



TERMS OF REFERENCES

Environmental expert

Job title: Environmental expert(s)

Organization: Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova

Reference project: Moldova Rural LEADER Project

Type of the contract: Service contract

Period of the contract: Aug 2021 – Dec 2022

Deadline for applications: 16th of August 2021

CONTEXT

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

The Project aims to contribute, in cooperation with Local Action Groups (LAGs), to rural development in the country by improving the competitiveness and living conditions in rural communities and consolidating capacities of the LEADER approach implementation in the country.

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 2021:

1. EU-LEADER Rural Development Fund 2.0 will finance 28 LAGs for the implementation of LDSs with a total budget of approx. 20.000.000,00 MDL;
2. EU-LEADER Inception Fund focused on creation of 16 new LAGs and transition of the LEADER methodology to the National LEADER Network;
3. EU-LEADER Innovators Fund aiming at piloting innovative instruments for local development to be implemented through LAGs;

THE PURPOSE OF THE SERVICES

The purpose of the consultancy is to support Moldova Rural LEADER Project implementation team and its beneficiaries.

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, the Environmental and Social Management Framework of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova, and the environmental protection rules of USAID, 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.

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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;
- Assess the need for a special permission for implementation of planned activities, as: environmental agreement, ecological expertise act, environmental authorization for special use of water, authorization for construction, authorization for revocation, change the destination of construction and settlements, etc., and guide the beneficiaries on how to obtain it;
- Elaborate a document for each beneficiary with clear recommendations/ instructions for ensuring environmental sustainability in all the activities (to be used by the projects coordinators and beneficiaries);
- Provide trainings for beneficiaries on good environmental practices and specific recommendations for each sub-project;
- Monitor and evaluate the projects in the post-implementation phase in terms of compliance with the issued recommendations and instructions;
- Apply and respect the environmental rules based on the donors framework;
- Elaborate activities/field visits reports.

Key activities and expected outputs

The expected deliverables in the given period are:

- Environmental Review Checklists elaborated;
- Instructions for Funds beneficiaries;
- At least 2 trainings on good environmental practices provided to beneficiaries;
- Monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects;
- Reports 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.

BENEFITS OF THE ROLE:

- Competitive salary (incl. tax coverage);
- Flexibility to organise the activities;
- Excellent opportunity to learn and develop professional abilities in a dynamic and diverse environment;
- Possibility to extend the contract or to join other activities of Solidarity Fund PL in Moldova.

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 environmental related fields, engineering, and/or other relevant areas;
- Extensive experience in monitoring/examining/supporting small and medium 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 tools;
- 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 USAID projects would be a strong advantage.

SELECTION PROCESS

The submitted applications will be assessed within a 2-stages evaluation process:

Stage 1: Compliance Check

At this stage, a *review* of formal requirements will be conducted. It includes screening of the application on the basis of ToR and checking the completion of all application components (CV, Salary requirements). The Administrative check is executed by the Evaluation Team Leader.

Stage 2: Evaluation of the full Application

A team of minimum 3 evaluators will carry out the assessment of the application's components against the criteria included in the Evaluation Form.

The criteria for selection process are following:

- Relevant background including the minimum professional qualifications and skills listed above (highest possible score – 60);
- Reasonable price (highest possible score – 40).

Assessment under the criterion „price” will be based on the following formula:

$P = P_{min} / P_{of} \times 30$ points, where:

P_{min} - the lowest proposed price

P_{of} – price presented in the examined offer

P – the number of points awarded to the examined offer under the price criterion, rounded to the full number.

Each evaluation team member will conduct the evaluation individually. After the assessment, the average score obtained by each candidate will be calculated. The candidates who will accumulate the minimum required score for admission to the next stage, will be invited to the interview and given a practical test.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application shall be sent by e-mail to hr@solidarityfund.md, with the subject line "Environmental Expert", not later than **16th of August 2021, 09:00 EEST time** and shall contain:

- CV in Europass format;
- An intent letter (of 500 words max.), in which you will briefly describe your relevant experience, as well as your motivation to have this job;
- Salary requirements.

In case of questions, please contact our representative at the following email anatolie.pirlii@solidarityfund.md.

** Only selected candidates will be invited to the interview.*

** The personal data will be processed by Solidarity Fund PL for the employment purposes only. The data will not be sent to third parties without the preliminary agreement of the persons that entrusted us with their data.*