

TOR for National Expert

Head Office / Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South-Eastern Europe (SWG) – Skopje

Terms of Reference (ToR) for National Expert on Agri-Environment Policy with focus on Animal Husbandry

1. Introduction

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG), as a platform for networking and regional co-operation, has been established during the Agricultural Policy Forum 2005 (“Rural Development Opportunities for Co-operation in the SEE”) held in Macedonia and Serbia in June 2005.

With the International Agreement in March 2009, the SWG is registered as an International Intergovernmental Organization, with its managing and coordinative body – SWG Head Office/Secretariat based in Skopje, Macedonia. On September 7th 2009, the Law on Ratification of the SWG Agreement has been decisively completed by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

The main SWG strategic framework is composed of the following elements:

SWG vision is to promote innovative and sustainable agriculture and rural development through regional cooperation, to improve rural livelihoods in the SEE countries.

Mission - to increase horizontal cooperation among respective countries and territories of South Eastern Europe, by coordinating regional initiatives related to agriculture and rural development and supporting the process of social and economic development of rural areas in SEE region.

General objective of SWG is to facilitate close cooperation between the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development and to support EU integration in SEE. The SWG has four specific objectives on which the organization has focused its work:

- To improve the common understanding on agriculture and rural development policies;
- To assist the improvement of implementing structures and systems for agriculture and rural development, with specific emphasis on cross border cooperation;
- To improve the understanding and use of implementation tools for agriculture and rural development;
- To identify and share information and application of good practice in agriculture and rural development to broaden the rural agenda.

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2. Background

In December 2014 the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development approved the realization of a 3-year regional programme entitled “Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South-East-Europe (LEIWW)”.

The programme targets the Western Balkans countries/territories: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Lead executing agencies are the ministries responsible for agriculture and rural development, through their membership in the SWG, which is the main implementing partner, along with GIZ. The three central fields of activity are 1) Regional intersectoral coordination processes at the interface between rural development/agriculture, environment, forests and water, 2) Integration of environmental objectives into national rural development and agriculture policies in line with the targets of EU accession processes, and 3) Planning and implementation of integrated forest and water management in selected cross-border pilot regions.

As part of the EU (pre-) accession process, the countries of South-East Europe are faced with the necessity to harmonise their strategies, policies and legislation with those of the EU and to create the required conditions and capacities for their implementation. Since agri-environment policy has a cross-border effect, and the EU accession process represents a common framework for the countries, this issue must be dealt with, in addition to the national level, also through the regional coordination and cooperation.

3. Specific situation

The LEIWW programme is operating at three levels: transnational straddling the countries/territories Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia in the Western Balkans; national and local, in cross-border pilot regions.

One of the main objectives of the LEIWW programme is to create preconditions for evidence-based and EU-compliant policy design regarding environmental objectives in rural development and agriculture. In line with this objective, development of evidence-based policy assessment and gap analysis is supported in order to provide recommendations for improved agri-environment policies in SEE.

The objective of the assignment is to develop a regional approach for the assessment of the agri-environment policies in the countries/territories of the SEE, as well as to propose policy framework for implementation of sustainable agricultural practices in line with EU policies.

The major outcomes of the assignment are:

- Regional methodology and approach for the assessment of agri-environment policies in the countries/territories of the SEE;
- Evaluation of the relevant policy frameworks in place and provision of recommendations for their improvement and alignment with EU policies;

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

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- Regional report on the status, gaps and constraints regarding the agri-environmental policies and the provision of recommendations for an alignment of regional / national priorities with EU policies.

For accomplishment of the above-mentioned outcomes a Works contract is foreseen.

4. Scope of work

The assignment includes the following tasks:

- Collection, assessment and elaboration of the relevant national data/information on agri-environment policies related to animal husbandry;
- Development of the country assessment on the state of agri-environment policies, institutional, policy and legal framework related to animal husbandry, as per the outline of the assessment report, provided by the regional expert;
- Development of recommendations for future steps needed for improved agri-environment institutional, policy and legal setup and alignment with EU policies related to animal husbandry in the country/territory;
- Participation at the Kick-off Meeting, Interim Meeting and Final Meeting;
- Continuous cooperation and consultation with the Regional and the International Experts engaged under the assignment;
- Assisting SWG and GIZ in any other related issues.

The Contractor might be required to perform additional tasks that are deemed necessary for the completion of the defined assignment.

All activities will be closely coordinated with the SWG within the programme “Rural development by integrated forest and water resource management in South-East-Europe (LEIWW)”. Access to political stakeholders, thematic networks and target groups as well as strategies, policies and assessments will be assured by SWG.

The working language for the assignment is English.

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5. Reporting and deliverables

The expert reports to the SWG Secretary General – Mr. Boban Ilic and the SWG Project Manager – Ms. Dori Pavloska - Gjorgjieska.

The following deliverables are foreseen for the expert within this ToR:

Deliverable	Timeframe/Deadline in 2018
Participation at the Kick-off Meeting	End of February
Processed, reviewed and elaborated national data/information on agri-environment policies, in line with the agreed reporting template	March
Draft country assessment and recommendations for next steps	April
Interim Meeting	First week of May
Reviewed country agri-environment policy assessment taking into consideration the comments provided by the Regional Expert	May
Final country assessment report and contribution to the development of the regional synthesis report	June
Final Meeting	Beginning of July

6. Place of assignment

The place of assignment of the expert is the country of residence, while the meetings may be organized outside of the country of the assignment.

7. Timeframe

The expert should accomplish the deliverables from the date on which the last party signs the contract until 15 July 2018.

8. Payments

The payments for realization of this Contract shall be effected following the submission of all deliverables and confirmation of approval by SWG, in one final installment.

The payment of the agreed remuneration shall be effected upon submission of original invoices to the SWG Head Office/Secretariat, accompanied by the above mentioned deliverables.

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9. Other provisions

The travel and accommodation costs for the expert for participation in event organized within the project will be covered by the SWG Head Office/Secretariat.

The expert shall not use for own purposes or transfer to third persons any information related to the engagement and work, considered to be a business secret of the Head Office /Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South-Eastern Europe (SWG) – Skopje.

The expert, besides the agreed remuneration, will have no other claims from the Head Office/Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South-Eastern Europe (SWG) – Skopje.

10. Expert Profile

Qualifications and skills

- A university degree in animal husbandry, agriculture, or closely related discipline relevant to the assignment. PhD will be considered as an advantage;
- Fluency in English;
- Computer literacy;
- High quality analytical and document drafting skills;
- Good communication and reporting skills.

General professional experience

- Proven professional experience in policy assessment.

Specific professional experience

- Proven professional experience on agri-environment policies, with focus on animal husbandry;
- Proven experience in drafting strategic documents;
- Understanding of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, with focus on agri-environment policies;
- Understanding of the situation as well as the relevant legislative and policy framework in the respective country/territory.