****

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**International Technical Assistance- Consulting Company**

 **Tirana, September 07th 2021**

**Albania Health System Improvement Project (HSIP)**

**Loan No: 8466 AL.**

**Project ID Number: P144688**

***Assignment Title:***  **TA updating the clinical guidelines and protocol for high-burden Non-communicable diseases (NCD)**

***Reference No.*** HSIP/CS/CQ/09-2020

The Government of Albania has received a loan and a grant of totaling 32.1 million EUR (50 million USD), a loan of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to finance the Health System Improvement Project (HSIP). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“World Bank”) is acting as administrator of the amount provided. The Ministry of Health (MoHSP) herein after referred as “the Client” has overall responsibility for the Project, and the Project Coordination is responsible for the implementation of the Project through its Project Management Team (PMT). The objective of the Project is to contribute to improve

Improving the efficiency of care in selected hospitals in Albania, improving the management of information in the health system, and increasing financial access to health services. To improve access and efficiency of health care services in Albania, the Project will support:

• Component 1: Improving Public Hospital Sector management and Infrastructure.

• Component 2: Improving Health Information Management for Hospital Services

Investments in recent years have mainly aimed to improve and modernize health care facilities in terms of infrastructure and medical equipment’s correlated with capacity building for the medical, managerial and non-medical staff enhancing institutional capacities. After the adoption of the Law no. 10383 date 24.02.2011 “On the Compulsory Health Care in the Republic of Albania”, the requirement for the drafting of Medical Guidelines and Clinical Protocols became enforced.

Starting in 2017 the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in cooperation with the National Center for Quality, Safety and Accreditation of Health Care Institutions (NCQSA), Health Insurance Fund (HIF), MTU, and other agencies has developed and approved over 200 evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) that were approved in January 2018. The majority of these CPGs are for high-technology and high-complexity interventions. However, some of the recently-developed CPGs also include more frequent and important conditions such as hypertension. diabetes, etc. The process is considered as a success and has integrated some international best practices such as the use of professional associations for advisory services and review. However, the implementation of updated CPGs in the entire public hospital system remains an unfinished agenda. While the level of awareness of CPGs is high among health professionals, few of them actually apply such CPGs in their routine clinical practices. In this context, the MOHSP vision is to: (i) modernize and expand the range of this work; (ii) strengthen the MOHSP capacity to review and disseminate these guidelines; and (iii) most importantly, re-train a large cadre of health service providers in the new CPGs. It is envisaged that a Consulting Company (hereinafter – Consultant) will help the MOHSP and relevant institutions to improve the quality and “value for the money” of health care through revision and dissemination of evidence-based CPGs.

The Government of Albania has received a loan and a grant of totaling 32.1 million EUR (50 million USD), a loan of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to finance the Health System Improvement Project (HSIP). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“World Bank”) is acting as administrator of the amount provided. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) has overall responsibility for the Project, and the Project Coordination is responsible for the implementation of the Project through its Project Management Team (PMT). The Project Development Objective is to contribute to the modernization of selected public hospital services, and is being implemented through three components: (1) improving public hospital sector management and infrastructure; (2) improving health information management for hospital services; and (3) monitoring, evaluation, and project management.The service required to be performed under this Terms of Reference, is one of the activities under Component 1 of the project.

The objective of this assignment is to strengthening the capacity of Albania’s health sector for development and dissemination of international-standard clinical practice guidelines. The guidelines should include all elements of prevention, diagnoses, treatment, follow up and recovery. The Consultant is to develop and disseminate 5 CPG based on international standards, that are in accordance to WHO and EU recommendations and Albanian Laws and regulations.

**The Ministry of Health and Social protection is seeking for international firms to conduct this assignment which fulfill the following criteria:**

**The consultant must meet the following requirements:**

*Qualifications of the Consulting Company:*

The consulting company must fulfill at least the following qualification criteria:

* The company must have at least ten years of experience;
* The company must have at least 1 similar contract in drafting and/or updating of clinical guidelines in the last five years;
* The company must have experience in international projects;
* Experience in the region shall be an advantage;
* The company must provide availability of the required staff (as per the qualifications below) which may be part of company staff and/or hired for this assignment.

*Note: At negotiation process the successful company must provide evidence on the engagement of the staff in this specific contract: contract/staff structure/statement of undertaking etc)*

**The successful company must provide the following staff:**

1. **Team leader with expertise in arrangement, development and review of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines (International expert)**

***General qualification***

* Post graduate degree in medicine, public health or health economics withat least of 10 years of practical experience in evidence-based medicine (EBM) and health quality management reform;
* Excellent management skills, good communication, writing and interpersonal skills, ability to lead a multi-disciplinary team of experts, dynamism to lead a project, capacity to work effectively with various experts to build consensus; ability to adapt
* Knowledge of the Albanian health sector organization would be an asset.

***Professional experience***

* Proven extensive experience and successful track record in providing technical advice, capacity building, know-how transfer on health quality management systems development, implementation, and assessments;
* Proven experience of at least ten years as a leader in evidence based medicine and in managing the development, revision, implementation and assessment of CPGs;

***Experience in the region and language***

* Recent experience in implementation of development projects in transition economies,
* Experience in working with high-level ministerial staff and local authorities will be an advantage
* Fluency in English is essential.
1. **Expert for capacity building in health care standardization**

***General qualification***

* Post-graduate degree in medicine, public health, or health care management, with at least 10 years of practical experience in health quality reform with a focus on health care standardization, and EBM.
* Excellent managerial skills, strong interpersonal communication and writing skills,
* Ability to work effectively with senior experts, health professionals and ministerial staff to build consensus on quality measures and promote evidence-based medicine tools.

***Professional experience***

* Successful track record in the development and implementation of standards and policies in key areas of postgraduate training, continuing medical education (CME) and professional development and quality assurance in specialist practice.
* Proven experience in the development of in-service training modules and short, non-degree programs, curriculums and materials for health quality management training and for CPGs tailored to the specifics of a country’s health system and based on prior needs assessment;
* Practical experience of at least 5 years in teaching in-service training modules and short non-degree programs for health quality management training and for CPGs;
* Proven experience in health quality management training outcomes assessment.
* Experience in providing trainings in clinical guidelines

***Experience in the region and language***

* Recent experience in implementation of development projects in transition economies, experience in working with high-level ministerial staff and local authorities will be an advantage.
* Fluency in English is essential.

**(2) Local expert medical doctors:**

***The company must provide staff composed of local medical doctors who fulfill the following minimum qualification criteria:***

***2.1 Cardiologist***

***General qualification***

* University Degree in medicine
* Specialization in Cardiology

***Professional experience***

* At least 7 years of professional experience as doctor;
* Have previous experience in drafting guidelines and/or protocols

***English language***

* Have good knowledge of English language

***2.2 Anesthesiologist***

***General qualification***

* University Degree in medicine
* Specialization in anesthesia

***Professional experience***

* At least 7 years of professional experience as doctor;
* Have previous experience in drafting guidelines and/or protocols

***English language***

* Have good knowledge of English language

***2.3 Haematologist***

***General qualification***

* University Degree in medicine
* Specialization in Hematology

***Professional experience***

* At least 7 years of professional experience as doctor;
* Have previous experience in drafting guidelines and/or protocols

***English language***

* Have good knowledge of English language

***2.4 Internal Medicine Doctor or Emergency Medicine doctor***

***General qualification***

* University Degree in medicine
* Specialization in Internal Medicine or Emergency Medicine

***Professional experience***

* At least 7 years of professional experience as a doctor;
* Have previous experience in drafting guidelines and/or protocols

***English language***

* Have good knowledge of English language

***2.5 Surgeon***

***General qualification***

* University Degree in medicine
* Specialization in Surgery

***Professional experience***

* At least 7 years of professional experience as doctor;
* Have previous experience in drafting guidelines and/or protocols

***English language***

* Have good knowledge of English language

***2.6 Neurologist***

***General qualification***

* University Degree in medicine
* Specialization in Neurology

***Professional experience***

* At least 7 years of professional experience as doctor;
* Have previous experience in drafting guidelines and/or protocols

***English language***

* Have good knowledge of English language

The firm who will be selected (after fulfilling the minimum qualification/experience requirements above) as highest ranked based on the evaluation/shortlistign criteria below, will be invited for contract negotiations, durign which, the sucessfull firms will be required to fulfill the above key staff qualification.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, through Project Coordination Unit (PCU) now invites eligible consulting companies (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Consulting Companies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (as described above). The evaluation/shortlisting criteria are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Evaluation Criterion** | **Points** |
| 1. | Overall experience of the firm (number of years) in the field of assignment | 30 |
| 2. | Number of assignment-related contracts completed during last five years.  | 60 |
| 3. | Availability of qualified key staff within the firm  | 10 |
| **TOTAL** | **100 points** |

The consultant should be an International Firm. The selection method to be applied is **CQ (section based on consultants qualification)** **,** in accordance with the procedures set out the World Bank’s *Guidelines Selection and Employment of Consultants Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers*” (January 2011, revised July 2014) .

The total level of efforts is 190 man days (for all experts together). The International expert (Team leader) must conduct 2 trips in Albania of at least 5 days each. The consultancy is expected to start in September 2021 and last for 8 months.

We draw you attention to the situation of the conflict of interest indicated in the guidelines (for the company itself and for the proposed staff). Kindly note that if the company and/or staff proposed are in the situations of the conflict of interest the company will be rejected.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 16:30 (Monday to Thursday) and 08:00 to 14:00 on Friday In the address below).Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **21st of September 2021.**

**Ministry of Health and Social Protection**

**Adress: Rruga e Kavajes No. 53, Tirana- Albania**

**Project Coordination Unit (PCU)**

**Health System Improvement Project (HSIP)**

**Att: Blerina Dudushi**

**e-mail: hsip.dudushi@gmail.com**

**BlerinaDudushi@shendetesia.gov.al**