

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MED) KOSOVO DIGITAL ECONOMY (KODE) PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION) FOR

BENEFICIARY SURVEYS AND FOCUS GROUPS PERTAINING TO SUBCOMPONENTS 1.1, 2.1 AND 2.2 OF THE KODE PROJECT.

Country: Kosovo

Project: Kosovo Digital Economy (KODE)

Assignment Title: Beneficiary surveys and focus groups pertaining to subcomponents 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2 of the KODE Project

Ref No. KODE/CS/3.2.4/2019

Project ID. P164188

Loan No.: 6285-XK

Issued on: July 30, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Kosovo has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) (hereinafter ‘the Bank’) for a Kosovo Digital Economy (KODE) Project in the amount of 20,7 million EUR. The KODE Project aims to improve access to better quality and high-speed broadband services in project areas and to online knowledge sources, services and labour markets among citizens, and public and academic institutions.

It is foreseen that the Project will achieve its development objective through two main sets of activities: (1) expanding access of Kosovars to high-speed and better quality digital infrastructure; and (2) support Kosovars to take advantage of regional and global Digital Economy (DE) opportunities, especially for income generation, usage of services, and learning, thus triggering the growth of a DE in Kosovo.

The Project is structured along three components: (1) Digital Inclusion, (2) Digital Work and Empowerment, and (3) Project Implementation Support. Two substance components of the Project are outlined below.

Component 1: Digital Inclusion component will support digital inclusion through: (1.1) the expansion of digital connectivity through the co-financing of deployment of high-speed broadband connectivity in areas that have been identified as not connected or underserved, and (1.2) improving of the enabling environment for wireless broadband services, through the deployment of the National Spectrum Monitoring System (NSMS).

Component 2: Digital Work and Empowerment will support the Youth Online and Upward (YOU) Program and increased access to knowledge, information and online services through subcomponents: (2.1) Youth Online and Upward (YOU) Program; and (2.2) Increasing Access to Knowledge, Information, and Services, consisting of:

(a) Provision of support to (i) set up a National Research and Education Network (NREN) to improve access of students, researchers and educators of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in Kosovo to knowledge, research networks and (ii) connect NREN to the GÉANT network.

(b) Provision of support to increase use of online labour market information and services to improve information flows about work opportunities, through targeted awareness raising and information sharing activities in underserved or unconnected areas identified in Subcomponent 1.1 of the Project.

The assignment concerns the implementation of the Subcomponent (1.1) of Component 1 of the Project and Subcomponents (2.1.) and (2.2 a and b) of Component 2 of the Project.

The KODE is implemented by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) that provides strategic direction and technical oversight to the entire Project. MED oversees the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector development and executes this mandate through the Department of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology (the Department), which for the purposes of the Project will act as the lead implementing agency and will carry the primary responsibility for all Components of the Project.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) assignment is threefold.

The **first objective** is to help Project Implementation Unit (PIU-KODE) collect data on key Project results indicators

The **second objective** is to estimate the impact of the KODE Project on household welfare by applying rigorous quantitative research methods, while leveraging the collected data under the first objective and any other types of secondary source data (e.g. from Kosovo Agency of Statistics/KAS)

The **third objective** is to provide the PIU with the actionable data and data analysis for more effective monitoring of the execution of activities in the field

Interested Consultants should offer a team composed with the following expertise:

The Consultant should be a consulting firm with relevant project experience. The work should be undertaken by a consulting team consisting of experts.

Required Qualifications for the Firm

The selected Firm must possess the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience in household surveys – the firm must have knowledge of local formalities and customs in the implementation of household surveys. Experience in data collection in rural Kosovo is obligatory, evidenced by a portfolio of successfully completed data collection and analysis projects;
- Demonstrated capacity and experience in planning and organizing survey and focus group logistics, understanding and experience in customer satisfaction measurement, as well as experience in the quantitative and qualitative research relevant to this assignment;
- Demonstrated capacity to engage with public institutions, national and local authorities;

- The firm must have access to a good network of experienced enumerators, supervisors and data managers speaking local languages (Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish, Romani, etc.).
- Strong system for data quality control checks that can be accessible by the PIU-KODE / MED / the World Bank without any restriction;
- Excellent project management skills, ability to meet tight deadlines;
- Experience working with government or international donors; practical knowledge of administrative, monitoring and reporting procedures used under the IDA/World Bank-financed projects is an advantage;

The evaluation and shortlisting criteria are:

- (i) General qualifications to REOI (30%),
- (ii) Relevant experience with similar assignments (50%) and
- (iii) Organization and availability of staff with the firm (20%).

The selection of Consultants will be carried out in accordance with the requirements in the Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Goods, Works, Non-Consulting Services and Consulting Services dated July 1, 2016; ‘Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants’ revised as of July 1, 2016;

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant’s qualifications based selection (CQS) as set out in the Consultant’s Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours: 09:00 to 16:00 (Monday to Friday).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (one hard copy) to the address below by August 13, 2019 at 16:00 hours Kosovo time.

Ministry of Economic Development

1st floor, office no. 107

”Mother Theresa” street, no. 36

10000, Prishtine - Kosova

E-mail: mzhe.tik@rks-gov.net