

# MOLDOVA RURAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

## Terms of Reference

### PROCUREMENT EXPERT

#### A. Introduction and Background

The Republic of Moldova has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Moldova Rural Connectivity Project (MRCP).

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is: (i) to improve climate-resilient road connectivity in selected rural communities; (ii) to enhance road transit through selected border crossings with Romania; and (iii) in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, to respond promptly and effectively to it.

The State Road Administration (SRA or Î.S. "Administrația de Stat a Drumurilor") is the government entity responsible for the road transport network construction, repair and maintenance and, along with the Moldova Customs Service, will be the project implementing entities.

#### B. Project Description

##### 1. Project Components

***Component A: Linking local communities with economic opportunities, EUR 134.85 (IBRD EUR 69.99 million; IDA EUR 5.6 million; GOM EUR 58.78 million)***

***A.1: Climate resilient local road links, EUR 124.60 million (IBRD EUR 60.75 million; IDA EUR 5.60 million; GOM EUR 58.25 million):*** This subcomponent will finance the rehabilitation and upgrading of approximately 95 km of three priority local roads with climate resilient design to improve reliable, all-weather connectivity to markets, schools, health, and other social and economic centers.

***A.2: Community inclusion & accessibility (IBRD EUR 1.85 million):*** This subcomponent will finance: (i) interventions complementary to the road works in (A.1) including those requested by communities along the roads, and (ii) Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) infrastructure along and adjacent to Project roads.<sup>1</sup>

***A.3: Safer roads for Moldova (IBRD EUR 3.69 million):*** This subcomponent will finance: (i) Remediation of road safety "black spots" at up to 6 priority locations.; (ii) Road safety educational and informational campaigns which aim to raise awareness and educate the public about road safety measures and practices.

***A.4: Project Supervision related to A.1, A.2 and A.3 (IBRD EUR 3.71 million):*** This subcomponent finances consultancy services for the supervision of activities in A1, A2 and A.3.

***Component B: Facilitating trade and expanding Solidarity Lanes, EUR 37.98 million (IBRD EUR 18.99 million; GOM EUR 18.99 million)***

This subcomponent will enhance capacity and improve the functionality of the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) between Moldova and Romania. These investments include upgrades to access roads with

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<sup>1</sup> The approach to consider community requested works will be linked to the Project's citizen engagement activities and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Examples of community requested works could include additional sidewalks and others as will be indicated in the Project Operation Manual

climate resilient design and will be complemented by simultaneous modernization investments on the Romanian side of the BCPs that will be implemented by the Romanian Government.

*B.1. Construction and Road access to BCPs (Ungheni) (IBRD EUR 7.42 million; GOM EUR 7.42 million):* A new access road to the BCP will be developed at Ungheni to climate resilient standards and with modern customs processing, weighting, and scanning facilities and truck terminal.

*B.2. Solidarity Lane customs facilitation & BCP upgrades (Giurgiulesti) (IBRD EUR 2.30 million; GOM EUR 2.30 million):* This subcomponent will encompass the following activities: (i) carry out a feasibility study for traffic management; (ii) Expansion of the capacity of the existing parking/waiting facility in Giurgiulesti area and improving basic services such as toilets and water supply points for truckers; (iii) Procurement and installation of scanning equipment and software at the BCP facility; (iv) Supervision services.

*B.3: Road access and modernization of Leuseni/Albita BCP (IBRD EUR 9.26 million; GOM EUR 9.26 million):* This subcomponent will finance the upgrade of the BCP at Leuseni and expansion and improved climate resilience of the access road to the BCP.

*B.3.1 Upgrade of BCP at Leuseni:* The BCP upgrade will take place in two stages. Stage 1: full refurbishment of the existing freight entry facility and the passenger car exit facility; Stage 2: construction of a new freight exit facility. The subcomponent also finances procurement of fixed and mobile customs equipment and consultancy services for feasibility studies, supervision, and monitoring services.

*B.3.2 Access Road to Leuseni BCP:* The works involve: (i) using climate resilient design to widen the existing 1 km two-lane access road to four lanes, in line with the standards of a similar access road on the Romanian side; (ii) consultancy services for feasibility studies, supervision and monitoring services.

**Component C: Building sustainability, delivery capacity and project management support, (IBRD EUR 3.42 million)**

*C.1. Project audit (EUR 0.92 million):* This subcomponent will finance: (i) annual project audits; and (ii) Monitoring consultants for the Design and Build contracts as well as supervision consultants for the remaining civil works under Component A.1.

*C.2: Output and Performance Based Roads Contracting (OPBRC) system; and Road Asset Management System (RAMS) (EUR 0.92 million).* Specific activities include: (i) an assessment of the enabling environment for adopting OPBRC, (ii) develop a strategy and implementation plan to guide its adoption; (iii) the development of a strategy and implementation plan to guide the adoption of OPBRC; (iv) training and capacity building on OPBRC matters.

*C.3. Female internship program (IBRD EUR 0.18 million).* This Sub-component will help promote female employment in the transport sector, where women are underrepresented by designing and implementing jointly with academia a female internship program to open career opportunities in the sector.

*C.4. Incremental operating costs, project management and staff development (IBRD EUR 1.38 million):* This subcomponent will include: (i) consultancy support and (ii) incremental operating costs for each implementing entity.

**Component D: Contingent emergency response (EUR 0 million)**

C This component will enable the reallocation of loan/credit proceeds from other components to provide immediate recovery and reconstruction support following an eligible crisis, as needed.

Details on each activity, under each component, may be found in the Project's Procurement Plan and Project's Appraisal Document.

### C. Scope and Objective

This Terms of Reference (TOR) is for the recruitment of a Procurement Expert who will provide qualified procurement consulting services to the State Road Administration, to ensure timely MRCP implementation and compliance with the Agreements signed with the World Bank, alignment with the World Bank 'Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in IPF of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, dated September 2023, and the national legislation.

The expertise of the selected Procurement expert will be required for the implementation of **Component A: Linking local communities with economic opportunities; Component B: Facilitating trade and expanding Solidarity Lanes** (except for the following sub-components, for which procurement activities will be undertaken by MCS - B.3.1 Upgrade of BCP at Leuseni; B.2. Solidarity Lane customs facilitation & BCP upgrades (Giurgiulesti)); **Component C: Building sustainability, delivery capacity and project management support** and of **Component D: Contingent emergency response** (if the need may arise).

The procurement expert's scope of works will include the following: (i) Management of the overall procurement strategy, planning and schedule of the project activities that have to be implemented by State Road Administration under each Project's Component; (ii) Ensuring compliance with World Bank procurement Regulations; (iii) Ensuring effective Project procurement with due consideration for economy and efficiency; (iv) Ensuring that inputs and feedback from market participants are reflected in the design of Project tender strategies; (v) contract monitoring and management; (vi) elaboration of bidding documents for the Project's procurement activities; (vii) bids' evaluation and advice to other members of the senior project leadership team and tender evaluation committees; etc.

### D. Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinate all activities related to MRCP procurement processes, which are to be undertaken by State Road Administration;
- Develop and update MRCP Procurement Plan;
- Create and amend the electronic version of the procurement plan and conduct procurement activities for goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services in STEP (Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement); The Procurement Plans should be developed, revised, and approved in consultation with the World Bank's Task Team Leader(s) and procurement specialist(s);
- Review and update the Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD);
- Coordinate the procurement activities under the MRCP with the other procurement activities undertaken by SRA's procurement section, when necessary;
- Carry out assigned procurement processes and alert the team if significant delays are identified;
- Undertake all necessary measures for speeding up the procurement processes;
- Contribute to the development of the technical specifications and ToRs with procurement-related substance;
- Provide procurement related advice for project activities the implementation of which is linked to the national procurement or accounting law, when needed;
- Draft tender documentation in accordance with the World Bank Regulations and standard templates;
- Prepare and issue advertisement documentation mandated by the procurement procedures;
- Respond to requests for clarifications, issue and amend bidding documents when necessary;
- Arrange for and properly record the proceedings of the pre-bid meetings;
- Arrange for and properly record the proceedings of public tender openings, prepare and submit minutes of openings to the World Bank;
- Provide procurement related advice to the Evaluation Committee members;

- Elaborate evaluation reports in the format required by the World Bank;
- Arrange and participate in bidders' negotiations and record the agreements reached;
- Prepare the publishing documentation of contract awards and information for the winners of the bids/proposals (legal entities or individual consultants);
- Draft contracts in coordination with the firms/individuals recommended for contract award (legal entities or individual consultants);
- Issue final versions of the agreed contracts to be signed by the parties in accordance with the tender documentation and Regulations. Monitor receipt of signed contracts and contract guarantees;
- Maintain and archive project's procurement documentation files, including electronic archive;
- Prepare procurement reports to be submitted to the World Bank;
- Provide inputs for the Project progress reports on semestrial basis;
- Contribute to MRCP budget disbursement projections (on permanent basis);
- Issue and update MRCP list of budget commitments (on permanent basis);
- Liaise with the World Bank procurement staff and obtain all necessary clearances prior to issuing bidding documents/RFPs or awarding contract;
- Provide input for the revision of the Project Operations Manual (if necessary);
- Participate in the yearly Project Audit, including external audits performed by local control authorities;
- Participate in yearly Procurement Review performed by the World Bank.
- Lead the PIU's due diligence and follow-up efforts relating to any procurement related complaints received;

## **E. Qualifications and Skills**

### **Mandatory requirements:**

- University degree in areas such as economics, finance, law, international relations, or other related fields;
- Knowledge of the World Bank or other IFIs procurement rules and procedures;
- At least seven years of relevant experience in implementing donor-funded projects
- At least seven years of relevant experience in procurement of goods, service and works in accordance with World Bank Procurement framework and Regulations;
- Experience of working with large, multi-sources, international project budgets;
- Excellent knowledge of English language;
- Computer literacy.

### **Possession of the following qualifications would be considered advantage:**

- At least five years of experience in procurement of roads infrastructure projects;
- Good knowledge of the national public procurement legislation
- Trainings in World Bank procurement.
- Knowledge of STEP usage.

## **F. Duration and Location of Employment**

The Procurement Expert will be based in Chisinau, working for State Road Administration, as an individual consultant **on full-time basis** and is expected to dedicate 100% of the working time to the MRC Project. The project has a 5-year duration. The planned duration of service of the Procurement Expert is foreseen to be for 30 months and to start in the second quarter of 2025. The contract is subject

to a probationary period of three months and may be revised subject to satisfactory achievement of initial project goals and satisfactory performance of the consultant.

Client input: The Expert will be provided with working space in the offices of State Road Administration, computer with access to internet and other office essentials as the need may be.

The selection of the Consultant will be conducted in accordance with the World Bank ‘Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in IPF of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, dated September 2023.

The Consultant will report to and work under the direct supervision of the Moldova Rural Connectivity Project’s Project Manager. The Consultant will be part of the MRCP’s PIU, working in tandem with its members.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” Fifth Edition of September 2023 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.