



## ToR for International Consultant

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

#### Terms of Reference (ToR) for engagement of International Consultant

##### 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

## TOR for International Consultant

### 2. Background

The SWG strategic framework and operational plan defines the scope for development in the upcoming mid-term period and focuses on the priority needs for regional agriculture and rural development. The main SWG work during upcoming period of few years will be organized through activities implemented in the following areas:

- Networking and capacity enhancement of SWG Member Institutions,
- Facilitating regional cooperation between other rural stakeholders in the SEE region,
- Implementing **area based development approach (ABD) in the SEE region.**

Area Based Development (ABD) is considered to be an innovative approach enabling breakthrough in sustainable growth of rural cross-border regions in the WB countries.

ABD is perceived as suitable for targeting defined geographical areas in cross-border regions in the Western Balkans, characterized by specific complex development problems. The approach as its core principles uses methodology, which is inclusive, participatory, and flexible and ensures integration and coherence. It is suitable in particular for areas where one or several of the following development situations are present: poverty gap, post-natural or human disasters, post-conflict environment and exclusion issues.

Therefore, the SWG concluded a contract with the EC for Project Preparation Facility for preparation of a project proposal for implementation of ABD in several cross-border regions of the Western Balkans. The result of the Project Preparation Facility should be a project fiche and technical annexes related to the selected cross-border regions (in-depth analyses and development action plans for each of the regions), which would provide a basis for multi-annual project covering a number of Western Balkan countries. The project fiche should clearly outline the both the process and content of implementation of the ABD approach in selected cross-border regions.

### 3. Specific situation

The aim of the engagement of the international consultant is to assist the SWG Secretariat in all aspects related to implementation of this project.

### 5. Tasks of the international consultant

In particular, the tasks of the international consultant are the following:

1. Undertake contacts with potential donors, national and local authorities in order to explore and encourage possibilities for joint and/or complementary actions under the established strategies and programmes, with particular immediate focus on the Drina-Tara area;
2. Oversee the process of assessing the potential target areas and preparations of the draft ABD strategies and programmes which includes the assistance to drafting the

## **TOR for International Consultant**

project fiche and annexes. In this context, the consultant should travel at least once to all target areas;

3. Participate in the work of the project Steering Group;
4. Facilitate discussions on the ABD in broader forums, raising awareness and undertake discussions with stakeholders on main priorities to be targeted under the defined strategies, and continuing refining the methodological details of application of the approach.

The international consultant will be assisted/accompanied by the Local consultants during the assignment missions.

### **5. Reporting**

The international consultant is responsible to the SWG Secretary General – Boban Ilic and the SWG Head of Operations – Ms. Irena Dzimrevska.

The international consultant should deliver:

- Methodology and work plan after signing the Contract;
- Technical reports on the performed activities after each field mission.

### **6. Timeframe**

The international consultant will be engaged for the period November 2011 – June 2012 for up to 30 working days out of which 25 days field work.

### **7. Profile required (experience, references and category as appropriate) of the Consultant**

#### Qualifications and skills:

- Relevant university degree in agriculture and rural development, economic, law, political sciences and related;
- Proven skills and expertise in agriculture and rural development, economic development, performance of assessments, preparation, development and implementation of strategies, international donor community operations, project preparation and management and related;
- Fluency in English both written and spoken;
- At least 20 years relevant professional experience.

## **TOR for International Consultant**

### **8. Financial issues**

The local travel for the field visits and up to 3 international flights for the international consultant will be organized by the SWG Head Office/Secretariat.

Beside the expert fee the offer should include accommodation costs during field visits and local travel costs (taxi, etc.) during visits to capitals.

The accommodation costs for the international consultant for participation on project Steering Group meetings will be covered by the SWG Head Office/Secretariat.

The financial offer should include all taxes and levies that may arise from the engagement of the international consultant which are full responsibility of the international consultant.