1. Summary

The short-term consultant will work as a research officer for at least two projects and provide ad hoc support for similar projects.

The consultant will work on a mutually agreed research program that contributes to the objectives of the ieConnect program and will be supporting the implementation of impact evaluations, throughout the different phases of the process, including the conceptualization of the study design, the elaboration and approval of the concept note, the data collection plan, the analysis of data, the supervision of field activities and the elaboration of reports. The projects to be handled will be selected following the successful submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) at a workshop that will take place in Marrakesh from December 3 to 6, 2019. The consultant will actively participate to the workshop and is expected to facilitate the process and activities to design an impact evaluation in the transport sector.

We seek candidates who are undertaking policy-relevant, cutting-edge research in the area of development economics, trade and/or transportation. Knowledge of econometric analysis, geospatial analysis and/or big data and experience in economic geography is necessary.

This is a short-term consultancy for 150 non-consecutive days. The position will be based in Washington D.C., with travel to project countries. The start date is ideally November 18th, 2019, with some flexibility, and with potential for working flexible hours. The STC contract can be extended based on performance and project successful submission and development. This STC contract will provide candidates with the chance to parallelly keep working on their own research projects and present them at DIME seminars if wished.

2. Background

This research activity is being jointly implemented by the Development Economics Impact Evaluation (DEICE) group and the Transport Global Practice (GP). DEICE is a unit of the World Bank’s Development Research Group whose purpose is to increase the use of impact evaluation (IE) in the design and implementation of public policy, and to develop institutional capacity for evidence-based policy. This project falls within the ieConnect for Impact program, a joint initiative between DEICE and the Transport GP, which focuses on impact evaluations that can help to provide transformative evidence and analysis for the transport sector.

The consultant will mainly support and co-lead impact evaluations, which will be selected from a Workshop which will take place in Marrakesh from 3 to 6 December 2019.
In addition, the consultant is expected to provide substantial support in the design of original research projects on transport, gender, urban mobility, corridors and rural roads. The consultant will co-author any academic papers to which they substantively contribute.

3. Tasks: Management of the Research Cycle, Fund Raising, Grants Management and Reporting

- Impact evaluation preparation and planning through active participation to the Workshop
- Co-lead the design and implementation of the projects
- Co-lead the development of the relevant Expression of Interest and concept note documents
- Co-Lead and supervise data collection and management
- Co-Lead the recruitment of the impact evaluation team
- Co-Lead the production of technical and academic papers, policy briefs, presentations or other impact evaluation written products
- Maintain an oversight of budget availability and burn-rates for all data collection activities

4. Requirements

The consultant should present the following qualifications:
- Excellent academic qualifications, including a PhD in economics or relevant disciplines; Candidates holding a Master's degree and with a substantial experience in leading impact evaluations will equally be considered.
- At least 2 years of working experience in designing and running an impact evaluation;
- Demonstrated project management skills;
- Experience working on a research project, both independently and as part of a larger research team.
- Experience managing budgets;
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Advanced programming skills in Stata or R, and Python.
- Excellent team management skills;
- Ability to work independently and manage people remotely;
- Excellent communication and drafting skills for effective reporting;
- Ability to operate in a multi-cultural environment requiring flexibility;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English is required. Reading and writing knowledge of French is desirable but not required.

5. Reporting

The consultant will report to the ieConnect team. The consultant will interact with other team members of DIME and the rest of the World Bank research and operations teams.

6. Compensation, Duration and Logistical Arrangements
The consultant will be remunerated according to World Bank scales. The duration of the contract is for 150 non-consecutive days starting in November 2019, which could be extended based on performance and project development. Ideally, the STC should be able to perform most of the work based in Washington, DC (World Bank HQ), but arrangements for working remotely are possible.

7. Data Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

The consultant agrees to handle all data in a strictly confidential manner. Any material created in the fulfillment of this contract, including documents, data, copyrights, patents, trademarks, or other proprietary rights in and to the work will fall under the exclusive ownership of the World Bank Group. This material may not be disclosed publicly or to third parties without the prior written consent of the World Bank Group. Furthermore, disclosure of information must be in line with any data sharing agreements between the World Bank Group and its clients or partners, and with the data sharing policies of the World Bank Group.

8. Application Procedure

Interested candidates should apply through this form by November 15th 2019, with the subject “Research Officer”. We will be interviewing candidates as they send their application and may make the hiring decision before this deadline if we find a suitable candidate.