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

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**for**

**Consultant for processing and analyzing data in the Unit for strategic planning, monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and analysis**

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Government of Republic of North Macedonia has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development- World Bank for implementing the Skills Development and Innovation Support Project (SDISP). 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 fostered by the National Technology Transfer Office (NTTO).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) is in its final phase of designing the Primary Education Improvement Project which will focus on three main elements that need to be aligned in order to be complementary to each other. Two are system-level reforms, to do with developing a comprehensive national assessment program and putting into practice professional competences, that would create the necessary enabling conditions, so the school teams are empowered with data on learning and up-to-date training; the third focuses on school-level interventions.

1. **SPECIFIC BACKGROUND**

Within the Ministry of Education and Science, and as direct support to the Minister, a Unit for strategic planning, monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and analysis has been established. This unit has specific purpose of supporting the Ministry in making important decisions through preparing analyses and statistics regarding the Ministry operations, as well as monitoring the implementation of the interventions.

1. **OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSINGMENT**

The purpose of this assignment is to hire an individual consultant in order to strengthen the capacity of the Unit for strategic planning, monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and analysis within the MoES as a tool for creation of policies that will improve the education system in North Macedonia.

1. **SPECIFIC TASKS**

The consultant within the Unit for strategic planning, monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and analysis should produce simulations regarding projected, actual and optimal budget available to the MoES and the effects of each scenario on the execution of the planned policy interventions of the MoES. In order to achieve this the consultant should perform the following tasks:

* 1. Gathering, processing and analyzing data;
  2. Reading historical demographic data and developing demographic assumptions, including fertility and mortality rates, dropout rates and immigration/emigration, related to the education sector;
  3. Reading historical economic data and developing economic assumptions, including education budget, GDP, average wages per sector/qualification, unemployment rates, school to work transition trends, infrastructure returns to investment and possible savings etc;
  4. Models and methods to project impact of different scenarios on investment in education;
  5. Making assessments of the costs of the proposed changes in the legislation;

1. **EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT**
2. University level degree in mathematics. Actuarial or data science will be considered an advantage
3. More than 5 years of experience in data analysis preferably in the public sector.
4. Experience in developing cost projections for fully funded system,
5. Working experience in data analysis and other activities related to preparation of statistics, survey analysis, policy evaluation and data forecasting will be considered an asset;
6. The Consultant must be fluent in Macedonian and in English.
7. **REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

The Consultant shall regularly debrief the Minister of Education and Science, the Head of the Unit for strategic planning, monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and analysis, SDIS Project Director, on the progress in respect to the contract obligations performed.

1. **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 contract duration shall be until April 30, 2021.