PRIMARY EDUCATION IMROVEMENT PROJECT (PEIP)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**for**

**Stakeholder Engagement and Social Aspects Coordinator**

1. **Background of the Project**

The Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP) development objective is to improve conditions for learning in primary education in North Macedonia.

The Project would support the Government of North Macedonia’s initiatives geared to:

• improve learning environment at the primary level;

• improve quality of teaching practices; and

• implement school improvement plans that use performance data and monitoring tools for improving student learning.

The project will be organized around three main elements that need to be aligned in order to be complementary to each other. Component 1 focuses on school-level interventions, which are closest to students and most likely to impact learning while also mitigating and recovering learning losses generated by COVID-19. Two enabling elements are system-level reforms that would create the necessary enabling conditions so the school teachers are empowered with data on learning and up-to-date training. Component 2 would develop a comprehensive national assessment program to inform both school improvement planning and professional development programs, serving to link the school and system levels. Component 3 would put into practice professional competences for educators. Together, these elements will provide adequate information, tools, training and support to create effective and improved conditions for learning and ultimately increase student achievement. Component 4 would strengthen sector management, project management and monitoring and evaluation. The legal framework for implementation of above-mentioned reform interventions was recently adopted and there is an adequate institutional set up to embed them and eventually further enhance. The project activities are targeted toward building the foundation of a modern and efficient primary education system that is orienting all parts of the system toward learning.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) is the main implementing agency of the Project in close cooperation with the National Examination Center (NEC), Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) and State Educational Inspectorate (SEI). Projects direct beneficiaries will include primary education students, but focused support will be given those who are vulnerable (Roma, girls, students disproportionally affected by the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic) which are expected to benefit from improved learning and physical environment in the schools as well as from better-trained teachers. Primary education teachers, school principals, and MPSTs will benefit from more efficient professional development and career advancement, teaching adds, and grant program to implement their school improvement plans. The project activities are targeted toward building the foundation of a modern and efficient primary education system that is orienting all parts of the system toward learning.

**2. Objective of the assignment**

The objective is to hire an individual consultant to provide assistance, support and coordination to the MOES during implementation of the PEIP activities for designing and/or improving stakeholder engagement mechanisms, promotion of accountability by sharing information about schools with stakeholders, as well as support to the MOES through critical inputs for inclusion of vulnerable categories of students in implementation of PEIP.

**3. Scope of work**

The Consultant shall be is responsible for:

* Providing support to the Ministry of Education and Science for improving and implementing citizen engagement mechanisms and the process of inclusion of vulnerable categories of students in education policy development and implementation;
* Providing assistance in design , implementation and monitoring and evaluation of citizen engagement activities, especially related to project activities;
* Implementing stakeholder activities as defined in the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan
* Organization of the activity specific stakeholder engagement process: (i)stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.
* Assisting in all MoES and project related activities with regards to social and inclusion aspects of the education policy development and project implementation;
* Fostering links between stakeholder engagement in internationally financed projects and other efforts being made to facilitate dialogue between state and civil society actors;
* Supporting in organization and conducting public consultations and social partners meetings related to the education services and the school grants;
* Providing technical assistance to schools on how to engage parents during the self-evaluation process and preparation of school improvement plans
* Providing related input regarding the education financing models with the accent of inclusion of vulnerable categories of students;
* Providing assistance and coordination in the efforts of various stakeholders (NGOs, parents, student unions, etc.) with respect to ensuring their adequate representation and impact in outlining the social component of education policy development;
* Organizing meetings and workshops related to inclusion of the stakeholders and vulnerable categories in the project activities;
* Monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement activities s to ensure the effectiveness of the SEP and periodical reviews of the SEP based on findings
* Ensuring the functionality of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), as defined in the Project SEP, as well facilitating the resolution of concerns and grievances of project-affected parties of the project in a timely manner.
* Any other activities related to the implementation of PEIP and MoES operation.

**4. Reporting obligations**

The consultant shall report to the Project Director. Upon request by the Project Director and/or the Minister of Education and Science the Consultant shall produce and submit progress reports for the implementation of the Project activities.

**5. Consultant’sminimum qualifications**

The Consultant should have the following minimum experience and qualifications:

* University degree in social sciences, preferably in the field of social politics and social work.
* At least 5 years of professional experience in activities/projects involving vulnerable categories, stakeholder engagement activities, project outreach activities and information sharing.
* Experience on projects financed by international donors/creditors will be an advantage.
* Full computer literacy (MS Office)
* Excellent oral and writing skills in English and Macedonian. Knowledge of Albanian language shall be considered an advantage.

**6. Duration of the assignment:**

The Consultant will work under a time-based contract. The assignment will be full time, working 8 hours a day on the regular business days in North Macedonia. The Consultant shall initially perform the Services for a 6-month period, аfter which period, subject to satisfactory performance of the Consultant and business needs of the Client, the Consultant shall continue to perform the services until 27 February 2026 or any other period as may be subsequently agreed with the Client.