

**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 creating the methodology of qualification standards based on occupational standards

Reference No.: Output 1.4, A13

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.

The NQFS is a framework in which every qualification acquired in Serbia has its place. At the heart of the NQFS are the learning outcomes - that is, the competences that the person gained by learning and proven after the learning process, whereby the learning process is not crucial since the learning outcome is verified. Each qualification gained in the Republic of Serbia is ranked according to the level of learning outcomes that belong to that qualification. Setting a standard of qualification to a certain level allows qualifications to be compared and linked.

One of the crucial aims of creating the methodology of national qualification standards based on occupational standards is to identify key factors in the description of national occupational standards that positively influence the adaptation process to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Qualification Framework of the European Area of Higher Education (QF-EHEA). The process of adapting national qualification systems towards the EQF is a complex one that spans all aspects of a nations' education and qualification system.

NQFS introduces the term of qualification standards. While the same qualification can be acquired at various educational institutions, through different educational programs, there are certain standards in terms of prescribed learning outcomes that qualifications must have. Educational programs should be aligned with qualification standards, meaning that they lead to learning outcomes as prescribed by the appropriate qualification standard.

In addition to the standard of qualification, the NQFS is going to interconnect the standard of qualification with standard of occupation. The standard of occupation is a document in which the competences required for a specific occupation are clearly stated. The qualification standard is going to be made on the basis of clearly defined methodology and data collected to identify and analyse the competences required for a specific occupation.

However, since in Serbia the process of developing standard of occupation is still in progress, the standards of qualification shall be developed **based on the methodology of occupational standards which would also be an assignment of the Consultant.**

The requested consulting services ("the Services") will include **detailed structures of the qualification standards based on the methodology of occupational standards.**

The intended commencement date of the assignment is October, 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 and
- 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 Social Sciences or in other discipline relevant to the project
- Knowledge and experience related to the development of qualification standards and/or occupational standards 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. and
- (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.

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 9th of October.

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