**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION SUPPORT PROJECT (SDISP)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**for**

**Innovation and Digital Learning Specialist**

1. **Background of the Project**

The Government of Republic of North Macedonia is implementing the “Skills Development and Innovation Support Project” (SDISP), financed by a World Bank loan. The Project would support interventions which foster education and skills relevant to the job market, and enhance the innovation capacity and activity of firms in North Macedonia. It will also address key missing elements of the North Macedonian innovation system and ailing aspects of the research sector that are likely to be vital for improving the competitiveness of the enterprise sector and North Macedonia’s longer term economic growth prospects. It will also help improve absorption of EU funds earmarked for innovation activities. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve transparency of resource allocation and promote accountability in higher education, enhance the relevance of secondary technical vocational education, and support innovation capacity in North Macedonia.

The Project’s direct beneficiaries include around students, teaching and management staff from technical vocational education and training institutions who would receive a new curriculum and practical training facilities, as well as training on management, planning, and process improvement capacity; students and staff of universities, research institutions and enterprises will benefit from: (i) the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms and financing reform in higher education (HE); (ii) grants promoting R&D and innovation; and (iii) technology commercialization, global know-how absorption, and industry- university collaboration.

1. **Objective of the assignment**

The objective of this assignment is to hire an Innovation and Digital Learning specialist for providing consulting services to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES).

1. **Scope of work**

The Consultant is responsible for:

* Provide technical assistance to the MoES, related to the implementation of innovative solutions for digitalization of the education;
* Coordination of activities related to creation of digital content for distance learning;
* Identify opportunities and recommend solutions that will enhance or improve current distance learning processes;
* Coordinate the activities related to the creation and implementation of a distance learning platform for the public primary and secondary schools in North Macedonia;
* Identify opportunities and recommend solutions that will in a long run enhance the student performance in the public schools at primary and secondary level in North Macedonia, by fostering modernization of curriculums and implementation of best teaching and testing practices;
* Ensuring proper development of all digitalized educational content;
* Consulting and support services to the Ministry of Education and Science and SDIS Project Management Unit in all activities related to improving the quality and the innovation capacity in education;
* Any other innovation or digital learning activities

1. **Reporting obligations**

The consultant shall work under the authority of the SDIS Project Director. He/She will provide periodical reports on the progress, as requested by SDIS Project Director and/or Minister of Education and Science.

1. **Consultant’s Qualifications**

* Master degree in Public Policy or related field; Doctoral degree shall be considered an asset;
* Minimum of 5 years extensive experience in education and experience with World Bank supported projects;
* Experience in Innovation Leadership projects;
* Experience in distance learning education technologies and digital skills;
* Excellent knowledge of Macedonian and English language.

1. **Duration of the assignment**

The Consultant shall provide full time services for a period ending 30 April 2021. The contract may be extended subject to satisfactory performance of the consultant and business needs of the Client.

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The selection method will be Selection of Individual Consultant in accordance with “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by the World Bank Borrowers“(January 2011).