

Terms of Reference
International Consultant to review per capita financing formula and, as needed, introduce adjustments

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 priority 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 review and adjust the current financing formula for primary and general secondary educational institutions.

3. Scope of Work

In order to achieve the objectives mentioned above, the international consultant will:

- analyze and review the new 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 nr.868 dated October 08, 2014, with its modifications per GD no.862 dated September 5, 2018);
- analyze and review the legislation in force (Education Code, Budget Law, Law on local public authorities, Decentralization Law, Law on Local Public Finance, Quality standards for primary and secondary general education institutions, Standards of minimal endowment of study rooms at school subjects in general education institutions, etc.);
- pay 3 documentation visits (one day visits) in Nord, Center and South of the Country to communicate with local education department, school managers, Local Public Authority (LPA) representatives. Discussions with school managers will take place at the same working session with the heads of local education departments. The consultant will assume all expenses necessary for site visits;
- discuss with the MoECR and MoF representatives;
- develop and propose for review to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the minimum 2 proposals for adjustment of the existing formula;
- make the necessary calculations and will determine the additional financial needs for implementing the proposed adjustments in order to strengthen the efficiency of the system;
- develop key indicators that will allow the MoECR and MoF to monitor and evaluate the performance of the revised formula;
- simulate the proposed changes and demonstrate how it will work, its results and benefits for all schools who are financing by formula. The results of the simulations will be presented in a report. Also, the excel file with simulated data will be attached;
- determine the necessary changes in legislative acts, indicating the list of legislative acts that need to be amended;
- develop proposals to amend the Government Decision no. 868 dated 08.10.2014;
- assist the national consultant in developing the draft amendment to the Government Decision no. 868 dated 08.10.2014;
- deliver training to the MoECR and MoF's representatives on the adjusted formula and its application at different levels, in a seminar organized by MoECR;
- after developing formula adjustments, the consultant will deliver training in a one-day seminar in Chisinau to 35 representatives of the local education departments on the adjusted formula and its application at different levels. The seminar will be organized by MoECR.

4. Deliverables

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

- 1) Proposals for adjusting the formula, including the results of interviews and analysis of de facto situation.
- 2) The report that will include at least the following:
 - the additional financial needs for implementing the revised formula;
 - the results of simulations and the excel file with the simulated data;
 - the list of legislative acts that need to be amended;
 - the key indicators that will allow the MoECR and MoF to monitor and evaluate the performance of the revised formula.
- 3) The draft amendment to the Government Decision no. 868 dated 08.10.2014
- 4) Materials (content) developed for the seminar for representatives of the MoECR and the MoF on the adjusted formula and its application at different levels.
- 5) Materials (content, list with signatures of trained individuals, agenda of seminar, presentation etc.) developed for the one-day seminar in Chisinau for 35 representatives of the local education departments on the adjusted formula and its application at different levels
- 6) Monthly progress reports that will include in detail activities carried out, progress and problems faced in the implementation of the assignment.

All deliverables in English language will be submitted in hard copy and electronically (MS Office, extension doc., A4, Times New Roman, font 12, range 1, margins 2 cm), and will be approved by the MoECR within 10 days upon submission.

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

(i) General experience (30 points):

- University degree in economic field;
- At least 2 years of experience in the World Bank or other international institutions/organizations projects in the area of education.
- Proven experience with review of regulations governing education financing, including per capita financing.

(ii) Adequacy for Project (50 points):

- At least 3 years of experience in the area of education, finance and management, in development of financing formula at international level (preferably in new EU members countries or Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries);
- Knowledge and experience in assessing efficiency/cost-efficiency/cost-benefit.

(iii) Language and Experience (20 points):

- Excellent knowledge of English language;
- Knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian language would be an advantage;
- Experience with Microsoft Office package (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 2019. Consultant will spend at least 1/3 of the time in Moldova, with the deliverables submitted as follow:

Deliverables	Submission Deadline	Approved by
Monthly progress reports	Monthly	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and MERP Team
Proposals for adjusting the formula, including indicators to monitor and evaluate the formula	4 weeks from signing the contract	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.
The report that will include at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the additional financial needs for implementing the revised formula;- the results of simulations and the excel file with the simulated data;- the list of legislative acts that need to be amended;- the key indicators that will allow the MoECR and MoF to monitor and evaluate the performance of the revised formula.	10 weeks from signing the contract	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.
Materials (content) developed for the seminar for representatives of the MoECR and the MoF on the adjusted formula and its application at different levels.	12 weeks from signing the contract	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.
Materials (content, list with signatures of trained individuals, agenda of seminar, presentation etc.) developed for the one-day seminar in Chisinau for 35 representatives of the local education departments on the adjusted formula and its application at different levels	12 weeks from signing the contract	General Education Department of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research.

7. Reporting requirements

The Consultant will submit to the General Education Department and the Institutional Management Department of the MoECR and MERP Project Management Team a monthly progress report reflecting their activity. The report will be developed in English language.

8. Institutional Arrangements

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the General Education Department of the MoECR and all the works will be coordinated with this department, at the same time the consultant will collaborate with the Ministry of Finance and National Consultant.

Work space will be provided to the consultant in the MoECR.

The MoECR will provide the Consultant with all Project documents deemed necessary for assignment accomplishment. Additionally, the MoECR will provide the consultant with:

- List of places (rayons) to visit
- List of schools to visit
- whatever is needed for the 2 seminars to take place

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.