Skills Development and Innovation Support Project (SDISP)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**for**

**Citizen Engagement Consultant**

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 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 overall project will support the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia’s (MOES) initiatives geared to:

* increase graduates’ competitiveness on a regional and international level;
* increase labor market relevance of graduates’ skills;
* make innovation a source of productivity improvement, competitiveness, increased exportability of goods, and sustained economic growth; and
* increase universities and private enterprises engagement in, and their benefit from R&D efforts and technology adoption opportunities.

The Project will 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 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.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education and Science 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. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective is to hire an individual consultant to provide assistance and support to the MOES for designing and/or improving citizen engagement mechanisms which serve as critical contribution to the effectiveness of the reform processes in the area of education.

1. SPECIFIC TASKS

The Consultant shall be is responsible for:

* Providing support to the Ministry of Education and Science for improving and implementing citizen engagement mechanisms.
* Provide assistance in design and implementation of citizen engagement activities.
* Providing assistance in monitoring and evaluation of citizen engagement activities, especially related to project activities;
* Foster links between citizen engagement in internationally financed projects and other efforts being made to facilitate dialogue between state and civil society actors;
* Work closely with the SDISP Grants Officer in managing the administration of secondary-school grant sub projects and ensuring that are implemented in line with the Project Operational Manual and Grant operational Manual;
* Support in organization and conducting public consultations and social partners meetings related to the education services and the school grants;
* Any other activities related to the implementation of the SDIS project and MOES operation.

1. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The Consultant shall regularly debrief the Minister of Education and Science and SDIS Project Director on the progress in respect to the contract obligations performed.

1. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

The Consultant should have the following experience and qualifications:

* University degree in social sciences. Master degree will be an advantage.
* At least 2 years of experience in a similar field. Experience on World Bank projects will be an advantage.
* Knowledge of the Macedonian public sector and up to date knowledge of the education and labor market systems will be an advantage.
* Excellent oral and writing skills in English and Macedonian.

1. CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The Consultant will work under a time-based contract. The assignment will be part time, working 10 hours per week in North Macedonia. The contract for this assignment will be until April 30, 2021.