REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**Republic of Serbia**

**Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)**

**Project ID No. P157117**

**Assignment Title:**

**IMPROVING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM PRACTITIONERS, Reference No. SER-ECEC-8693YF-CQ-CS-20-54**

The Republic of Serbia has received financing in the amount of US$ 50,000,000 equivalent from the World Bank toward the cost of the Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The scope of assignment for consulting services include:

1. The creation of the Guide for the Improvement of Professional Development in Preschool Institutions, which would contain recommendations for the improvement of professional development organized by preschool institutions so as to meet the needs of practitioners and at the same time contribute to the improvement of the quality of preschool services offered in preschool institutions in line with the strategic commitment of MoESTD.
2. The preparation of Preschool Teachers’ Digital Competencies Framework, comprising the Concept of Applying Digital Technologies in Preschool Institutions as a guideline for the improvement of the quality of professional development in the area of developing digital/IT competencies, for planning the professional development in such domain and for the development of digital competencies..

The consulting is to deliver the following tasks:

Task 1: Development of the Implementation Methodology and the Work Plan

Task 2: Preparing the Guide for the Improvement of Professional Development in Preschool Institutions

Task 3: Creating preconditions for improving digital competencies of practitioners in preschool institutions

Services are expected to be finished 270 calendar days from the day of Contract signing.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI) for the above referenced consulting services are posted on the website of the MoESTD at www.ecec.mpn.gov.rs

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

**Consultant’s Qualification**

* The Consultant/Firm shall be registered as a legal entity;
* The Consultant/Firm shall have appropriate professional, organizational and logistical capacities necessary for carrying out the assignment;
* At least five years of experience in carrying out the activities on improving the education quality in the Republic of Serbia and/or other counties in the region ;
* Experience in at least three projects dealing with the improvement of the education quality in the Republic of Serbia implemented in the last five years;
* The Consultant/Firm shall be capable of providing 2 key experts:

K1: Team leader and senior expert associate for preschool education, with the following qualifications and experience:

* University degree in Pedagogy, Psychology, or other fields of Education, Social Studies and Humanities;
* At least 5 years of relevant professional experience involving education policies and practices in Serbia;
* Experience in dealing with the issues of professional development and career promotion is preferable;
* Comprehensive knowledge of Preschool Curriculum Framework is preferred;
* Comprehensive knowledge of education policy and main initiatives in preschool education is desirable;
* Knowledge of regulatory framework in education, focusing on preschool education, is preferable;
* Possessing a professional development certificate in the area close to the one described in ToR is a plus;
* Excellent oral and written Serbian language skills and good command of English.

K2: Senior expert associate for preschool education, with the following qualifications and experience:

* At least 5 years of relevant professional experience involving education policies and practices in Serbia;
* Experience in application of digital technologies in working with children in a education;
* Experience in application of digital technologies in working with children in a PI is a plus;
* Participation in projects aimed at developing digital competencies of educational staff is considered an advantage
* Comprehensive knowledge of Preschool Curriculum Framework is preferred;
* Comprehensive knowledge of education policy and main initiatives in preschool education is desirable;
* Knowledge of regulatory framework in education, focusing on preschool education, is preferable;
* Possessing a professional development certificate in the area close to the one described in ToR is a plus;
* Excellent oral and written Serbian language skills and good command of English.

Alongside the letter of interest, the Consultant is required to submit the key expert’s CV.

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| *#* | *Criteria* | *Weight* |
| 1 | Core business and general qualifications of the consultant | **30** |
| 2 | Qualifications and specific experience of the consultant related to the assignment | **50** |
| 3 | Organization of the firm, general qualifications and availability of key staff | **20** |

Expressions of Interest should contain following information: (1) profile of the firm; (2) CVs of team members that would work on above mentioned assignment; (3) information on experience in similar assignments and supportive material indicating qualification and competence of the firm to perform the services (portfolio, description of similar asssignments etc.).

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 July 2014) (“Consultant Guidelines”)**, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the *Selection Based on the Consultants’ Qualifications (CQS)* method as set out in the Section III of the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained from the CFU at the address below from 09:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest in English language must be sent in a written form to the **E-mail** address below, by **September 01, 2020, 12:00 hours, noon**, local time.

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