

Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR)
Moldova Higher Education Project (MHEP)

Procurement Reference: MD-MOED-206698-CS-CQS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Consulting Company/ organization / institution for development of Qualification Standards
for the general field of study *041 Economic Sciences***

1. Background information on the project

„Moldova Higher Education” Project (MHEP) is a World Bank-financed Project to be implemented between May 2020 and December 2025.

The total cost of credit is EUR 35.7 million (US\$39.4 million equivalent) financed by the International Development Association (IDA) and is provided to the Republic of Moldova in support of Moldova Higher Education.

The Project Objective is to improve the labour market orientation of selected higher education institutions and the quality assurance mechanisms. The Project is organized around three components and includes systemic interventions in the areas of higher education quality, financing and management, as well as a targeted program to be implemented by selected higher education institutions and pedagogical colleges to address some of their most pressing needs in labour market orientation.

The MHEP components are described below:

1. Improving the Quality Assurance Mechanisms
2. Improving the Labour Market Orientation through Targeted Interventions
3. Project Management

Component 1 – Improving the Quality Assurance Mechanisms. This component aims to improve Moldova higher education system’s quality assurance mechanisms, which would also contribute to improve its labour market orientation. It comprises three sub-components that support activities in: (i) National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and Quality Assurance (QA); (ii) System Management and Monitoring; (iii) Higher Education Financing.

Component 2 – Improving the Labour Market Orientation through Targeted Interventions. This component will finance the design and implementation of a targeted and needs-based program (Higher Education Improvement Program - HEIP) aimed at improving the labour market orientation of Moldova’s higher education institutions, as well as their research capacity.

Component 3 – Project Management. This component will support the day-to-day management of the Project by the MoECR with assistance of a dedicated team of individual consultants who would provide managerial, fiduciary, and technical support to the implementation of the proposed Project for its full duration.

Component 1 of the Project will support the modernization and enhancement of key elements of the system’s quality assurance mechanisms, such as the development and revision of qualification standards that would guide the subsequent revision of the curricula and accreditation of academic programs. The development and revision of qualification standards will be done with participation

of relevant employers or their associations in each specific field. The MoECR will organize competitions for the development and revision of Qualification Standards (QS) for ISCED¹ levels 6, 7 and 8 in 23 fields. In this context, the MoECR intends to hire a Consulting Company which will develop the Qualification Standards for the general field of study **041 Economic Sciences**.

2. Objective of the assignment

The objective of the proposed assignment is to develop the Qualification Standards for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8, for the general field of study *041 Economic Sciences* in alignment with the National Qualification Framework.

3. Scope of Work

In order to achieve the objective, the Company shall perform the following tasks:

- Develop qualification standards for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 for the general field of study *041 Economic Sciences* and the competence standards as part of the qualification standards, based on ESCO, ISCO, ISCED 2013F and international good practices, in accordance with the methodology² established by the MoECR;
- Establish the working groups in accordance with the methodology approved by the MoECR, in order to develop qualification standards, including competence standards as part of the qualification standards for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 for the general field of study *041 Economic Sciences*;
- Organize training sessions for members of the Working groups in order to develop the qualification standards for the general field of study *041 Economic Sciences*;
- Manage the process of qualification standards development and their approval according to the methodology;
- Organize training sessions for teaching staff and managers in developing curricula for the general field of study *041 Economic Sciences*, based on developed qualification standards and learning outcomes;
- Organize training sessions for specialists responsible for the internal quality management, regular assessment and updating of qualifications in higher education.

4. Duration of the assignment, estimated time input and expected outcomes

This consultancy is expected to last 9 months starting in May 2021, with the deliverables submitted as follows:

Deliverables	Submission Deadline	Approval by
Copies of the decisions to set up the Working Groups, in accordance with the mode established by the MoECR, in order to develop qualification standards, including competence standards, for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 in the general field of study <i>041 Economical Sciences</i> ..	3 weeks from signing the contract	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, NQF Department

¹ *International standard classification of education*

² https://mecc.gov.md/sites/default/files/metodologia_05_martie_2018.pdf

Report on delivering trainings for the members of the Working Groups in order to develop qualification standards, including competence standards, for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 in the general field of study <i>041 Economical Sciences</i> .	5 weeks from signing the contract	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, NQF Department
Set of qualification standards for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 in the general field of study <i>041 Economic Sciences</i> , developed, validated and endorsed, in accordance with the methodology established by the MoECR, and coordinated with the relevant line Ministry, if necessary, and presented to the MoECR for final endorsement by the National Council for Qualifications.	26 weeks from signing the contract	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, NQF Department
Report on trainings delivered for teaching staff and managers in developing the curricula related to NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 in the general field of study <i>041 Economic Sciences</i> , based on the qualification standards approved by the MoECR.	32 weeks from signing the contract	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, NQF Department
Report on delivering training sessions in monitoring quality, relevance, regular assessment and updating of qualifications in higher education, for the specialists responsible of internal quality management and university curricula.	36 weeks from signing the contract	Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, NQF Department

All deliverables shall be submitted in electronic format (MS Office) in Romanian. Set of qualification standards shall be submitted in both electronic and paper formats in Romanian, English and Russian.

5. Qualification requirements and basis for evaluation (evaluation criteria)

(i) General experience

- Extensive knowledge and understanding of the processes related to NQF development, curricula development, educational standards, qualification standards, quality assurance in higher education;
- Experience in at least three educational standards and/or curricula development for the NQF levels 6, 7 and 8 and good cooperation with representatives of labour market.

(ii) Specific experience

- Team members hold scientific-didactic titles, with experience in the development of the normative framework for organization and conducting of the study process, development of educational standards and curricula for higher education, including in the field of *041 Economic Sciences*;
- Experience in implementation of international projects in the development of the NQF and qualifications in the higher education, in the development and implementation of the

normative framework for quality assurance in education and vocational training in higher education would be an asset.

6. Institutional Arrangements

The company will report to the MHEP Project Coordinator, Project Executive Director and to Head of the National Qualifications Framework Department of the MoECR. The MHEP team will oversee the process of consulting services, manage the implementation of the contract.

The MoECR will provide the firm with all Project documents deemed necessary for assignment accomplishment.

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