



OPEN CALL FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

Terms of Reference: Expert on EU Regulation on Education and Training of Doctors of Medicine (specialisations included)

Contracting Authority: Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat

Starting Date: 12th March 2019

Reporting to: RCC Secretariat / Senior Expert on Smart Growth

Duration: 12th March 2019 – 25th July 2019 (maximum 30 working days)

Application Deadline 6th March 2019

Eligible: Individual consultant/ respective consulting companies or individual consultants within bidding consortia.

Reference Number: 003-019

I BACKGROUND

Purpose

The purpose of the assignment is to support the implementation of the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area (hereinafter: MAP) endorsed at the Leader's Summit in July 2017 in Trieste, Italy, by providing expertise on the EU regulation on education and training of Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations in Medicine, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC during the negotiation process on the Draft Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications of Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers (hereinafter: the Agreement).

The specific purpose of the assignment is the following: (1) carry out comparison of the existing education and training programmes for Doctors of Medicine, including

specialisations, in the Western Balkan Six with the EU regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC; (2) provide expertise, clarifications and information on the education and training requirements, standards and regulation for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC during the negotiation meetings and in writing via e-mail between the negotiation meetings.

Background information

The leaders of the Western Balkans Six have recognised the importance of removing obstacles to recognition of professional qualifications under the Mobility pillar of the Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area (hereinafter: MAP). The actions on the recognition of professional qualifications outlined in the MAP build on the priorities outlined in the South East Europe 2020 Strategy and the work carried out by the joint CEFFTA, ERI SEE and RCC Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (hereinafter: JWG MRPQ).

At the last meeting of the JWG MRPQ held on 7th May 2018 the participants confirmed the text of the Recommendation on opening of negotiations on mutual recognition agreement of professional qualifications for doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers. The Recommendation specifies the framework of the negotiations based on which the respective governments have already undertaken internal governmental procedure to adopt the negotiation platform and appoint the negotiating teams. Most of the governments completed their internal governmental procedures and appointed negotiating teams. Following the information on the appointment of the negotiating teams the RCC convened the first meeting of the lead negotiators on 8th October 2018 where agreement was reached on the negotiations plan. The plan includes a commitment to complete the negotiations by the next Western Balkans Leaders' Summit which is to take place in early July 2019 in Poland.

Following the plan the 1st and 2nd negotiation meetings took place in December 2018 and January 2019 in Podgorica and Skopje respectively. Until June the negotiation meetings are to take place once a month with a possibility of convening additional meetings.

II DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Objectives and scope of the assignment

The main objectives of the assignment are:

- 1) carry out comparison of the existing education and training programmes for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, in the Western Balkan Six with the EU regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC;
- (2) provide expertise, clarifications and information on the education and training requirements, standards and regulation for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC during the negotiation meetings and in writing via e-mail between the negotiation meetings.

The expert will attend all negotiation meetings **between March and June 2019** (exact dates to be confirmed) to provide advice, guidance and clarifications on the education and training requirements, standards and regulation for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC to the members of the negotiating teams.

In addition, throughout the assignment clarification and advice will be provided to the negotiating teams in writing or verbally at their request and at the meetings of the negotiating teams, as well as to the RCC Secretariat.

Tasks

- Carry out a comparison of the existing education and training programmes for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, in the Western Balkan Six with the EU regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC;
- Attend all required negotiation meetings from **March to June 2019** (dates to be confirmed) to provide advice, guidance and clarifications on regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC;
- Provide clarification and advice to the negotiating teams and RCC Secretariat in writing or verbally at their request and at the meetings of the negotiating teams within

5 working days of the request, as well as to the RCC Secretariat between March and June 2019.

The envisioned level of effort is estimated at a maximum of 30 days of expert/s input.

The Expert will report to the Senior Expert on Smart Growth at the Regional Cooperation Council.

Deliverables

- Report and a presentation on the comparison of the existing education and training programmes for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, in the Western Balkan Six with the EU regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC;
- Participation in scheduled negotiation meetings from **March to June 2019** (dates to be confirmed) to provide advice, guidance and clarifications on the education and training for Doctors of Medicine, including specialisations, as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC;
- Provision of advice to the negotiating teams and RCC Secretariat in writing or verbally at their request and at the meetings of the negotiating teams within 5 working days of the request, between March and June 2019.

Timeframe

The total duration of the engagement will be five months, starting on 12th March and finishing by 25th July 2019.

DELIVERABLE	DEADLINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance in scheduled negotiation meetings on the Draft Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications of Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Architects and Civil Engineers	March - June 2019 (meeting in March 14th to 17th)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic presentation on the comparison of the existing education and training programmes for Doctors of Medicine,	March 2019

including specialisations, in the Western Balkan Six with the EU regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report and a presentation on the comparison of the existing education and training programmes, including specialisations, for Doctors of Medicine in the Western Balkan Six with the EU regulation on education and training for Doctors of Medicine as set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC 	1st April 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of advice to the negotiating teams and RCC Secretariat in writing or verbally at their request and at the meetings of the negotiating teams within 5 working days of the request, between March and June 2019 	Within 5 days from the meeting from March to June 2019

III COMPETENCIES

RCC is looking for a Doctor of Medicine and/or with a specialisation in any field of Medicine, with a preference given to those with experience in development of University programmes for Doctors of Medicine and/or specialisations in line with the regulations set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC. Advantage will be given to those who also have experience in carrying out recognition procedures for Doctors of Medicine, including those with specialisations, from EU Member States in line with the procedures set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC.

Qualifications

Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ University degree in Medicine
Experience:	<p>Qualifications required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Experience of working on development of University programmes for Doctors of Medicine and/or specialisations in line with the regulations set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC;▪ Experience in carrying out recognition procedures for Doctors of Medicine, including those with specialisations, from EU Member States in line with the procedures set out in the Directive 2005/36/EC and amended by Directive 2013/55/EC will be considered an advantage;▪ Proven communication and presentation skills and ability to work and provide clarifications, advice and guidance on legal aspects of international agreements in an environment requiring liaison and collaboration with multiple actors including government representatives, universities and other stakeholders.
Language requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fluency in English, as the official language of the RCC;▪ Knowledge of other RCC languages is an advantage.
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Familiar with MS Office applications.

Core competencies

- Demonstrates professional competence to meet responsibilities and post requirements and is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results;
- Results-orientation: Plans and produces quality results to meet established goals, generates innovative and practical solutions to challenging situations;

- Communication: Excellent communication skills, including the ability to convey complex concepts and recommendations in a clear and persuasive style tailored to match different audiences;
- Team work: Ability to interact, establish and maintain effective working relations with a culturally diverse team; and
- Client orientation: Ability to establish and maintain productive partnerships with regional and national partners and stakeholders and pro-activeness in identifying the needs of beneficiaries and partners, as well as matching them to appropriate solutions.

Core values

- Demonstrates integrity and fairness by modelling RCC values and ethical standards;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.

IV QUALITY CONTROL

The expert should ensure an internal quality control during the implementing and reporting phase of the assignment.

Quality control by the Regional Cooperation Council

The consultant outputs shall be reviewed by the Regional Cooperation Council taking account of the comments made by the relevant stakeholders, including members of negotiating teams.

V APPLICATION RULES

The application needs to contain the following:

For the individual consultants:

- Letter of interest;
- CV(s) including relevant knowledge and experience;
- Brief concept note describing the main issues, information, data sources, and tools to be employed by the expert as well as approach to the work to be undertaken;
- Reference list including contact details (e-mail addresses) of referees;

- Application Submission Form (Annex 1);
- Financial offer, as per Budget Breakdown (Annex II).

For the companies and consortia:

- Company profile including a brief description (up to 2 pages) of the company. In case of a bidding consortium, the team leader should submit the profile of the consortium;
- Copy of Company's Registration Certificate (in case of consulting companies). In case of a bidding consortium a corresponding written authorisation, power of attorney is accordingly treated;
- Financial records - company's balance sheet and profit-and-loss statement for the past 2 years (only in case of a bidding of consulting companies);
- CV of an expert, outlining relevant knowledge and experience as described in Annex I Terms of References, along with contact details of referees;
- Brief concept note describing the main issues, information, data sources, and tools to be employed by the expert as well as approach to the work to be undertaken, as described in Annex I Terms of Reference;
- List of references for relevant activities implemented over the past 5 years demonstrating relevant experience in the subject matter;
- Service Tender Submission Form (Annex I);
- Financial offer, as per Budget Breakdown (Annex II).
- Signed Statements of Exclusivity and Availability (Annex III);

When preparing the financial offer, the applicant should take into account that the proposed budget should include daily fee rate for consulting services, the fee rates should be broadly consistent with the EU framework rates for these types of professional services for international and national consultants.

Applications need to be submitted by 6th March 2019, by 17:00 Central European Time to the following address ProcurementforRcc@rcc.int

I. EVALUATION RULES

The consultancy will be awarded to the highest qualified bidder based on the relevance of skills and expertise to this assignment.

The applications are evaluated following these criteria:

EVALUATION GRID	Maximum Score
A. Technical Offer (A.1+A.2+A.3)	100

A.1. Work experience, references list: Relevant work experience; evidence of other contracts of the nature comparable to that of the Call; experience with clients comparable to the Contracting Authority.	35
A.2. Quality and professional capacity of the consultant: CV satisfies the criteria set forth in the Terms of Reference, education and experience demonstrates professional capacity and experience required.	35
A.3 Quality of the concept note: Concept note describing the main issues, information, data sources, and tools to be employed by the expert as well as approach to the work to be undertaken.	30
B. Financial Proposal/ lowest price has maximum score	100

Score for offer X =

A: [Total quality score (out of 100) of offer X / 100] * 80

B: [Lowest price / price of offer X] * 20

In addition to the results of the technical and financial evaluation, competency-based interview will be held with the selected bidder.

Information on selection of the most favourable bidder

The RCC Secretariat shall inform candidates and bidders of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract as soon as possible, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract for which there has been competitive tendering or to recommence the procedure.

Standard letter of thanks for participation to unsuccessful bidders shall be sent within 15 days after the contract is signed with the awarded bidder.

The candidates and bidders wishing to receive a feedback may send a request within 15 days after receipt of the standard letter of thanks.

The request may be sent to the e-mail address ProcurementforRcc@rcc.int or to the address of the RCC Secretariat:

Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat
Attention to: Administration Department
Building of the Friendship between Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Appeals procedure

Bidders believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may petition the RCC Secretariat directly. The RCC Secretariat must reply within 15 days of receipt of the complaint.

The appeal request may be sent to the e-mail address ProcurementforRcc@rcc.int or to the address of the RCC Secretariat:

Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat
Attention to: Administration Department
Building of the Friendship between Greece and Bosnia and Herzegovina
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

ANNEX I:**SUBMISSION FORM****Open Call for Consultancy Services: Expert on EU Regulation on Education and Training of Doctors of Medicine (specialisations included)****REF: 003-019**

One signed scanned copy of this Call for Consultancy Submission Form must be supplied.

1 SUBMITTED by:

	Name(s) and address(es) the Entity submitting this Application
Full Name the Entity	

2 CONTACT PERSON

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
e-mail	

3 STATEMENT

[Name of the representative of the Entity] _____ hereby declares that we have examined and accepted without reserve or restriction the entire contents of the Open Call for Experts, Grounds for Exclusions and Conflict of Interest as such:

Grounds for exclusion

Candidates or bidders will be excluded from participation in a procurement procedure if it is known that:

- (a) They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Contracting Officer can justify;
- (d) They have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the Contracting Officer or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) They have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity.

Contracts may not be awarded to candidates or bidders who, during the procurement procedure, are:

- (a) Subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) Guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Contracting Officer as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.

Conflict of Interest

- a) The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent or end any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could arise during performance of the contract must be notified in writing to the Contracting Authority without delay.
- b) The Contracting Authority reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken if necessary. The Consultant shall ensure that its staff, including its management, is not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. The Consultant shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the Contracting Authority, any member of its staff exposed to such a situation.
- c) The Contractor shall refrain from any contact which would compromise its independence or that of its personnel. If the Contractor fails to maintain such independence, the Contracting Authority may, without prejudice to compensation for any damage which it may have suffered on this account, terminate the contract forthwith.

- d) The Contractor shall, after the conclusion or termination of the contract, limit its role in connection with the project to the provision of the services. Except with the written permission of the Contracting Authority, the Contractor and any other contractor or supplier with whom the Contractor is associated or affiliated shall be disqualified from the execution of works, supplies or other services for the project in any capacity, including tendering for any part of the project.
- e) Civil servants and other agents of the public administration of the RCC Participants, regardless of their administrative situation, shall not be recruited as experts in contracts financed by the RCC Secretariat.
- f) The Contractor and anyone working under its authority or control in the performance of the contract or on any other activity shall be excluded from access to RCC Secretariat financing available under the same project unless they can prove to the Contracting Authority that the involvement in previous stages of the project does not constitute unfair competition.

We offer to provide the services requested in the Terms of Reference on the basis of supplied documentation subject to this Open Call for Consultancy Services, which comprise our technical offer, and our financial offer.

This Open Call for Consultancy Services is subject to acceptance within the validity period stipulated in the Terms of Reference.

Name	
Signature	
Date	

ANNEX II: BUDGET BREAKDOWN

REF: 003-019

No	Cost Categories	Number of Units	Unit Cost	Total cost
1.	Daily fee			
2.	TOTAL COSTS			
3.	Taxes (if applicable)			
GRAND TOTAL (2+3)				

NOTE:

When preparing the financial offer, the applicant should take into account the following:

- Include the number of proposed working days and daily fee rate for consulting services, the fee rates should be broadly consistent with the EU framework rates for these types of professional services.
- Travel costs are not subject of the financial offer and shall be treated separately.

ANNEX III: STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVITY AND AVAILABILITY

REF: 003-019

By representing the Entity_____ we agree to participate exclusively in the above-mentioned tender procedure. We further declare that we are able and willing to work for the period(s) foreseen for the position for which our CVs have been included in the event that this tender is successful, namely:

[illegible]