

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
COMPETITIVENESS AND JOBS PROJECT
Loan No. 8528 YF**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR INNOVATION-BASED
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ref. 1A.1.9)**

Republic of Serbia was granted a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to improve the competitiveness and employment toward the cost of the Competitiveness and Jobs Project (Project) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for individual consultancy services under this Project.

Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia (PPS) needs to engage (contract) **one Research Assistant for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship**.

Background

The main goal of the Project is to improve the efficiency and coordination of selected public programs to mitigate the constraints for competitiveness and job creation, including investment and export promotion, innovation, active labour market programs, employment mediation and activation of users of social assistance. The Project incorporates three ministries — the Ministry of Economy (plus its development agencies), Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and the Public Policy Secretariat (PPS) in implementation and piloting of the policy planning, monitoring and coordination (PPMC) System. Through the PPMC System, the three Ministries' and participating agencies, with leadership and support from the PPS, will set performance targets on competitiveness and jobs, monitor and evaluate progress, conduct analysis, and contribute to policy development in the Republic of Serbia. The Project is expected to lead to better designed and better coordinated policies, since it is anticipated that, through piloting the PPMC System, they will become part of a clear, strategic framework with a robust monitoring and evaluation system. The central institution responsible for coordination of the Project is the PPS, with the assistance of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) established in PPS, as a technical coordination unit of the Project. The PPS will lead the implementation of the PPMC System, and coordinate the gathering and processing of the results of the monitoring, reporting, fiduciary functions and safeguard procedures, in close cooperation with the institutions participating in the project.

Objective of the Assignment

Government of the Republic of Serbia and The World Bank Group have agreed to form a Support Team to accelerate key initiatives, reforms, and investments to support Serbia's innovators and entrepreneurs. They have recognized that the crucial role of Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship as key drivers of growth.

Since the range of innovations from start-ups to reforms of government administration requires multi-sector approach, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has formed the Government Council in charge of Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship and ICT. Its role is to coordinate and monitor efforts of different ministries to unleash the creative power of Serbia's entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as a driver for increasing innovation capacity, creating jobs, generating wealth, and transforming the economy for growth in a globalizing world. Research is the basis for knowledge and new technologies, and the transfer of this knowledge to the market is a vital backbone for developing innovation capacities and entrepreneurship. Serbia has the opportunity to put Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship to work as a driver of growth and high-value jobs. The Support Team is intended to be the expert team providing the Government Council primarily with adequate analysis, initiatives and implementation support for policy changes.

The objectives of this Support Team are to:

- 1) Gather and analyze information on trends and opportunities for Serbia in the sphere of innovation-based entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on the ICT sector and digitization of established industries;

- 2) Develop a plan of actions for a series of rapid policy reforms and investments that can spur Innovation-based Entrepreneurship;
- 3) Outline 3-5 top medium term reforms/policy initiatives that the team could support over the mandate of the government;
- 4) Develop a results-based evaluation framework to track the impact of and adjust the policy reform process as necessary;
- 5) Support implementation of the identified reforms.

The envisioned Support Team will include one Team Lead for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship, one Expert for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship and one Research Assistant for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship that will support under the guidance of the PPS capacity building and promotion of activities, which is expected to lead to better designed and better coordinated policies. This will be achieved through implementation of result based management, with focus on performance and results, their measurement, evaluation, and accountability as tools for achieving more efficient and effective resource utilization. This principle is already used in this Project and spread through the Governments management of the implementation of the plan of actions for the Implementation of Government Programme coordinated and monitored by PPS.

Scope of work

- In close coordination with the Expert for Innovation Based Entrepreneurship, support the Team Lead for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship in creating map of the existing initiatives in innovation-based entrepreneurship, the key stakeholders and their roles;
- Create future innovation-based entrepreneurship online platform upon mapping of the existing initiatives. Purpose of the online platform is to provide comprehensive and up-to-date information about Serbia innovation ecosystem, its elements and current initiatives;
- Collect and process data needed for all analyses conducted by the Support team.
- Assist in identification of the key gaps, both in terms of specific policies, and in terms of coordination and implementation gaps;
- Participate in preparation of documents which will contain plan of actions for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship which implementation will be monitored by the Government Council in charge of Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship and ICT. This plan of actions needs to address identified coordination and implementation gaps in the system in order to develop knowledge based economy;
- Provide technical support for the Government Council in charge of Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship and ICT;
- Under guidance of the Team Lead for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship, support lectures on innovation processes, innovation capacity building activities, and/or design thinking;
- Manage public events organized within the scope of Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship promotion;
- In cooperation with PPS, participate in data collection needed for coordination and monitoring of implementation of plan of actions for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship;
- Assist in coordination of efforts of different stakeholders, both from the public and private sector, to implement plan of actions;
- Take part in preparation of Inter-Ministerial Working Body (IMWB) meetings and monitor and participate in the reforms planned by the project and other strategic documents in these field and above all Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Serbia 2016-2020;
- Support key stakeholders to maximize raising awareness effects in order to mobilize strategic and operational support for the technological development and its position in the national economy;
- Support Team Lead for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship and Expert for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship in dissemination of good practices related to the support of the innovative projects with high market potential and improvement of the innovation ecosystem.

Experience and Qualifications

The Candidates will be evaluated with following criteria:

General qualifications: 10

- Postgraduate academic or professional degree (master's degree, specialist academic degree, or specialist professional degree), or graduate degree awarded following the completion of a course of study of at least four years' duration;

Adequacy for the project and experience: 70

- At least three years of relevant professional experience;
- Significant experience in research and data collection;

Language and communication: 20

- Good spoken and written Serbian and English;
- Excellent communication, computer and teamwork skills

Timing and Duration

The Research Assistant for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship will be engaged on full time basis for the initial period of 6 months. Based on the Project needs, the Contract with the Research Assistant for Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship may be extended. The maximum duration of the assignment/Contract could be until June 30, 2019.

The Project Implementation Unit within the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia will administer the Contract with the selected consultant. The Public Policy Secretariat now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services.

The individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011 Revised July 2014](#)

Interested and eligible individual consultants for this position should send Expression of Interest, together with information on relevant experience and CV in English, by e-mail (with the exact title of the position in the "Subject" of the e-mail) to the contact information listed below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered by **April 03, 2017, 12:00 Noon, local time.**

Contact:

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