

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY (ME)
KOSOVO DIGITAL ECONOMY (KODE) PROJECT
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Service specialist for KREN

(Ref. No. KODE/IC/2.2.4.a/2022)

BACKGROUND

The Government of Kosovo has secured support from the International Development Association (IDA) (hereinafter ‘the Bank’) for a Kosovo Digital Economy (KODE) Project. 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.

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.

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, professors and educators of ***Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)*** in Kosovo to knowledge, research networks and (ii) connect KREN to the GEANT network.

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.

About KREN

KREN Mission is to empower digital transformation in the research and education community of Kosovo, fosters innovation and develops advanced infrastructure and services.

KREN goals are:

- Advanced information and communication infrastructure
for the academic and research community, including KREN Data Center and private (managed, safe and fast) network infrastructure.
- Platform and Software as service
Improvement of higher education and science as well as work and lives of students, associates, lecturers, and scientists by providing platform and software as service for better collaboration and communication, diverse content, research, LMS platforms and API services.
- Participation and membership into international organizations
Membership and proactive participation in GEANT association and other international research and educational organizations.
- Support and education for KREN community
Establishment of a research & education community, providing support to knowledge dissemination and information exchange.

Other important information about KREN are as follow:

Physical infrastructure:

- From January 2022 KREN has a fully operational Data Center with related infrastructure in ITP Prizren,
- The Data Center is configured as a hybrid cloud infrastructure running on the Azure Stack Hub on-premises platform,
- Azure Stack Hub and Azure cloud are the most important platforms for all other services provided by KREN for HEIs (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS and HaaS),
- KREN use leased fibre dedicated connection with campuses of HEIs. It is a private communication network managed by KREN Network Operation Center,
- KREN has leased capacity connection between KREN Data Centre in Prizren and GEANT PoP (Zagreb).

Membership in International Organizations

- KREN is an Associate Member of the GEANT Association and
- KREN is a member of the RIPE organization.

Membership and communication within Kosovo

- Out of the 20 HEIs, 16 have already signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KREN,
- The Ministry of Economy is providing permanent logistic support to KREN, especially from the ICT Department,

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The KODE/ME intends to hire a **Service specialist for KREN**, hereinafter “the Consultant”, who will participate in activities related to operating KREN Azure Hybrid Cloud infrastructure – VM, hosting services, web apps, IAA platform (Identification Authentication and Authorization), MySQL, storage management and KREN web page management.

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

The Consultant will be responsible for provisioning AZURE Stack and Azure platform solutions according to HEIs needs - implementing various software products and designs, building and deploying internal applications that support internal processes related to KREN operations, working and coordinating activities (with the KREN team) related to daily duties and providing support for KREN strategy in the technical aspect.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal functions of the Consultant will include, but are not limited to:

- Management and implementation of various AZURE software products and designs
- Building and deploying internal applications that support internal business processes related to KREN operations.
- Providing designs and solutions according to HEIs needs and requested solutions for education and collaboration – within AZURE Stack and Azure platform.
- Management and monitoring of Azure Subscriptions and costs.
- Planning, organizing and executing regular backups.
- Deploying VM machines, scaling, creating images, etc.
- Creating hosting and MySQL services on Azure platform.
- Monitor and provide technical support to other staff about existing IAA platform.
- Monitor and manage activities related to EduGAIN service.
- Monitor functioning of existing hosting service of KREN web page, coordinate updates and upgrades with responsible staff.
- Develop, audit and enhance the existing and new processes based on the industrial best practices of the responsible system.

- Supervision of the operation of established systems.
- Follow safety recommendations and upgrades in accordance with recommendations
- Create supportive guides and documentation for KREN staff and HEIs.
- Participate in activities with the internal KREN team in developing long term systems vision, strategy and delivery roadmaps.
- Other duties related to the above-mentioned activities which can be related to the daily work.

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The Consultant will report to and work under the direction of the Digital Work and Empowerment Coordinator of the Component 2. S/he will deliver monthly progress reports on her / his activity and any other ad hoc reporting requirements in coordination with the Project Director and Project Coordinator.

QUALIFICATONS

- Bachelor's degree in relevant field (master's degree is preferable) required in the field of Telecommunications, Computer Science or other related academic fields.
- 3+ years of experience as a system integrator.
- 2+ experience in management of Cloud Services.
- Experience working with Linux operating systems (ubuntu or similar).
- Advantage are – relevant certificates for AAD or other Azure Services as additional proofs for professional experience.
- Skills to communicate and draft various kinds of project documentation and reports.
- Interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills, graphical presentation of ideas and data processing concepts.
- Excellent computer skills (Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Outlook).
- Experience of server infrastructures, storage systems, virtualization technologies.
- Experience of system backups.
- Experience of databases and database management.
- Experience of script environments.
- Experience with one or more general purpose programming languages including but not limited to: Java, C++ or Python.
- 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.
- Independence in work but still with experience in teamwork.
- Strong self-learning, self-initiative and motivational skills.

TERMS OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

- The contract is for an initial period of 1 (one) year with a 3 (three) month probation period, at which time the performance of the consultant shall be evaluated.
- The remuneration will be paid monthly.
- The Consultant will be offered opportunities to develop professionally by attending relevant training events and courses over the duration of the contract.
- KREN infrastructure is unique hybrid cloud infrastructure in Kosovo and in the region, hence the Consultant will have the opportunity to attend various trainings, workshops, technical forums dedicated for HEIs members and KREN staff.
- KREN will organize special and professional trainings for staff to further improve and acquire the necessary knowledge, **especially trainings and certifications related to Azure cloud services**.
- It is required that the Consultant would start with work its position **immediately**.
- The Consultant shall be engaged on a **full-time basis** for the duration of the Project.

SELECTION PROCES

The selection of the Consultant will be carried out 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.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited in the interview.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Place of employment is in Prizren at:

Innovation and Training Park (ITP), Ukë Bytyçi str. 20000 Prizren, (ex KFOR Military Base Camp in Prizren).