SUMMARY

The consultant will provide field coordination for execution and impact evaluation of broadband expansion and e-commerce development as part of the World Bank-funded Georgia National Innovation Ecosystem (GeNIE) project. The consultant is expected to be based in Tbilisi, Georgia for a one-year period with the possibility of extension. Strong command of written and spoken English and Georgian languages is essential.

BACKGROUND

In Georgia, the World Bank (WB) is financing the Georgian Innovation & Technology Agency (GITA) to increase innovative activities of firms and individuals in Georgia and their participation in the digital economy through the Georgia National Innovation Ecosystem (GeNIE) project. One component of this project, the Broadband-for-Development (BfD) program, is aimed at increasing the use of broadband Internet and e-commerce services among small businesses in Georgia. Given the importance of the program and the shortage of evidence on this type of intervention, the WB and the Government of Georgia have agreed to carry out an Impact Evaluation (IE) during the pilot phase of the BfD program.

The current limited and mixed evidence on the effects of broadband expansion supports the key message of the World Development Report 2016 (WDR16) on Digital Dividends that while access to the internet facilitates development, it does not guarantee it. By testing different interventions to encourage internet and e-commerce adoption, the proposed IE will shed light on the role of complementary activities in securing the development impacts of rapidly expanding ICT infrastructure. More immediately, the Impact Evaluation forms an integral part of the GeNIE project and will provide early evidence to inform the project, and innovation strategy in Georgia as well as other countries in the region.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS CONSULTANCY

The proposed impact evaluation will be carried out in two phases – in the first phase of the study, the IE team will leverage available firm and broadband expansion data to estimate the impact of the historical rollout of broadband internet across Georgia, exploiting the variation in timing of broadband access across different settlements to estimate its impact on firms. In the second phase, the BfD program will be piloted on a subset of the target population of firms, who will be randomly assigned to a control group (that receives no support) and different treatment arms where firms receive interventions that are designed to maximize the adoption of and benefits from e-commerce. Data will be collected on a broad range of outcomes before the start of the study and for 2 years after the interventions to estimate the effects of the program.
The main objective of this consultancy is to support the implementation of impact evaluation of the BfD program described above. The consultant will act as liaison on behalf of the Impact Evaluation team and support the secondary data collection in the first phase of the evaluation. In the second phase of the evaluation, the consultant will act as the liaison, oversee the day-to-day implementation of the interventions and data collection activities and support data collection and analysis. This will include preparing regular progress reports, communicating on a continuous basis with the joint implementation/research team and providing day-to-day support on technical and operational tasks, including but not restricted to those listed below.

The consultant will work under the supervision of Aidan Coville (Economist, DECIE) and Caio Piza (Economist, DECIE), and report to a larger research and operations team including Thomas Haven (Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, GTC03) Siddhartha Raja (Senior ICT Policy Specialist, GPSJB), and other members of the Impact Evaluation and GeNiE project teams.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Act as a liaison between the Impact Evaluation and World Bank project teams, partner government agencies, other local stakeholders, and the data collection firm in support of the Execution and Impact Evaluation of the BfD program.

- Assist in collection, cleaning and collation of secondary data from different sources including but not limited to, the National Statistics office of Georgia (GeoStat), the Ministry of Finance, the Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC) to assist the first phase of the evaluation.

- Support development of the design of the second phase of the impact evaluation and oversee implementation on the ground. This may include supporting the impact evaluation team in identifying the key questions and constraints, relevant outcome indicators and data sources, in order to develop the methodology and data collection plan(s).

- Support the impact evaluation team in developing survey instruments, including pilot testing with field team(s).

- Support the Survey Firm(s) in drafting a field work plan, overseeing the recruitment and training of interviewers.

- Support any in-country capacity building that may be necessary, including training of interviewers or people responsible for implementation.

- Closely monitor implementation, data collection and data entry activities. This may include producing progress reports, managing survey teams, conducting random checks of data collection and interventions and training data entry operators.

- Coordinate daily with impact evaluation team and local counterparts (including the data collection firm and project implementing partners), ensuring that concerns are effectively communicated between parties, flagging emerging issues that may be of potential concern to one or both parties, and ensuring that effective and productive collaboration is maintained.
• Help ensure that targets are met on time, and that all activities are carried out in accordance with the study design.

• Clean and manage datasets, and support preliminary analysis of data. This may include reviewing data, cleaning data, carrying out consistency checks, merging, and preliminary analysis.

• Support with the writing of project reports and policy memos, and other dissemination activities and materials.

• Perform tasks related to execution and evaluation of the BFD program.

• Be based in Tbilisi, Georgia for the duration of the consultancy.

SELECTION CRITERIA

• Master’s level degree(s) or equivalent in relevant field, such as economics, statistics, or public policy.

• Excellent communication skills in English and Georgian, particularly in reading and creating research protocols, research papers and descriptive reports for diverse audience. (Fluency in Georgian essential.)

• Training in statistics and strong analytical skills, knowledge of Stata preferred.

• Strong management and organizational skills.

• Flexibility, ability to work independently.

• Experience conducting field research or in impact evaluations in developing countries highly desirable.

• Experience managing high-level relationships with government agencies and partner organizations highly desirable.

• Prior experience working in Georgia preferred.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Relevant outputs will be delivered throughout the duration of the consultancy as agreed with IE team, and may include the following:

• Data from partner agencies.

• Survey instrument(s).

• Field work plan.

• Training material.

• Survey firm monitoring report(s).
• Cleaned and usable dataset(s).
• Reports, memos and presentations.

This consultancy will initially run for one year, starting in June 2016 with the possibility of extension.

PAYMENT

The assignment will be remunerated upon delivery of the agreed outputs, at the agreed fee rate and the agreed number of days of professional fees chargeable, as per the normal procedures of the World Bank. All operational travel costs outside of Tbilisi will be covered by the project.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a short cover letter and CV (both in English) via the World Bank eConsultant webpage for selection number 1219128, accessible via the link below. The deadline for submission is May 23, 2016.

Electronic Submissions through World Bank Group eConsultant2: Assignment Title: 1219128 - Georgia - Field Coordinator for Impact Evaluation on the Broadband for Development Program


Please note that only submissions via the eConsultant system will be entertained.