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| image001  Republic of Serbia |
| **MINISTRY OF FINANCE**  Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU) |
| Date: 18.08.2021 |
| 3-5 Sremska St,  B e l g r a d e |

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS No. 1**

Support to IPARD Operating Structure (Managing Authority and IPARD Agency)

**Publication ref.:** NEAR/BEG/2021/EA-RP/0023

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| **No** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| **1.** | Dear Sirs, pls kindly send as well the invitation letter in order to check the selected references. | Please note that the answer was provided already in TED on 16/07/2021. |
| **2.** | In the requirements for the team leader , it is established as requirement: “At least 8 of postgraduate professional experience in the field of EU member states rural development programmes” Could you clarify if in the case of EU MS which joined for instance in 2013 , only experiences since 2013 would be considered as eligible ? or experiences in pre-adhesion period would be also considered as eligible? | Please refer to the provisions of the Terms of Reference. The experiences in current EU MS before its accession date is eligible if in that period expert’s proven postgraduate professional experience was gained in the relevant field as stated in the ToR. |
| **3.** | The TOR establishes as requirement for the Key Expert position 1 the following :At least 8 years of postgraduate professional experience in the field of EU member states rural development programmes” Could you please clarify if in the case of an experts working on EU member states rural development programmes which joined the EU, for instance in 2013, the experience of the expert prior to 2013 would be considered to meet this specific requirement? Like wise , for Key expert 2 it is required: “At least 8 of postgraduate professional experience in the field of EU member states rural development programmes “. Would experience in current EU MS but before accession date be considered as eligible? | Please see the answer to the question no.2. |
| **4.** | Due to the effects of Covid-19, we have recently experienced various tender processes were carried out online. For this type of tenders, we have applied different preparations steps and work plan from the tenders that we submitted as a hard copy. For these reasons and in order us to organize our sources, work plan and provide high quality of service, we kindly want to ask you for the whether there will be possibility of online submission for the "NEAR/BEG/2021/EA-RP/0023 - Support to IPARD Operating Structure (Managing Authority and IPARD Agency)" project. | Please note that the application must be submitted **in paper form** in accordance with Article 10 of the Instruction for tenderers. |
| **5.** | Notwithstanding that necessary assumptions /preconditions for the activities 2.5.4 and 2.5.5 are that all the inputs (documents, calculations, translations, checklists, UAT scenarios etc.) are provided to the Contractor, not later than 3 months before the deadline set, in order to better draft our proposal and evaluate the efforts, could you please provide us with the current Technical Specifications and Architectural SW Stack (e.g. technologies used, programming languages, database, etc...) of: - the current existing IT system related to the computerized processing of applications for IPARD measures (Result 2.3); - the current Internal Control System including operations, procedures and controls (Result 2.3); - the current existing RD IT solution (Result 2.5). Notwithstanding that necessary assumptions /preconditions for the activities 2.5.4 and 2.5.5 are that all the inputs (documents, calculations, translations, checklists, UAT scenarios etc.) are provided to the Contractor, not later than 3 months before the deadline set, in order to better draft our proposal and evaluate the efforts, could you please provide us with the current version of the Technical specification for RD IT solution regarding: - the Reporting module (Result 2.5); - HR management (Result 2.5); - Risk management and Irregularity (Result 2.5). | Please bear in mind that the technical specification for RD IT solution cannot be provided to anyone except the contractor. This is confidential documentation of the Directorate for Agrarian Payments.  As it is already stated in the ToR, all relevant inputs (documents, calculations, translations, checklists, UAT scenarios etc.) will be provided to the Contractor not later than 3 months before the deadline set for the result of the output to be delivered. |
| **6.** | In the requirements for the key expert 2 position, it is established as a requirement " At least 3 years of postgraduate professional experience in the EU member states Paying Agency, of which at least 1 year in an accredited Paying Agency, on the posts that includes responsibility for implementation of Rural Development measures financed from EU funds; Could you please clarify if working experience as a consultant for such a Paying Agency would be considered as compliant (i.e the expert is not contracted directly by the paying agency but works providing services for Paying agency). | Please note that no prior opinion on the assessment of the tender can be given by the Contracting Authority in reply to a question or a request for clarification. |
| **7.** | Please clarify if professional experiences carried out in countries during the pre-accession phase (Candidate countries) which then became EU member states, are also eligible and comply to the requirement of the “general professional experience: at least 8 years of postgraduate professional experience in the EU members states rural development programmes” on page 16 of ToR? | Please see the answer to the question no.2. |
| **8.** | Dear Madam/Sir, We would kindly like to ask you to provide clarification and information in relation to Annex II Terms of Reference and more specifically: Regarding the “General professional experience” required for both Key expert 1 and Key expert 2 positions: “At least 8 years of postgraduate professional experience in the field of EU member states rural development programmes”.  We find this requirement restrictive with regards to potential experts coming from the newest EU member states (especially Croatia, given that the country joined the EU officially on July 1st 2013 and the Croatian RDP has been approved only in May 2015). Would it be considered acceptable experience if an expert has at least 8 years of postgraduate professional experience in the field of “EU rural development programmes”, thus allowing pre-accession period to be accounted for. 1. Regarding the requirement for KE1 for Specific professional experience: “At least 5 years of postgraduate professional experience in the EU member states Managing Authority, on the posts that includes responsibility for programming of at least two Rural Development measures financed from EU funds” would it be considered eligible if the proposed expert has experience as external consultant to the MA in EU Member States?  Also, again with regard to experts coming from the newest EU member States, would it be acceptable as qualifying experience if the expert has “at least 5 years of postgraduate professional experience in the Managing Authority, on the posts that includes responsibility for programing of at least two Rural Development measures financed from EU funds” before the official accession date of the certain member state, thus allowing pre-accession period to be also accounted for. | Please see the answer to the question no.2 regarding the General professional experience.  In addition, please note that no prior opinion on the assessment of the tender can be given by the Contracting Authority in reply to a question or a request for clarification. |