

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for Consulting Services (Individual Consultant)

Specialist for Development and Management of Research Infrastructure

Contract No. MOES-C3-05-SUP-IC-05
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 components:

- 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 the economy of Ukraine and all sectors of Ukraine, including education and science. As a result of military actions on our territory, about 15% of the research infrastructure was damaged, about 10% of researchers were forced to change their place of residence. About half of the scientist migrants left the territory of Ukraine. Part of the higher education institutions were forced to move to safer regions of the country (from Zaporizhia, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson regions) together with their staff.

The expenditures of the state budget of Ukraine for the support of the science until 2022 amounted to 0.14-0.17% of GDP, which is an order of magnitude lower than the average European level and 10 times less than stipulated by the Law of Ukraine on scientific and scientific-technical activity. This also impacted the quality of higher education by disaggregating the essential link between higher education and science.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine now is facing a difficult task of restoring the research infrastructure of Ukraine, preserving human capital, and in particular, returning Ukrainian scientists from other countries.

The preservation of the scientific domain is crucial for Ukraine's future, as the basis for rebuilding the country's human capital and economy.

The key solution for restoring the research activities is the intensification of the collaboration with foreign donors, programs, and international technical assistance projects.

Parts 2 and 3 of the Project are designed to help selected HEIs in improving the research and education environment by providing research equipment to the selected universities.

The Ministry of Education and Science now seeks for consulting assistance towards developing the basis for restoration and development of science and research in Ukrainian higher education institution.

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

II. OBJECTIVE

This task is designed to assist the MoES in enhancing international collaboration, managing transformation, and facilitating the preparation of regulatory acts and other documents in the sector of science. These efforts aim to foster cooperation with international partners for the revival and advancement of scientific research within higher education institutions as an essential part of the quality higher education.

III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Scope of services to be provided by the Consultant shall cover the following key directions and includes but is not limited to:

- Conducting an analysis of the current opportunities to engage higher education institutions in scientific collaborations aimed at enhancing international scientific and technical partnerships.
- Identifying the obstacles and gaps that prevent Ukrainian scientists from successfully formulating project proposals within international competitive procedures.
- Assisting the MoES in facilitating consultations and negotiations with potential international partners to restore Ukraine's research infrastructure, particularly in HEIs.
- Supporting the MoES in securing international technical assistance to develop the scientific sector, particularly focusing on the potential for conducting research within Ukraine.

- Analyze the acts of European legislation in the field of the development of science in institutions of higher education in order to develop proposals for their adaptation to the Ukrainian legislation ;
- Providing consultations on the development of regulatory frameworks as part of Ukraine's integration into the EU, and implementing the corresponding regulatory base in the field of science.
- Contributing to and assisting in disseminating information on the scientific research funding information system to be modernized within the UIHERP project.
- Assisting MoES in reviewing the HEIs proposals related to research equipment to be purchased to the selected HEIs within the UIHERP project.
- Contribute to the communication campaign prompting the revival of Ukrainian science and research.
- Undertaking additional tasks and activities related to the project implementation within their competence, as requested by the Project (Co)Coordinator(s), Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine responsible for Science and Innovation, and the Project Manager - Lead of a group of consultants.

IV. REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the Project (Co)Coordinator, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine responsible for Science and Innovation and Project Manager - Lead of a group of consultants and 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.

V. PROVIDED RESOURCES

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

VI. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum requirements (mandatory):

- At least a Master's Degree in a similar to the assignment field;
- At least 3 years of work experience in higher education or scientific research sectors;
- Fluency in English;
- Fluency in Ukrainian;
- Advanced PC user, knowledge and practical skills in using Microsoft Office (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint) package, email and databases.

Desirable qualifications and competencies which provide the advantage

- Experience in cooperation with Ukrainian and international public authorities, and non-governmental organizations;
- Experience in the projects financed by donors or international organizations;
- Experience in research projects and/or research management;
- Participation in the international research projects;
- Practical knowledge of the current state of higher education in Ukraine and research infrastructure and.

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 to extend the contract and workload.

The Consultant is expected to provide the services based on the full-time workload. The Employer and the Consultant will negotiate workloads, given the actual Scope of the assignment. The services can be partly rendered remotely.

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: uiherp@mon.gov.ua Cc: serhiy.artemenko@uiherp.org and oleksandr.radchenko@uiherp.org indicating the email subject: «P171050: MOES-C3-05-SUP-IC-05: [NAME]».

The deadline for submission of the documents is 11:00 AM local time on May 7, 2024.

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