

## REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA

### MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT (MEE) KOSOVO DIGITAL ECONOMY (KODE) PROJECT

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

#### Consulting Services – Local Individual Consultant

**Country:** Kosovo

**Project:** Kosovo Digital Economy (KODE)

**Project ID.** P164188

**Loan No.:** 6285-XK

**Assignment Title:** KREN Infrastructure Network Expert for KODE Project

**Ref No.** KODE/IC/2.2.4.2/2020

**Issued on:** March 8, 2021

#### BACKGROUND

The Government of Kosovo has secured support 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 labor 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:** Digital Inclusion, Digital Work and Empowerment, and Project Implementation Support. Two substance components of the Project are outlined below.

**Component 1: Digital Inclusion** component will support digital inclusion through: (a) 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 (b) 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

Provision of training for young people and their connection to online working opportunities. The activities will primarily cater to unemployed or underemployed young men and women with at

least some knowledge of English and university education to increase their ability to compete in relevant segments of online work using computers and smartphones.

## 2.2 Increasing Access to Knowledge, Information, and Services

Provision of support to (i) set up a *Kosovo Research and Education Network (KREN)* to improve access of students, researches and educators of *Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)* in Kosovo to knowledge, research networks and (ii) connect KREN to the GEANT network. Currently, some important activities related to establishing the physical infrastructure of KREN network are ongoing, i.e. KREN Data Center and dedicated connection with HEIs.

Provision of support to increase use of online labor 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 Component 1 of the Project.

**The present Terms of Reference concern to the subcomponent 2.2 of the Project - Increasing Access to Knowledge, Information, and Services. More specifically, to the management of KREN network infrastructure.**

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The MEE intends to hire an Infrastructure Network Manager for the KODE Project Implementation Unit (PIU) who will be responsible for managing, monitoring and supporting development of KREN network operations in line with the objectives outlined Financing Agreement signed between IDA (World Bank) and the Government of Kosovo and in compliance with the Project Operations Manual (POM). The accomplishment of these activities shall be done in coordination with the Digital Work and Empowerment Coordinator of the Component 2 in a timely, effective, efficient, and results-oriented manner.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

**KREN Infrastructure Network Manager** will participate in all activities related to planning, executing, configuring, managing, developing, supporting and optimizing all new and existing network hardware, software, and communication links and services.

#### **The shortlisted selection criteria are:**

- (i) General qualifications to TOR (30%),
- (ii) Relevant experience with similar assignments (50%) and
- (iii) Languages (20%).

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Bachelor's degree in relevant field (master's degree is preferable) required in the field of Telecommunication, Computer Science or other related academic fields.
- CCNA certified, CCNP certification is preferable.
- At least 4 years of specific experience in managing and configuring enterprise-wide LANs, WANs, WLANs, VPNs, etc. Experience has to be demonstrated through CV and references.

- Strong networking skills.
- Demonstrated Experience of current protocols and standards, including Active Directory, Group Policies, MS Exchange, Core Switching/Routing, SSL/IPSec, Cloud technologies Business Continuity, Disaster Recovery.
- Hands-on experience installing network cabling.
- Hands-on experience troubleshooting hardware such as servers, routers, bridges, switches, hubs, modems, network interface cards, and so on.
- Good understanding of firewall features and technologies.
- Demonstrated experience in Programming/Scripting Languages such as bash, python, go lang etc.
- Good understanding of Cloud infrastructure, products and day-to-day operations;
- Strong interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills, graphical presentation of ideas and data processing concepts.
- Experience working in a team-oriented, collaborative environment with problem-solving tasks and responsibilities.
- Driving license and to be able and willing to travel throughout Kosovo.
- Fluency in Albanian and English. Knowledge of the Serbian language is an advantage.

Ministry of Economy and Environment (MEE)/ Kosovo Digital Economy (KODE) Project, now invites eligible individuals ('consultants') to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should submit their CV accompanied with proof demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The Consultant will be selected using Individual Consultancy procedures in accordance with the *World Bank's Procurement Regulation for Investment Project Financing Borrowers for Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, Revised November 2017.*

**Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) you can find in: <https://kodeproject.org/njoftime-tjera-te-prokurimit/>**

Further information can be obtained at the e-mail address below during office hours – 09.00 to 16.00 hours.

Expressions of interest (CV and related document's) must be delivered by e-mail to the address below, no later than **March 19, 2021 at 16:00 h.**

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