

UNOPS helps its partners in the United Nations system meet the world's needs for building peace, recovering from disaster, and creating sustainable development. UNOPS is known for its ability to implement complex projects in all types of environments around the globe. In an effort to promote organizational excellence, UNOPS seeks highly qualified individuals for the following position:

Vacancy Details

Vacancy code: VA/2016/B5109/9964
Post Title: Agribusiness Development Consultant
Post Level: L-ICA 8
Org Unit: ECR, RSPC, Serbia
Duty Station (DS): Home based
Duration: Up to 25 work days from June to December 2016
Closing Date: 11 May 2016

1. Project(s) Background

European PROGRES is a multi-donor Programme, financed by the European Union (EU), the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia, designed to support sustainable development in the South East and South West Serbia. The Programme has been conceptualised jointly with the European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SEIO), which has responsibility for monitoring implementation and providing assistance and facilitation. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been granted with an initial budget of 17.46 million Euros and has the overall responsibility for the Programme implementation.

Through a multi-sector approach this Programme will contribute to sustainable development of underdeveloped areas and creation of more favourable environment for infrastructure and business growth by strengthening local governance, improving vertical coordination, planning and management capacities, improving business environment and development, as well as enhancing implementation of social inclusion and employment policies.

The Programme works towards achieving four main results, while good governance principles are interwoven as a cross cutting aspect of the entire intervention:

1. Strengthened local governance, planning and management capacities through introduction of new, or improvement/elimination of existing procedures and processes in line with the principles of good governance
2. Increased competitiveness of local economy through improved business environment and management/organizational capacities of small and medium enterprises/agricultural cooperatives
3. Improved access to employment, offering equal opportunities to both men and women, and social inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups through development and implementation of local policies resulting in reduced migration from South East and South West Serbia
4. Effects of Serbia's European accession communicated to general public.

The final beneficiaries, but also the key stakeholders and financial contributors of this Programme are 34 municipalities from the third and fourth group of development level, which have responsibility of taking ownership of activities implemented in their territory:

- Novi Pazar, Ivanjica, Nova Varoš, Priboj, Prijepolje, Raška, Sjenica and Tutin, in the South West Serbia
- Prokuplje, Blace, Žitorađa, Kuršumlija in the Toplica District
- Leskovac, Bojnik, Vlasotince, Lebane, Medveđa and Crna Trava in the Jablanica District
- Vranje, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Preševo, Surdulica and Trgovište in the Pčinja District

- Brus in the Rasinska District
- Aleksinac, Gadžin Han, Doljevac, Merošina and Svrlijig in the Niški District
- Babušnica, Bela Palanka in the Pirotski District
- Knjaževac in the Zaječarski District.

Other beneficiaries include municipality-founded institutions and public utility companies, civil society organisations (CSO) and media in the participating municipalities. It is the inhabitants of the South East and South West Serbia who will feel the biggest benefits of the Programme.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

Purpose and Scope of Assignment

European PROGRES will provide a two-phase assistance to Agricultural Producer Groups (APGs). The first phase will be focused on capacity building activities and will include delivery of trainings, provision of technical assistance and organisation of study visit to an EU country. These activities should help the beneficiaries to develop capacities for management and development of APGs. In addition, the first phase is designed to facilitate development of quality project proposals for the second phase of intervention which will include procurement of equipment and small construction works.

Under the direct supervision of the Sector Manager for Competitiveness, with the support of Programme Associate for Business Development, the Agribusiness Development Consultant shall undertake the following tasks:

- Develop curriculum and training materials (including handouts and power point presentations) for two training modules:
 - Module I: Management of Associations and Cooperatives including topics related to governance, capital formation, managing finance, people and equipment and quality assurance with reflection on general management skills and challenges
 - Module II: Strengthening institutional capacities of Associations and Cooperatives including development of short term and long term strategies and business plans, strengthening provision of services and continuous development.
- Deliver the trainings to two groups of beneficiaries – representatives of 12 agricultural cooperatives and 20 associations. It is expected that each training module is designed as a two-day session, delivered separately for the two groups.
- Conduct evaluation of the trainings and develop separate report on each of the trainings as well as a cumulative report for all delivered trainings. The scope and composition of the report will be detailed in the introduction meeting with the Programme team
- Contribute to development of itinerary for a Study Visit to an EU country, in line with recommendations obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
- Provide long-distance technical support to APGs in development of project applications for the second phase of Programme assistance
- Provide technical support to APGs for development and/or implementation of knowledge and techniques considered during trainings and to European PROGRES regarding all aspects of support to APGs, as requested

3. Required Selection Criteria

a. Education

- Master degree or equivalent, preferably in Economy, Agricultural Engineering, Business Administration or similar
- Bachelor Degree with additional two years of experience might be accepted in lieu of Master Degree

¹ Agricultural Cooperatives and Associations of Agricultural Producers

b. Work Experience

- Two years of relevant experience in providing consultancy services for agribusiness cooperatives and associations are required
- Experience in consultancy related to IPARD projects will be considered as an asset

c. Language Requirements

- Fluency in English and Serbian is required

d. Key Competencies

- Thorough understanding of business development
- Strategic thinking
- Consulting skills
- Strong, demonstrated understanding of client service
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal. Able to communicate at all levels of an organisation
- Ability to balance a process-drive approach while generating innovative ideas
- Must be able to work independently and take responsibility for all outputs which must be consistent, with sufficient depth, accuracy, and thoroughness

Submission of Applications

Qualified candidates may submit their application, including a Letter of Interest, Curriculum Vitae and updated United Nations Personal History Form (P.11) to UNOPS via UNOPS Global Personnel Recruitment System at following link:

<https://gprs.unops.org/Pages/ViewVacancy/VADetails.aspx?id=9964>

Kindly note that this is a local position open to nationals of Serbia and to individuals who have a valid residence/work permit.

Additional Considerations

- Please note that the closing date is midnight Copenhagen time (CET)
- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.
- Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
- For staff positions only, UNOPS reserves the right to appoint a candidate at a level below the advertised level of the post.
- The incumbent is responsible to abide by security policies, administrative instructions, plans and procedures of the UN Security Management System and that of UNOPS.

It is the policy of UNOPS to conduct background checks on all potential recruits/interns. Recruitment/internship in UNOPS is contingent on the results of such checks.

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