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:**

**SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL COMPETENCIES OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM PRACTITIONERS, Reference No. SER-ECEC-8693YF-CQ-CS-20-57**

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 activities should enable the development and provision of the programmed two-day training for the preschool system practitioners, comprising the following provisional topics:

1. Pedagogical aspects of applying ICT in preschool education

1.1. ICT for child play, research and activities as parts of multimedia literacy in the context of modern pedagogical approach to working with children.

2. Using computer equipment

2.1. Desktop and laptop computers and computer peripherals.

2.2. Mobile appliances and connecting them to the network.

2.3. Appliances for developing digital competencies and critical thinking, and solving problems in play (bee-bots, robots and similar).

3. Digital environment

3.1. The internet and digital resources.

3.2. Criteria for assessing the quality of resources.

3.3. Ethics and safety on the internet, protecting children on the internet.

3.4. Cloud services.

4. Creating digital resources

4.1. Working with text and tables.

4.2. Developing presentations and multimedia resources.

4.3. Online tools.

5. Computer platforms for cooperation, learning and play

5.1. Platforms for cooperation, communication, and professional networking.

5.2. Platforms for supporting child play, research and learning.

It is necessary that the training aimed at developing digital competencies of PI staff be in line with the Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System, the Rule Book on the standards of competencies for preschool teachers and their professional development, the Rule Book on Preschool Curriculum Framework, and the Rule Book on Preschools Quality Standards.

The consulting is to deliver the following tasks:

Task 1: Development of methodology and the work plan

Task 2: Developing the contents of the training

Task 3: Administrative tasks in the education environment

Task 4: Providing technical support and trainers and users support

Task 5. Trainings monitoring and reporting

Task 6. Mentor support to the development of digital competencies of employees through horizontal exchange at the level of a preschool institution

Services are expected to be finished until October 2022.

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, organisational and logistical capacities necessary for carrying out the assignment in the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
* At least three years of experience in carrying out the activities on improving the education quality; experience gained in Serbia or the region will be considered as an advantage;
* At least three years of experience in improving digital competencies of PI employees; experience gained in Serbia or the region will be considered as an advantage;
* The Consultant/Firm shall provide the signed and sealed statement of the responsible person guaranteeing that an external associate of IIE[[1]](#footnote-1) will he hired for providing technical support;
* 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 IT or similar, pedagogy, psychology or other fields of pedagogical sciences, social sciences or the humanities;
	+ At least 8 years of relevant professional experience involving education policies and practices, preferably in Serbia;
	+ Experience in dealing with the issues of professional development and career promotion, especially in projects aimed at developing digital competencies;
	+ Experience in creating and providing online trainings (three projects of this kind at the minimum);
	+ Experience in project management will be 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;
	+ Experience in developing/creating/providing trainings for PI employees is preferred;
	+ 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 using digital technologies in working with children in the education system;
	+ Experience in using digital technologies in working with children in PIs is preferred;
	+ Participation in projects aimed at developing digital competencies of education system employees will be considered as 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** below, by **November 02, 2020, 12:00 hours, noon**, local time.

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| To: | ljiljana.krejovic@mfin.gov.rsMs Ljiljana KrejovicProcurement Specialist | Ministry of FinanceCentral Fiduciary Unit3-5 Sremska St11000 Belgrade, SerbiaTel/Fax: (+381 11) 202-15-87        |
| Cc: | ljiljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs |
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1. External associates of IIE who are not civil servants. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)