institutions (Regional Development Authorities (RDA) and Local Public Authorities (LPA)) are intensively supported in the implementation of pilot projects in order to achieve sustainability. Advisors of the project are working in 12 LPAs and the RDAs North, Centre and South.

Intervention Area 2 (IA 2) has the objective:

“Regional and Local Public Authorities effectively plan strategic investments in the three priority sectors water and sanitation, solid waste management and energy efficiency of public buildings”.

The main intervention under IA 2 is focused on the improvement of planning and implementation capacities of the three RDAs and relevant LPAs. Capacity development

activities aim at improving planning, programming and development of investment projects in the five priority sectors of the project:

- water supply/sanitation,
- solid waste management,
- energy efficiency of public buildings and
- local/regional roads
- complementary private sector support

To achieve the objective the project supports the partner structures in the development of procedures of a participatory and integrated regional development.

The main counterpart(s) of the MLPS project is the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction and Regional Development Agencies from North, Centre and South Regions. Since 2010, the MRDC together with partner agencies has been implementing the National Strategy on Regional Development. According to the 2006 law on regional development, the NSRD is “the main document for regional development planning, reflecting national policy in this area and setting national mechanisms for regional development”. Two NSRDs have been developed since the 2006 law on regional development was passed. The first covered the period 2010-2012 and the second the period 2013-2015. It was proposed that both the first and second strategies be evaluated before the new NSRD is finalised and support shall be provided to MRDC in this respect. In parallel, the MRDC is about to start on the process of developing the next NSRD which should be approved by November 2015 and requested advisory support in this respect.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS), according to the 2006 law on regional development, is “*a medium-term (7 years) regional development policy document at the regional level, which identifies priorities, includes projects and specific measures for the implementation of regional development policy within the development region*”. Thus, the RDS is the main document for laying out the three development regions’ vision, strategy, results and targets. The RDSs were elaborated in 2010 for all three development regions (North, Centre and South) and cover the period up to 2016. They were all updated in 2012 and will be re-written in 2015/16 to cover the next seven year period. Given that the RDSs are closely connected to the NSRD, it is proposed that they all be evaluated together, as one integrated exercise. Once the evaluation is completed and the draft NSRD is developed, support is required in the further development of the new RDSs.

In line with the above, GIZ seeks to commission an consulting company/organisation or two company/organisations which have most qualified expertise in policies M&E area to support MRDC in carrying out this complex assignment.

2. Overall Objectives of the Assignment

The overall objective of this assignment is to provide support to MRDC in the development of the new NSRDs which covers the period 2016-2020 in line with the best practices, results-based monitoring and evaluation (RBM), EU and national standards in relation to development of policy documents in the area of regional development.

In addition, this assignment aims to support the 3 RDAs (North, Centre, South) in the development of the three RDS which cover the period up to 2016. These are required to be harmonised with the new NSRD 2016-2020, as well as developed in line with the best

practices, results-based monitoring and evaluation (RBM), EU and national standards in relation to development of policy documents in the area of regional development.

3. Tasks and responsibilities

In order to achieve the objective of this assignment, the consulting company/companies or organisation(s) is/are expected to:

- Carry out a desk review of the strategic, operational and regulatory documents related to the development of national policies, with particular focus on regional development, procedures and tools applied by State Chancellery, MRDC, RDAs, draft evaluation of the previous NSRD and RDS, as well as the good practices and lessons learned captured by GIZ and other relevant international counterparts in the regional development and RBM area;
- Develop a work plan, based on the provided methodology, for the assignment and the concept note
- Provide support to MRDC in establishing a participatory approach and develop the a concept note laying down the vision and priorities of future regional development during the period 2016-2020;
- Participate in meetings and interview the relevant MRDC/RDAs representatives, inter-ministerial working group, as well as relevant GIZ, donor representatives (where required);
- Support MRDC and RDAs in establishing and coordination of thematic working groups to discuss the developed draft chapters of the NSRD/RDS
- Drafting NSRD and RDS as per Government Decision 33/2007 and best practices
- Support MRDC in delivering presentation and carrying out public consultations on draft/final NSRD and RDS
- Develop and submit and assignment report

4. Key deliverables:

- Work plan, based on the provided methodology and the concept note developed and submitted
- Participation/interviews in all meetings with MRDC and stakeholders
- Summary of interviews results, site visits

- Thematic working groups session successfully facilitated and feedback/recommendations incorporated in the draft documents
- Presentations on preliminary and final findings and recommendations
- Intermediary and final draft NSRD and RDS developed and submitted to MRDC
- Assignment report (intermediary and final) with the key findings and recommendations on the development of the new NSRD/RDS and related M&E system.

5. Timeframe / Tentative Work Plan (6 April – 15 December 2015)

Start of the assignment	6 April
End of the assignment	15 December
Final draft NSRD	21 August
Final draft RDS	27 November
Handover of draft work results by the expert	In accordance with the tasks deadlines (by e-mail to the GIZ responsible advisor, copy to the PAU Senior Advisor);
Number of expert days	Up to 197 days

6. Management arrangements

The development of the NSRD will be managed by the MRDC in close coordination with the inter-ministerial working group and GIZ. The development of the RDS will be managed by the RDAs in close coordination with RDCs, working groups, and GIZ. The draft and final NSRD and 3 RDSs shall be presented to the National Co-ordination Council for Regional Development (NCCRD) and RDCs.

7. Company profile:

- Extensive experience in the development of strategic documents, projects or programme for at least 3 years for the company (preferably in the regional or local development area);
- Have a pool of national experts with proven backgrounds in the fields of economy, finance, social affairs, regional/local/rural development, legal affairs and cross-cutting issues (up to 5 national experts);
- Proven experience in performing similar activities for at least 5 years for the individual consultants;
- Experience working with international organizations;

- Sufficient technical resources and human resources for the successful implementation of the proposed activity;
- Extensive knowledge of government, public, civil society organisations, local and regional representatives, as well as donors working in local/regional development
- Professional organisational skills and delivery in a timely and qualitative manner;
- Proven research, analytical and writing skills
- Excellent command of Romanian, as well as good knowledge of Russian and English

9. Principal contact persons:

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