

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for Consulting Services (Individual Consultant)

Specialist in Ukraine's Integration into OECD Membership (Science Sector)

Contract №. MOES-C3-05-SUP-IC-11-R

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, conditions for quality, and transparency in the higher education system of Ukraine.

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.

More detailed information is given at the link <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P171050>

The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in 2022 significantly impacted Ukraine's economy and all its sectors, including education and science. As a result of the military actions on our territory, approximately 15% of the scientific infrastructure was damaged, and about 10% of scientists were forced to relocate. About half of the scientist-migrants left Ukraine. Some higher education institutions were forced to relocate to safer regions of the country (from Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kherson regions) along with their staff.

Until 2022, Ukraine's government spending on science support accounted for only 0.14-0.17% of GDP, significantly lower than the European average and ten times less than the level specified by the Law of Ukraine on Scientific and Scientific-Technical Activities. This underfunding also impacted the quality of higher education, disrupting the vital link between higher education and science.

The MoES is currently facing the challenging task of rebuilding Ukraine's scientific infrastructure, preserving human capital, and, in particular, bringing back Ukrainian scientists from other countries. Preserving the scientific sector is critically important for Ukraine's future, as it forms the foundation for restoring the country's human capital and economy.

A key decision for the restoration of scientific activity is strengthening cooperation with foreign donors, programs, and international technical assistance projects. Ukraine's accession to the legal instruments of the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will provide higher education institutions with access to OECD standards and recommendations on effective science, innovation, and research management, thereby enhancing the quality of educational and scientific programs. This impacts the outcomes of Parts 2 and 3 of the Project, which are designed to assist selected higher education institutions in improving the scientific and educational environment by providing research equipment to the chosen universities.

The MoES is now seeking advisory support to develop the foundation for the restoration and development of science and research in Ukrainian higher education institutions.

The Consultant will be contracted through competitive selection in line with Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Sep 2023. This Terms of References defines the purpose, Scope and duration of consulting services and qualification requirements for the Consultant.

II. OBJECTIVE

This assignment aims to assist the MoES in harmonizing national legislation in the fields of science, research, and innovation with the legal frameworks of the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as implementing international research safety standards. The goal of this activity is to enhance the international competitiveness of Ukrainian science in higher education institutions and research organizations.

III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

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

- Review of key European Union legal acts in the fields of science, research, and innovation for 2023-2025 and providing proposals for their implementation into Ukrainian legislation;
- Conducting an analysis of national legislation for compliance with the provisions of the European Commission Recommendation "On Enhancing Research Safety" (C/2024/3510 of May 23, 2024), taking into account the research safety recommendations from the OECD Research Safety Portal;
- Conducting an analysis of the experience of EU member states in implementing the provisions of the European Commission Recommendation "On Enhancing Research Safety" (C/2024/3510 of May 23, 2024) and monitoring their implementation by the relevant entities; preparing proposals for the implementation of the provisions of this recommendation into Ukrainian legislation, as well as proposals for further monitoring of its execution by entities engaged in scientific, scientific-technical, and innovation activities;
- Conducting an analysis of best practices in the development of research and innovation in European Union countries (application of open innovation platforms, text and data repositories, open access platforms) and preparing recommendations for their implementation into national practice. Identifying donors and preparing accompanying documentation for projects;
- Strengthening interaction with the OECD in the scientific field by continuously updating information about Ukraine's initiatives on the OECD and EC joint initiative portal, STIP Compass;
- Evaluation of opportunities for joining the legal instruments of the OECD in the field of science and technology policy, making relevant proposals, and preparing applications for joining the specified legal instruments of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP OECD), as well as supporting the process of accession;
- Dissemination of information about the opportunities provided to Ukraine through active involvement in the activities of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy and its supporting bodies;
- Proposing amendments to Ukraine's regulatory and legal acts as a result of joining the legal instruments of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy;
- Supporting the implementation of UIHERP, including the adoption of OECD standards and recommendations for effective science, innovation, and research management;
- Execution of other assignments and activities related to the project implementation within his/her competence upon request of the Project Coordinator(s), Deputy Minister for higher education, and the Project Manager - Lead of a group of consultants.

IV. REPORTING

The consultant will report to the Project Coordinator, the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine responsible for science and innovation, and will act under their supervision.

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

V. PROVIDED RESOURCES

The MoES shall provide the Consultant with the information necessary to carry out his/her assignment in a timely manner.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements (mandatory):

- At least a Master's degree in Public Administration, Management, or International Law;
- At least 4 years of experience in higher education or science;
- Proficiency in English;
- Proficiency in Ukrainian;
- Advanced PC user with knowledge and practical skills in using modern software tools, including working with databases

Desirable qualifications and competencies that provide the advantage:

- Experience in collaborating with Ukrainian and international government bodies, organizations, and non-governmental organizations;
- Experience working on donor-funded or international organization projects;
- Experience in legislative work.

The MoES may invite the most qualified candidates for an interview to clarify the information provided in the respective resumes.

VII. PERIOD AND LOCATION

The Consultant shall provide his/her services until December 31, 2026 with the possibility to extend the contract.

The Consultant shall provide services on a full-time basis.

The services are planned to be rendered in Kyiv, Ukraine.

It is expected that the Consultant may provide the Services remotely with mandatory presence upon request to be in the premises of MoES.

The terms of the contract and working conditions are subject to negotiation.

VIII. APPLICATION PACKAGE

Interested persons should submit their CVs in Ukrainian and English at the following email addresses: oleksandr.radchenko@uiherp.org Cc: serhiy.artemenko@uiherp.org indicating the email subject: «P171050: MOES-C3-05-SUP-IC-11-R: [NAME]».

The deadline for submission of the documents is 11:00 local time on August 12, 2025.

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