

TERMS OF REFERENCES

Job title: Environmental Expert

Reference to the project: LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova

Contract type: Contract of Services Provider

Period of assignment: August, 2020 – July, 2021

1. BACKGROUND

The Project is implemented by the Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova being financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Polish Aid. The Strategic partner is the Ministry of Agriculture Regional Development and Environment.

The Project aim is to contribute to creation of a supportive environment for further functioning of the LEADER approach which ensures sustainable development and modernization of Moldovan rural areas.

Our goals:

- To improve the living conditions and increase the attractiveness of rural areas through implementation of the Local Development Strategies (LDSs) and empowering the Local Action Groups (LAGs) as community-led local development actors;
- To strengthen the capacities of LAGs through increasing the role of the National LEADER Network in providing technical assistance and mentoring for LAGs, as well as in stimulating innovative solutions for rural development;
- To ensure a dialogue with the national stakeholders on designing, implementing and monitoring rural development policies;
- To ensure visibility and experience exchange of the implementation of the EU-LEADER approach in Moldova at both national and international levels;
- To create role-models of managing innovative instruments for sustainable rural development by LAGs.

Financial instruments for 2020:

- EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund will finance LAGs for the implementation of LDSs with a budget of approx. 40.000,00 EUR per grant, for max. 12 months. Total budget: 800.000,00 EUR;
- EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives will finance flagship rural development projects based on LEADER principles to be implemented by local rural stakeholders – with a budget of approx. 25,000 EUR per project, for max. 12 months. Total budget: 200.000,00 EUR;
- LEADER Partnership Fund will finance partnership initiatives and projects aimed at experience sharing among LAGs and common local and regional initiatives, including participation of Moldovan LAGs in transnational LEADER projects. Total budget: 40.000,00 EUR.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE SERVICES

The purpose of the consultancy is to support LEADER approach for rural prosperity in Moldova project implementation team and supported beneficiaries (up to 12 within the EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund and up to 23 LAGs within EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund).

The Environmental Expert will review and assess local development projects that are part of the project Funds, conduct additional data collection when needed to identify the possible environmental impact and fulfil the Environmental Review Checklists for each hard-component within the projects, ensuring

the compliance of projects with the national normative framework, thus ensuring efficient use of resources.

On the pre-contractual phase with the beneficiaries the Consultant will advise the project team and the beneficiaries on the best applicable solutions and will come with a set of recommendations for each project.

In particular:

- Identify, evaluate and put in evidence the direct and indirect effect of planned activity on population, fauna, flora, soil, subsoil, air, water, climate and landscape, material goods and cultural heritage.
- Based on the research and assessment results, identify potential negative effects of the proposed interventions and propose solutions to avoid or minimize the identified risks, specifically for construction of new buildings/objects, extension, reconstruction, modernization, reshaping, conservation, demolition or liquidation of some buildings/objects, as well as for use of natural or mineral resources;
- Assessment of need for a special permission for implementation of planned activity, as: environmental agreement, ecological expertise act, environmental authorization for special use of water, authorization for construction, authorization for revocation, change the meaning of construction and settlements, others and guidance of beneficiary on how to get it;
- Elaborate a document for each beneficiaries (up to 12 within the EU-LEADER Flagship Initiatives Fund and up to 23 LAGs within EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund) with clear recommendations/ instructions for ensuring environmental sustainability in all the activities (to be used by the projects coordinators and beneficiaries);
- Provide professional guidance for projects that need the environmental impact assessment evaluation when needed;
- Provide trainings for beneficiaries on good environmental practices and specific recommendations for each sub-project;
- Monitoring and post-implementation evaluation of the projects in terms of compliance with the issued recommendations and instructions;
- Applying and respecting the environmental rules based on the donors framework;
- Elaboration of activities reports.

3. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The environmental expert should have education and knowledge in environmental engineering/science/law. Experience in implementing or assisting community development projects will be a strong advantage.

In particular:

- Education: University Degree in environment, engineering, and/or other relevant area;
- Extensive experience in monitoring/examining/supporting small-scale infrastructure from the environmental point of view;
- In depth knowledge of national legislation pertaining to the environmental standards;
- Language skills: excellent command of written and spoken Romanian and Russian;
- Computer proficiency, including knowledge of MS Office products;
- High level of responsibility and organization capacities;
- Excellent communication and reporting skills;
- Ability to meet deadlines and prioritize multiple tasks;
- Capacity to communicate efficiently with different stakeholders (civil society, government authorities, local communities, project staff);
- Experience within community development programs and good command of English would be an advantage;

- Experience in working with EuropeAid projects would be a strong advantage.

4. KEY ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected deliverables in the given period are:

- Environmental Review Checklists elaborated;
- Instructions for Funds beneficiaries;
- At least 4 trainings on good environmental practices provided for beneficiaries;
- Monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects;
- Report on undertaken activities.

The timeframe for the delivery of each activity/output shall be coordinated and agreed in advance with the Project coordinator from Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, and other implementation partners.

5. BENEFITS OF THE ROLE

- An excellent opportunity to get involved in small-scale development projects and to directly influence ongoing local processes
- You will understand the concept and principles of the rural development LEADER approach, a widely used methodology in the European Union, gaining an increasing popularity in Moldova
- You will meet and communicate with people from different regions in the center and north of the country (public, civic and business sectors)
- You will be a part of a young, energetic team of enthusiastic people
- You will have the possibility to work on other community/ local development projects implemented by Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova in the future

The environmental expert will work under the supervision of the Project coordinators from Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova and will work in close cooperation with LAG managers and implementation partners.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application shall be sent by e-mail to hr@solidarityfund.md with the subject line – *Environmental expert LEADER-UE*, no later than, **August 04, 2020** and shall contain:

- CV in English, Romanian or Russian;
- Price offer.