

Terms of Reference

Local Individual Consultant to assist the International Consultant in reviewing per capita financing formula and adjusting it.

1. Background information on the project

The „Moldova Education Reform” Project (MERP) is a World Bank-financed Project to be implemented between April 2013 and June 2020.

The total cost of original credit is SDR 26.1 million (USD 40 million equivalent) and the Additional Financing in the amount of SDR 7.1 million (US\$ 10 million equivalent) is provided to the Republic of Moldova in support of Moldova Education Reform Project.

The MERP supports the Government of Moldova (GoM) reform program by financing activities that will strengthen the quality of education and lead to a more efficient education sector. Through this Project, the World Bank supports the GoM in implementing the needed reforms, which include initiatives for:

- Improve learning conditions in targeted schools;
- Strengthen the education monitoring systems;
- Promoting efficiency reforms in the education sector.

MERP’s focus is to support interventions that would lead to improvements in the quality and efficiency of primary and general secondary education. Specifically, the Additional Financing would allow the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR) to expand the coverage and depth of selected activities already initiated under MERP, such as teacher and school managers’ training, participation in PISA, and development of an additional module to EMIS (TVET module) and roll-out of the preschool module.

The MERP has three components:

- A. “Strengthening the Quality of Education”,
- B. “Improving the Efficiency of the Education Sector”
- C. “Improving the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research’s Capacity to Monitor the Reform”.

One of the main priorities of the Project is to support the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research in its effort to improve the efficiency of the education sector.

Between 2007-2009 years, a new per capita financing methodology was developed under the Quality Education in Rural Areas of Moldova Project, which was approved by the Government Decision no. 612 dated October 30, 2009 and piloted in 2 rayons starting from January 2010. In 2012, the implementation was extended in other 12 rayons, and in 2013 it rolled out nationwide.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has been implementing a reform program for 8 years that offers equitable conditions for the access to quality education, which is per student financing formula.

Taking into account that during 2010-2018 years a series of reforms have been implemented, such as: school network optimization, transportation of students and teachers to and from school, implementation of inclusive education in the general education (*ensuring access, adaptive materials, support teaching staff, development of individualized educational plan, etc.*),

implementation of various curriculum models, etc., it is necessary to review and adjust the financing formula to better reflect the complexity of the costs of primary and secondary education. MERP project supports the activity to review the financing formula in order to strengthen the efficiency of the system, improve and reflect in more detail the needs of the primary and general secondary education.

2. Objective of the assignment

The objective of the assignment is to assist the international consultant in reviewing and adjusting the current financing formula for primary and general secondary schools.

3. Scope of Work

In order to achieve the objective mentioned above, the local consultant will:

- Facilitate understanding by the international consultant of the current financing methodology and applied Regulations, implemented/used in the primary and general secondary education system in Moldova during 2010-2018 (Government Decision no.612 dated October 30, 2009, Government Decision no.535 dated July 14, 2011, and Government Decision no.868 dated October 08, 2014, with its modifications per GD no.862 dated September 5, 2018).
- Submit to the international consultant all information/calculations on application of the financing formula in the primary and general secondary education at all levels (Ministry of Finance, rayon and school level) from 2010 to 2018, and the planned and executed budget calculated based on financing formula for school.
- Assist the international consultant in 3 documentation visits (one day visits) in Nord, Center and South of the Country. The consultant will assume all expenses necessary for site visits;
- Select and submit for review to the international consultant all necessary legislative and normative acts (Education Code, Budget Law, Law on local public authorities, Decentralization Law, Law on Local Public Finance, Government decision on financing formula and the applied Regulations, etc.).
- Participate in the prior review and analysis of the proposals developed by the international consultant.
- Provide support to the international consultant in simulation of the proposed changes to the formula and to the applied Regulations.
- Assist in organizing different meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education Culture and Research (MoECR), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Local Public Authorities, schools, etc.

- Assist in organizing the information seminar for representatives of the MoECR and the MoF as well as the training seminar for representatives of the local education departments.
- Develop the draft Amendment to the Government Decision no. 868 dated 08.10.2014, with its modifications per GD no.862 dated September 5, 2018;
- Provide support to the MoECR and the MoF in implementation of the adjusted formula at all levels during a year.
- After approval of the changes to the formula, the local consultant with the support of the MoECR will organize and deliver training seminars during a year for representatives of the local education bodies, local/municipal finance departments, school managers and accountants in institutions. The local consultant will contribute in preparation of the presentation and any other related to the seminar materials but the logistical aspects of the training seminars will be covered by the MoECR. A total of 46 territorial seminars will be organized (in Chisinau – 5 seminars, one seminar in each of 26 small rayons and in Balti municipality, and two seminars in each of 7 large rayons including UTA).

4. Expected Outcomes and time schedule

The Local Consultant will submit to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research the following deliverables:

- 1) Monthly progress reports that will include in detail activities carried out, progress and problems faced in the implementation of the assignment, as appropriate.
- 2) Report on organizing 46 training seminars, including Materials (content, list with signatures of trained individuals, agenda of seminar, presentation etc.) developed for the seminars.

All deliverables in Romanian language will be submitted in hard copy and electronically (MS Office, extension doc., A4, Times New Roman, font 12, range 1, margins 2 cm).

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

- (i) General experience (30 points):
 - University degree in the economic field
 - Knowledge and experience in assessing efficiency/cost-efficiency/cost-benefit.
- (ii) Adequacy for Project (50 points):
 - At least 2 years of experience in the area of education, finance and/or management;
 - Experience in developing a financing formula in the area of education would be an asset.
- (iii) Language and Experience (20 points):
 - Analytical skills;
 - Fluency in English and Romanian language, knowledge of Russian languages would be an asset;
 - Computer literacy, experience in working with Microsoft Office program (Word, Excel, Power Point, etc.).

- Ability to work with simulation programs (STATA, SPSS etc.).

6. Duration of the assignment and estimated time input

This consultancy is expected to begin in February 2019 and be completed by April 2020 with the deliverables submitted as follow:

Deliverables	Submission Deadline	Approved by
Progress report	Monthly	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and MERP project coordinator.
The draft Amendment to the Government Decision no. 868 dated 08.10.2014	At 4th month from signing the contract	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
Report on organizing 46 training seminars, including Materials (content, list with signatures of trained individuals, agenda of seminar, presentation etc.) developed for the seminars.	April 2020	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.

7. Reporting requirements

The Consultant will submit to the General Education Department and Institutional Management Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and MERP Project Management Team a monthly progress report reflecting their activity. The report will be developed in Romanian.

8. Institutional Arrangements

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the General Education Department and all the works will be coordinated with this department.

This is a full-time assignment and the Consultant will work full day in the MoECR, adequate equipment and working space will be provided to perform his/her work. The MoECR will provide the Consultant with all Project documents deemed necessary for assignment accomplishment.

The Consultant will be contracted through time-based contract with monthly remuneration.

Confidentiality statement: All data and information received from MoECR for the purpose of this assignment is to be treated confidentially and are only to be used in connection with the execution of these Terms of Reference. All intellectual property rights arising from the execution of these Terms of Reference are assigned to MoECR. The contents of written materials obtained and used in this assignment may not be disclosed to any third parties without the expressed advance written authorization of the MoECR.