Short Term Consultant Assignment

Supporting Innovation in Romanian Catching up Regions and Regulatory Impact Assessment (Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice)

BACKGROUND

The World Bank Group (WBG) is an international financial institution, committed to helping countries around the world end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity in a sustainable manner. The World Bank Group’s Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice (FCI GP) combines expertise in the financial sector with expertise in private sector development to foster private-sector led growth and help create markets in client countries. Through this work, FCI strengthens the World Bank Group’s evolving approach to development finance: to maximize finance for development and to leverage private sector investments for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Terms of Reference

Supporting Innovation in Romanian Catching Up Regions - Background

The objective of this project is to build institutional capacity of Romanian catching-up regions to design and implement regional Innovation & Entrepreneurship support programs based on international practices. The project started in Sep 2019 and will be implemented in a period of two years.

Three targeted innovation and entrepreneurship programs are most relevant for firms and research organizations in the regions: (1) Research Valorization Program (RVP); (2) Structured Research Contract Program (SRCP); and (3) Proof-of-Concept Program.

Piloting these programs serves three complementary goals: (a) building regional capacity to design and deploy such programs, (b) testing the effectiveness of such programs in Romania, and (c) increasing the pipeline of innovative projects, including both early stage projects (building a pipeline of projects eligible for financial support in the next EU programming period 2021-2027) and more mature projects that demonstrate viability for valorization.

The project is structured in two project components:

**Component 1: Piloting of the RVP and the SRCP in the North-East and North-West regions.** This component aims to build the capacity of the NE and the NW regions by providing technical assistance and on-the-job training on the design and piloting of the Research Valorization and Structured Research Contract Programs.

**Component 2: Piloting of the Proof-of-Concept Program in all the regions.** This component aims to build the regions’ capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate the Proof-of-Concept Program. 10
million EUR funding has been earmarked from the ROP as downstream funding for financing the grant schemes under the Proof of Concept Program.

Regulatory Impact Assessment Program - Background

The objective of the RIA III RAS program is to strengthen the Regulatory Impact Assessment quality control and coordination mechanism as well as the capacity of the Romanian administration for evidence-based policy making. In order to achieve this objective, the project will work on the institutionalization of the RIA quality control oversight mechanism and continue to support capacity building through the development of impact assessment studies in selected institutions. More specifically the program will continue supporting the efforts of the General Secretariat of Government to institutionalize RIA in the decision-making process through the following activities:

The first component of the project will focus on strengthening the quality control mechanism for RIA by preparing a Comparative analysis of institutional arrangements for RIA institutional setup of quality control mechanism. The analysis will present good international practice, identify feasible options and recommendations for a possible RIA quality control setup in Romania and propose operational procedures for RIA quality control and coordination. This will then be disseminated and presented to the decision makers and RIA community of practice.

The second component will focus on capacity building for RIA. This will include a set of general RIA training sessions as well as more targeted training on RIA quantification tools and emerging topics in policy making (e.g. using behavioral insights in policy making, using artificial intelligence, regulating disruptive technology...).

The third component will aim at developing selected Regulatory Impact Assessments in priority areas. Three in-depth RIA studies will be developed on priority regulations relevant for the government legislative agenda. In addition, on-the-job training will be provided in developing 6 substantiation notes by applying RIA principles. In these on-the-job RIA’s the new approach will be to work on developing a simplified RIA model that will serve to demonstrate that the RIA process can bring significant impact and improve the quality of policy decisions even if not accompanies by complex cost benefit analysis.

The fourth and final component will focus on strengthening the RIA community of practice. To further reinforce this community, the project will support the organization of 3 annual RIA conferences and two State of RIA Annual Reports. The project will facilitate the on-line interaction of the Community and help develop networks with universities and think tanks. The project will also develop branding and outreach strategy for the community of practice, including brochures and promotional material.

Scope of work

The objective of the assignment is to contribute to the implementation activities for the two programs.

The consultant is expected to:
1. Perform data analysis, and carry out independent research pertaining the two programs;
2. Contribute to the writing reports, aide memoires, and other documents as projects’ needs;
3. Maintain relationships with the local stakeholder; join mission and participate actively in discussion to best inform project activities;
4. Support the organization of missions in Bucharest and in the regions;
5. Strengthening the capacity of the regional authorities in the implementation of innovation and entrepreneurship programs
6. Support the organization of innovation and Regulatory Impact Assessment training sessions.

Terms of Contract

- The assignment is up to 50 consultant days from April 22, 2019 until June 30, 2019 with the possibility of extending it to the next Fiscal Year (July 1, 2019, June 30, 2020);
- The Consultant will report to Andrea Dall’Olio (Lead Financial Sector Economist, World Bank Group) – TTL of the “Supporting Innovation in the Romanian Catching Up Regions” project and Andreja Marusic (Senior Private Sector Specialist, World Bank Group) – TTL of the “Regulatory Impact Assessment” project;
- The consultant is expected to work in collaboration with the World Bank Team related to the task in Bucharest and Washington (DC);
- The consultant is expected to work from the World Bank Bucharest Office and to join mission in the regions and to work.

Required qualifications

The Consultant will have the following minimum qualifications:

- Graduate degree in economics/business administration/public finance/economics/financial or a similar degree;
- At least 5 years of professional experience in in regulatory reform, public policy related to innovation, capacity building of central and regional authorities;
- Strong research skills, expertise in statistical analysis and data collection;
- Demonstrated experience in participating in working with the public organizations, including in technical assistance projects to the public sector;
- Good communication, negotiation, and writing skills;
- Self-reliant, able to work without supervision, highly motivated, organized, and demonstrating sound professional judgement;
- Fluency in English and Romanian.

Please send your CV to amarusic@ifc.org and gmoldoveanu@worldbank.org by April 15, 2019.