

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**Republic of Serbia**

**Project: From Education to Employment (E2E), Component 1: Youth Employment Initiative**

**Output 1.4.: Strengthening National Qualification Framework and Sector Skills Councils**

**Assignment Title: Consultant for Drawing up the Model of financing Sector Skills Councils and the determination of criteria for the Sector Skills Councils formation**

**Reference No.:** Output 1.4, A12

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has received financing from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation toward the cost of the project: **From Education to Employment** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

This project is designed with aim to contribute to the resolution of identified problems related to youth employment and employability in the Republic of Serbia.

The overall mission of this project is to increase youth employability in Serbia in a socially inclusive and sustainable way for this particular project - **decrease gap between education and the labour market needs through improved National Qualification Framework (NQF) and the establishment of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs).**

The National Qualification Framework (NQF) is an instrument which regulates the issues of qualifications required in the labour market, and it represents the basis for the implementation of the concept of lifelong learning and provides support to development of a modern, relevant and flexible system of education and training.

In the interest of establishing and implementing NQF in the Republic of Serbia, various institutions and bodies are planned to be established, including the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs).

The key role of the SSCs is to determine the qualifications necessary for the functioning of the Serbian economy and society as a whole. As bodies based on the principle of social partnership, SSCs are planned to be organized at sectorial level, and to be constituted of representatives of commercial companies in the area for which the SSC is formed, representatives of chambers of commerce/associations, experts from the fields of education /adult education, organizations responsible for the employment, ministries responsible for: education, activities related to the area for which the SSC is established, employment and labour, youth policy, the relevant association or association of schools and higher education institutions, representative branch unions and others.

The fundamental goals of SSCs, planned through establishing and implementing NQFS, are the analysis of existing and establishing the necessary qualifications in a particular sector; identifying qualifications and their modernization; identifying qualifications which no longer meet the needs of the sector; determining the qualification standard within the sector; considering the implications of the national qualifications framework to the qualifications within the sector; recommending the list of qualifications through levels and types which can be acquired by recognizing of the previous learning, etc.

Therefore, the Project is developing possible model of financing SSCs and the review of the criteria for the SSCs formation, which are going to be based on the methodology provided by the Consultant, in order to further support the establishment of SSCs.

The requested consulting services (“the Services”) will include collection of relevant and quality information related to the possible model of financing SSCs. The Consultant shall analyse various models of financing SSCs in European countries in general, and especially our neighbouring countries, noting the advantages and drawbacks of such models, as well as provide summarized outcomes of experiences in financing SSCs based on the experiences of the IPA founded projects and most importantly, the Consultant shall provide the Contracting Authority with the review of all of the possible sources of financing SSCs in the Republic of Serbia, including advantages and possible risks (budget of the Local Self-Government, fond of Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, employers, budget of MoESTD/National Employment Service, etc.).

The requested consulting services (“the Services”) will also include the review of the criteria determination for the formation of SSCs, which would entail information related to the various formations of SSCs of at least three European countries with developed social partnership regarding education, advantages and drawbacks of the mentioned issues, different management types of SSCs, as well as models of formations of SSCs in at least three neighbouring countries, advantages and drawbacks of the mentioned models and experiences in the formations of SSC based on the experiences of the IPA founded projects.

The **main two objectives** of these services are:

1. Developing and delivering of **the study of the recommended model of financing SSCs in the Republic of Serbia**, adapted to the current state of affairs in the education system, and the current level of development of social partnership in the education sector, provided by the Consultant.
2. Delivering **the review of the recommended criteria for the formation of SSCs in the Republic of Serbia**, adapted to the current state of affairs in the education system, and the current level of development of social partnership in the education sector;

These studies of the recommended model of financing SSCs and the criteria for the formation of SSCs in the Republic of Serbia, provided by the Consultant, **should entail the following sets of data**:

1. Various models of financing SSCs and the criteria for their formation of at least three European countries with developed social partnership regarding education, advantages and drawbacks of the mentioned issues, the relation between the financing and management of SSCs;
2. Models of financing SSCs and the criteria for their formation in at least three neighbouring countries, advantages and drawbacks of the mentioned issues, the relation between the financing and management of SSCs;
3. Experiences in financing SSCs and establishing the criteria for their formation based on practices so far, of the IPA 2008 and 2012 founded projects;
4. Possible sources of financing SSCs in the Republic of Serbia, advantages and possible risks (budget of the Local Self-Government, fond of Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, employers, budget of MoESTD/National Employment Service, etc.)
5. The recommended model of financing SSCs and the criteria for their formation in the Republic of Serbia, adapted to the current state of affairs in the education system, and the current level of development of social partnership in the education sector.

The intended **commencement date** of the assignment is **September**, 2017 and the period of execution of the contract will be **5** months.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The **shortlisted criteria** are:

- a) General experience of the firm;
- b) previous experience in the field of the assignment;
- c) references of the firm;
- d) CV of key expert.

The **profile of the key expert** for this contract is as follows:

- Bachelor's with honours degree (minimum 240 ECTS or equivalent) in Economics, Social Sciences or in

- other discipline relevant to the project would be considered as an advantage
- Knowledge of national legislation, sector policies and functioning of SSCs would be considered as an advantage
- Experience in consultancy and advisory work, in areas related to the project would be considered as an advantage
- Realised studies, researches or projects related to this project would be considered as an advantage

The Consultant **needs to ensure sufficient number of supporting staff**, in addition to the key expert.

Expressions of Interest should contain following information:

- (1) profile of the firm;
- (2) information on experience in similar assignments and supportive material indicating qualification and competence of the firm to perform the services (portfolio, description of similar assignments etc.);
- (3) CV of the key expert.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications (CQS) method set out in the Annex 2: Selection of the Consultants.

The consultant will be, later on, during the process of selection, obligated to deliver the technical and financial proposal, the methodology and the work plan, as well as the composition of the whole team together with the key expert. All of the services provided by the Consultant shall be on the basis of the Terms of Reference determined by the Ministry.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 8AM to 3PM.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **23<sup>rd</sup> of August**, 2017.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development  
Development and Higher Education Sector  
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Attn: Ana Brkić Đorđević  
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