EDUCATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT Project

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

**Procurement Reference No.: MD-MOED-388462-CS-INDV**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Local Education Consultant to support Ministry of Education and Research and Project Management Team under Education Quality Improvement Project (EQIP)**

1. **BACKGROUND**

„Education Quality Improvement” Project (EQIP) is a World Bank (hereinafter “the Bank”) - financed Project to be implemented between June 2023 and December 2029.

The total cost of the Project is US$ 59.8million equivalent comprising (i) a non-concessional portion in the amount of EUR36.5 million (US$40 million equivalent), (ii) a concessional portion in the amount of US$10 million under the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) on a non-reimbursable basis (Loan No. IBRD 9536-MD), (iii) a grant in the amount of US$5 million from the Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund (TF0C1507) and (iv) a grant in the amount of US$4.8 million from the Global Partnership for Education Fund (TF0C1484).

The project development objectives are to: (i) improve the learning environment in Participating Institutions, with an emphasis on supporting Disadvantaged Students; and (ii) strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Research for sector management and refugee response. The Project is organized around four components and its objectives will be achieved through improved teacher practices, a learning recovery program for disadvantaged students, an improved learning environment in targeted schools and preschools, and the development of the institutional capacity to design, implement and evaluate education reforms and refugee response interventions. The proposed Contingent Emergency Response Component under fourth part will support the country’s future response in the event of a natural or manmade disaster or emergency.

The EQIP components are described below:

1. *Component 1* - Improve Quality of Teaching Practices. This component aims to (i) improve the quality of teaching; (ii) develop, pilot, and implement a rapid formative assessment, a Learning Recovery Program, and a supplemental tutoring for Disadvantaged Students; and (iii) develop School Subprojects through the provision of School Grants to support in-service teacher professional development opportunities.
2. *Component 2* ­– Improve the Quality of Learning Environment in Participating Institutions. This component aims to improve the learning environment of Participating Institutions through (i) equipping Participating Institutions with furniture and equipment; (ii) carrying out civil works for the rehabilitation of Participating Institutions and Selected ECEC Facilities; and (iii) construction of three (3) high schools in Priority Areas.
3. *Component 3* – Strengthening the Capacity for Education Sector Management and Refugee Response. This component would support (i) improvement in planning, management, and evaluation of education reforms and (ii) Project Management.
4. *Component 4* ***–*** Contingent Emergency Response. This component will provide immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, as needed, in case a natural or man-made disaster or emergency arises.

The Ministry of Education and Research (MoER) would be responsible for overall Project implementation, while the National Office for Regional and Local Development (NORLD) would implement activities related to civil works.

In this context, an Education Consultant will be hired to assist and provide technical support to the MoER (relevant Divisions and Departments involved in the Project implementation), National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC), National Agency for Curriculum and Evaluation (NACE) and Project management team in order to enhance their capacity for smooth project implementation.

1. **OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objectives of the consultancy are to provide technical support and assist the Ministry of Education and Research and related agencies/units with the overall project implementation, as well as to maintain continuous and efficient communication with and between all the mentioned stakeholders.

1. **SCOPE OF WORK**

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

* Provide support to the MoER on the reforms initiated in the educational sector, analyze educational data to inform policy and program decisions; provide expert advice on education best practices and innovations;
* Contribute to the policy documents and collaborate with MoER departments and other stakeholders to draft methodologies, and other relevant documents related to education reforms;
* Ensure continuous communication with and between MoER’s departments and divisions involved in project implementation, ANACEC, NACE, and Project management team, as well as support interactions, as appropriate, with the World Bank team on project activities;
* Facilitate stakeholder engagement and capacity-building activities;
* Review from technical perspective and contribute to the existing draft project documentation, and review and improve the new ones, including the terms of reference, according to Project’s implementation plan, Procurement Plan as well as MoER, ANACEC and NACE’s requirements and needs;
* Assist MoER, ANACEC, NACE and Project management team in technical evaluation of the received expression of interests for individual and firm selection in line with the qualification requirements;
* Provide assistance and support the Project management team in drafting the reports and information notes for upward transmission to the Project Executive Director and the World Bank, as appropriate;
* Present information and reports to stakeholders and decision-makers;
* Monitor and evaluate the tasks and deliverables of the contracted individuals and firms according to terms of reference and to provide comments and suggestions, as appropriate;
* Assist the Project Management Team with the monitoring of project indicators, as defined in the Project Operations Manual.
1. **DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The consultant shall prepare monthly reports on all activities performed and should be subject to approval of EQIP Executive Director. The Consultant will report to Project Executive Director and Project Coordinator.

1. **DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This is a part-time assignment (subject to 4 hours per day) expected to begin in November 2023. The contract will be signed for a period of 12 months. Subject to Consultant’s satisfactory performance, the contract may be renewed until the Closing Date of the project on December 31, 2029.

1. **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Consultant should meet the following minimum requirements**:**

* A university degree in education, management or administration area. A Master’s degree will be and asset;
* In-depth knowledge of Moldovan education sector, good knowledge of the latest education reforms and policies in Moldova;
* At least five years of working experience in education related projects;
* Proven experience in development and review of the education project documents;
* Work experience with World Bank-supported or other international projects will be an advantage.
* Fluent in Romanian and English (both oral and written);
* Demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, ability to work in teams, communicating with all team members.
1. **CONFIDENTIALLY STATEMENT**

All data and information received from MoER 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 MoER. 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 MoER.