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:**

**COMPONENT 2 – IMPROVING PRESCHOOL INSTITUTIONS SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS, Reference No. SER-ECEC-8693YF-CQ-CS-21-60**

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 purpose of the activity is to support Ministry of Education, Science and Technical Development (MoESTD) and the Institute for the Education Quality and Evaluation (IEQE) in improving the quality of preschool education through improving the self-evaluation process and procedures in preschool institutions (Pis).

The Consultant / Consulting Firm shall be responsible for the following activities:

**Task 1: Devising the methodology and the work plan**

**Task 2: Providing resources for PIs self-evaluation**

**Task 3: Piloting the self-evaluation instruments in Pis**

**Task 4: Preparing the Guidebook on Self-Evaluation of Pis**

**Task 5: Supporting PIs in improving their self-evaluation process**

Services are expected to be completed until June 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 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/Firm Qualifications**

The Consultant/Firm is to meet the following requirements:

* 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 on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
* At least three years of experience in carrying out the activities on improving the education quality (experience in the Republic of Serbia and the region shall be considered an advantage);
* Preferably at least three years of experience in monitoring and evaluating the education quality (experience in the Republic of Serbia and the region shall be considered an advantage);
* Preferably the experience of participating in at least three projects involved in monitoring and evaluating the education quality (experience in the Republic of Serbia and the region shall be considered an advantage);

The Consultant/Firm is to provide two key experts:

K1: Team leader and senior expert associate for the PI quality evaluation, with the following qualifications and experience:

* + University degree in Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology or other fields of Education, Social Studies and Humanities;
	+ At least 8 years of relevant professional experience in education policies and practices in Serbia;
	+ Experience in education quality monitoring and evaluation is preferable;
	+ Participation in projects dealing with education quality monitoring and evaluation is preferable;
	+ Comprehensive knowledge of education policy and main initiatives in preschool education is desirable;
	+ Possessing professional development certificates 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.

К2: Senior expert associate for preschool education, with the following qualifications and experience:

- University degree in Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology or other fields of Education, Social Studies and Humanities;

* At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in educational institutions and excellent knowledge of education policies and main initiatives in preschool education;
* Experience in organising and conducting self-evaluation procedures in PIs is preferable;
* Comprehensive knowledge of Preschool Curriculum Framework is preferred;
* Participation in projects aimed at improving the PIs quality evaluation is preferable;
* Possessing professional development certificates 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 **February 19, 2021, 12:00 hours, noon**, local time.

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