

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for Consulting Services (Individual Consultant)

International Cooperation Specialist

Contract No. MOES-C3-05-SUP-IC-08

Ukraine Improving Higher Education for Results Project

World Bank Loan No. 9238-UA

I.BACKGROUND

Ukraine and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD; the World Bank) have signed Loan Agreement No. 9238-UA in the amount of US\$200 million for the Project 'Ukraine: Improving Higher Education for Results' (hereinafter referred to as the Project). The Project is implemented in Ukraine by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MoES) with the support of the World Bank Group. The Project implementation period is 2021-2026.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve efficiency, quality conditions, and transparency in Ukraine's higher education system.

The Project includes six Parts:

- Part 1: Sector-Wide Improvements to Governance, Financing, Quality, and Transparency;
- Part 2: Alliances/Partnerships for Improved Efficiency and Quality;
- Part 3: Capacity Building and Education Environment Enhancement;
- Part 4: Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Part 5: Support to Academic Scholarships under MOES and Social Scholarships under MOSP for Higher Education Students
- Part 6: Contingent Emergency Response (CERC)

The Project supports two categories of expenditures: (i) traditional investments in goods, works, and services, for which disbursements are made against eligible expenditures, and (ii) defined performance-based conditions (PBCs), for which disbursements are also made against eligible expenditures conditional on the achievement of the PBCs as defined in the Loan Agreement and Project Operational Manual.

As a requirement of the Loan Agreement, MoES established a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to conduct day-to-day Project management and coordination in disbursement, procurement, financial management, compliance with environmental and social standards, reporting, and other Project-related activities. In order to ensure efficient implementation of the Project, MoES shall engage individual consultants for the PIU.

More detailed information is given at the link

<https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P171050>.

The Consultant will be contracted through competitive selection in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, November 2020. This Terms of References defines the purpose, scope, and duration of consulting services and the qualification requirements for the Consultant.

II.OBJECTIVE

This assignment aims to support MoES in enhancing international cooperation efforts to improve the higher education sector as part of the Ukraine Improving Higher Education for Results Project.

III.SCOPE OF SERVICES

The International Cooperation Specialist will be supporting the Project, designed to enhance the education sector and achieve the PDO. This role involves aligning international partnerships with Ukraine's higher education needs, ensuring all activities support the PDO. The Consultant will coordinate and collaborate with international partners, align project activities with global best practices for MoES, and facilitate the successful implementation of all project components. Key responsibilities include monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of activities, with a particular focus on partnerships and capacity building in Parts 2 and 3 of the UIHERP, building alliances and partnerships for improved efficiency and quality under Part 2; supporting project management, monitoring, and evaluation under Part 4; and collaborating on academic and social scholarships for higher education students under Part 5. The Consultant will also ensure aligning the search for international partnerships with the needs of Ukraine in the higher education sector and maximizing the impact and success of the overall initiative.

The Scope of services to be provided by the Consultant shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Aligning partnerships with the specific needs of Ukraine's higher education sector focusing on expanding student mobility, primarily within Europe, while also exploring opportunities in Asia.
- Tracking project's progress and evaluating the impact of project activities.
- Ensuring clear and consistent communication with international partners and preparing detailed reports on international cooperation activities.
- Actively engaging with key stakeholders to foster collaboration and support across project initiatives.
- Promoting academic mobility for teachers and scientists through collaborations with institutions in the EU, USA, Canada, and Great Britain.
- Facilitating online cooperation, particularly through joint courses with open universities.
- Facilitating the development and twinning of joint educational programs between Ukrainian and international institutions.
- Assisting in developing and executing joint projects under international initiatives such as Erasmus+ and Horizon.
- Executing other assignments and tasks related to project implementation within the scope of competence at the request of the Project Coordinator(s) or Project Manager - Lead of a group of consultants.

IV. REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the Project Coordinator(s) and Project Manager - Lead of the group of consultants, and act under the supervision of the Project Coordinator(s) / Project manager – Lead of the group of consultants.

The Consultant shall submit monthly reports in hard copy. The reports shall include a description of the Consultant's services during the reporting period.

V. PROVIDED RESOURCES

MoES shall provide the Consultant with the information necessary to carry out the assignment in a timely manner. MoES may provide the Consultant with a workplace, including necessary equipment to carry out the functions (e.g. PC, communications and office equipment).

VI. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements (mandatory):

- Higher degree in International Relations, Education, Public Administration, or a related field;
- At least 3 years of professional experience in international cooperation, project management, or a similar role;
- Proven track record of working with international organizations, and donors;
- Ability to drive project implementation, including monitoring and evaluating the impact of activities, and experience in preparing detailed reports and documentation for international cooperation activities.
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills, with the ability to engage effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Fluency in English and Ukrainian (both written and spoken).
- Strong analytical and problem-solving abilities, particularly in aligning project activities with international best practices.
- Proficient in using project management software and tools, as well as standard office applications (e.g., Microsoft Office).

Desirable qualifications and competencies which provide the advantage:

- Experience in cooperation with state institutions.
- Strong understanding of global education trends and the specific challenges facing Ukraine's higher education sector.
- Experience in leading and participating in international academic/research collaboration and partnership with foreign universities, especially European universities.

The MoES may invite the best-qualified candidates to an interview to clarify information provided in the respective CVs.

VII. PERIOD AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The Consultant shall provide his/her services until December 31, 2025, with the possibility of extending the contract. MoES will conduct annual performance reviews.

The Consultant is expected to provide the services based on the full-time workload. The Employer and the Consultant may negotiate other workloads at any time, given the actual scope of the assignment.

The services can be rendered remotely with mandatory presence upon request to be in the premises of MoES.

Particular contract and work mode modalities are subject to negotiations.

VIII. APPLICATION PACKAGE

Interested persons should submit their CVs in Ukrainian and English at the following email address: oleksandr.radchenko@uiherp.org Cc: serhiy.artemenko@uiherp.org and indicating the email subject: «P171050: MOES-C3-05-SUP-IC-08: [NAME]».

The deadline for submission of the documents is 11:00 AM local time on November 19, 2024.

If the Consultant fails to provide CVs in both languages, the Client reserves the right to reject the Consultant's application.