REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS)

Republic of Serbia

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROJECT Loan No. IBRD86930

The Republic of Serbia has received financing from the World Bank (Bank) toward the cost of the Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan funds to payments under the contract:

PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR COMPONENT 2 (full term consultancy) reference number: SER-ECEC-8693YF-IC-CS-18-12

The Project Coordinator for Component 2 (full-time position) is responsible for direct monitoring and coordination of activities under this component. Specific tasks and responsibilities of the Project Coordinator for Component 2 are to: perform functions of the MoESTD with regards to implementation of the Component 2, manage and facilitate all aspects of implementation of the Component 2 activities, in line with the Loan Agreement and the Project Operations Manual (POM); coordinate policy and strategy design, detailed planning, as well as steering organization, implementation of Component 2 related activities; monitor achievement of the agreed project results and ensure regular update of the result indicators; arrange execution of the approved Implementation Plan, Procurement Plan and the Project Budget; coordinate preparation of training program and trainings of preschool institution personnel, external evaluators, Preschool Assistance Network (PAN) members and decision makers; coordinate development of teaching-learning materials according to the new preschool curriculum framework; coordinate activities on development and strengthening of PAN; coordinate provision and assure quality of the technical assistance related to: (i) reform and harmonization of pre- and in-service preschool teacher training, (ii) reform on preschool teacher career advancement, (iii) assessment of existing quality evaluation instruments and methodologies for self and external evaluation and improvement of the existing instruments based on revised quality standards for preschools; participate in preparation of necessary bylaws relevant for successful achievement of agreed result indicators within the Component 2; establish and maintain regular communication and cooperation with relevant institutions, such as institutes, higher education institutions, preschool institutions, professional associations, etc; participate in important stakeholder consultations and follow up in incorporating on the outcome of such consultations in the final documents; together with the Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU), take part in the pre-proposal conferences and in preparation of clarifications in response to the queries of the participants of competitive selections in terms of the requirements to the goods and services; together with the CFU, take part in contract negotiations for the selection of services under the Project; participate in establishment of relevant MoESTD's working groups and bodies; closely interact and cooperate on daily bases with the MoESTD's focal point responsible for Component 2 of the Project; interact with the MoESTD staff, other authorities, CFU and the World Bank team on the operational issues of the Project; participate in preparation and updating of Project related documents; ensure stakeholders' access to information related to the Component 2 and provide regular feedback; produce periodical and annual progress reports of the Component 2 and contribute to progress reports of the Project in general; make synergies with other MoESTD's projects; perform other tasks related to the Project at the request of the MoESTD official responsible for the Project and/or the Project Management Unit (PMU) Director.

For the Project Coordinator for Component 2 following is required: university degree in the field of social science; at least 7 years of relevant professional experience; excellent knowledge of the Republic of Serbia's legal, social and system context of preschool education; fluency in Serbian and good command of English; computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project, Power Point, e-mail, Internet); knowledge of administrative structure and procedures of the public administration is an advantage; knowledge and experience in other projects and initiatives related to the preschool education is an advantage; previous experience in World Bank financed projects is desirable; demonstrated ability to work in team; ability to work under pressure and meet deadline.

The Consultant shall provide full-time services for an initial period of one year. She/he will have a probationary period of six (6) months. Subject to satisfactory performance, the contract may be extended for the life of the project, i.e. until December 30, 2022. Expected start of services is July of 2018.

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) of Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide Cover Letter and CV representing description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions and availability of appropriate skills.

The following selection criteria with corresponding points will be used for the evaluation procedure:

Qualifications	20 pts
Working experience relevant to the assignment	50 pts
Knowledge of Serbian and English language and computer skills	30 pts

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011, revised 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultants method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the CFU at the address below from 08:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest **in English language** must be delivered to the e-mail address below by **June 11, 2018, 12:00 Noon**, local time.

When submitting Expressions of interest please indicate assignment and reference number for which you are applying.

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