

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE)

Kosovo Digital Economy Project (KODE)

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

CONSULTING SERVICES TO MINISTRY OF ECONOMY (MEE) AND ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF ELECTRONIC POSTAL COMMUNICATION (ARKEP) ON DIGITAL AGENDA, MARKET ANALYSIS AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

Country: Kosovo

Project: Kosovo Digital Economy (KODE)

Assignment Title: Consultancy Company for MEE and ARKEP

Ref No. KODE/CS/1.1.2/2020

Project ID. P164188

Loan No.: 6285-XK

Issued on: December 14, 2020

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 a) Youth Online and Upward (YOU) Program and b) Increasing access to knowledge, information and online services.

The assignment concern the implementation of the Subcomponent (1.1) of Component 1 of the Project.

The KODE is implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE) that provides strategic direction and technical oversight to the entire Project. MEE 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 objectives of consulting services are:

- (1) To review the implementation of the current and preparation of the new Digital Agenda for Kosovo and Action plan (final client – The Ministry)
- (2) Conduct Market analysis of market nr. 3 listed in annex of EC Recommendation on Relevant Product and Service markets within the electronic communications sector (C (2014) 7174) respectively 3a) Wholesale local access provided at a fixed location and 3b) Wholesale central access provided at a fixed location for mass-market market (final client – ARKEP)
- (3) Preparation of the draft regulations on Open Access, Dispute resolution and Market analysis regulation / methodology (final client – ARKEP)

Detailed TOR you can find in the following address: www.kodeproject.org

Required Qualifications for the Firm

The selected Consultancy must possess the following qualifications:

- a. Demonstrated experience in design and delivery of similar type of consultancy services as evidenced by the relevant experiences, and qualifications.
- b. Demonstrated experience to engage with private sector, public institutions, national and local authorities.
- c. Good understanding of digital economy development dynamics, in Kosovo and in EU.
- d. Demonstrated experience in drafting, supporting electronic communications bylaws;
- e. Experience working on international donor-financed projects, manifested by practical knowledge of administrative, monitoring and reporting procedures used under the IDA/World Bank-financed projects is an advantage;
- f. Excellent project management skills, including quality assurance of work products; ability to deliver high-quality outputs in a high-pressure multicultural environment; and
- g. Excellent command of English, with the ability to deliver high-quality report writing, presentation, and communication skills, with experience in communicating and engaging with high-level decision makers in the public and private sectors.
- h. Individual experts with at least 7 years' of experience in the following fields directly related to the assignment: ICT sector policy/strategies and EU *aquis* for the electronic communications.

The evaluation and shortlisting criteria are:

- (i) General qualifications to TOR (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, revised Nov 2017.

The level of efforts (LOE) is estimated at 14 person-months. The assignment will begin on January 2021 and be completed by end of August 2021.

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

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

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 **by e-mail** to the address below by **December 29, 2020** at 16:00 hours Kosovo time.

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