**PRIMARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PEIP)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**ARCHITECT**

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.

1. **Objective of the assignment**

The objective of this assignment is to hire an Architect to support the implementation of the PEIP project component 1 activities particularly related to upgrading of the physical learning environment of the primary schools in North Macedonia.

1. **Scope of services**

* Assist in preparation of bidding documents and technical specifications for procurement of works, goods and relevant technical services for minor rehabilitation of primary schools;
* Coordinate consultants, contractors and suppliers hired through the project for the purpose of upgrading of the physical learning environment, updating learning resources, or other project related activities
* Provide expertise and participate in the evaluation committees during the evaluation process related to the building/reconstruction and other project related activities;
* Monitoring of the implementation of the contracts signed for supervision of works and execution of civil works etc.
* Monitor and inspect progress of works, by making regular follow up visits to building/reconstruction sites in order to ensure that building/reconstruction works are performed within the agreed deadlines;
* Conducting site visits to project construction sites and reviewing contractors’ compliance with site-specific ESMP checklists, including determining and suggesting remedial actions;
* Any other activities in correlation with the implementation of the project.

1. **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.

1. **Minimum experience and qualifications**

* University degree in Architecture;
* Knowledge of Macedonian legislation and standards in the fields of architecture, design, construction, urban planning and environmental protection;
* At least 10 years of professional experience in project design, assessment, inspection or supervision of construction works and large scale renovations;
* Knowledge of construction terminology, ability to produce, read and interpret technical drawings and specifications, construction details, notes and instructions, sequencing scheduling, means and methods of carrying out construction;
* Experience in coordination of civil works and contracts management;
* Previous experience with WB projects will be considered an advantage
* Full computer literacy;
* Fluency in Macedonian and English language
* Driving license.

**6. Duration of 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.