

MOLDOVA EDUCATION REFORM PROJECT (MERP)
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND RESEARCH

TERMS OF REFERENCES

**Local education consultant to support Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and
Project management team under Moldova Education Reform Project (MERP)**

1. BACKGROUND

„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 support 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.

The objective of the Project is to improve learning conditions in targeted schools and strengthen the Recipient’s education monitoring systems, while 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 AF would allow 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”.

Component C has the objective to finance Technical Assistance (TA) for the MoECR to support the implementation, monitoring and measurement of the MERP. Under component C, the World Bank offers technical assistance to help the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of Moldova in the achievement of the project activities, through making available global knowledge and technical expertise.

In this context, an education consultant to be hired will assist and provide technical support to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (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 smoother project implementation.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

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

3. SCOPE OF WORK

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

- To ensure continuous communication within and between MoECR's departments and divisions involved in project implementation, National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research, National Agency for Curriculum and Evaluation and Project management team as well as interactions, as appropriate, with the World Bank team related to all the Project activities;
- To be responsible for reviewing the existing draft Terms of References (ToRs) and for reviewing and improvement of the new ToRs related to selection of individual consultants and firms, according to Project's implementation plan, Procurement Plan as well as MoECR, ANACEC and NACE's requirements and needs;
- To assist MoECR, ANACEC, NACE and Project management team in technical evaluation of the received expression of interests toward individual and firms selection according to qualification requirements;
- To provide assistance and support to Project management team for drafting the reports and info notes in order to submit to the Project Executive Director and the World Bank, as appropriate;
- To monitor and evaluate the tasks and deliverables of the contracted individuals and firms according to developed Terms of References and to provide comments and suggestions, as appropriate;
- To assist the Project Management Team with the monitoring of project indicators, as defined in the Project Operations Manual;
- To act as a contact person between the MoECR, ANACEC, NACE and Consultants (individuals and firms) during their assignment implementation.

4. DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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

5. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This is a part-time assignment (subject to 4 hours per day) expected to begin in March 2019. 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 June 30, 2020.

6. 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 an 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 of Terms of References;
- 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.