



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 15 June 2021

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National Consultant to support the in-depth assessment of the official Crime and Justice Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

Project name: "Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova" Project

Period of assignment/services: July – December 2021 (*up to 45 working days*)

Proposals should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Online" button, no later than 29 June 2021

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: victoria.muntean@undp.org. UNDP will respond by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all applicants.

1. BACKGROUND

The UNDP project "Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova" (A2J) is a multi-year institutional development project designed to contribute to an increased efficiency of justice services and to improved access to justice of men and women in Moldova, in particular from vulnerable and marginalized groups, through enhanced capacities of forensic institutions to provide qualitative justice services, strengthened capacities of the justice sector actors in the selected pilot areas to provide coordinated response to men's and women's justice needs and strengthened civil society able to claim the respect of rights and engage in a constructive dialogue with the justice chain actors. Project interventions will offer and encourage equal opportunity for the participation of men and women.

Although important efforts have been deployed during the last years to improve the efficiency, transparency, fairness, and accessibility of the justice sector, the justice system still fails to deliver at the level of users' expectations. Even though justice reform is ranked the fourth in importance by citizens (after healthcare, pension, and education reforms), results matching this expectation are not achieved yet. In Moldova, the court performance is perceived to be poor, 76% of court users expressing negative views, while most respondents tended to state that there have been no changes on the ground during 2015-2017.

According to the World Bank's 2017 Surveys of Court Users, the respondents broadly feel that an ordinary citizen is unlikely to get a fair trial (more than 62% share this opinion). Citizens state that rights of disabled persons and of those who have lower income are least observed in the justice system. Access to justice for vulnerable groups remains a key concern. Access constraints for vulnerable groups and a lower mobility of the rural population, combined with longer distances to travel and poor transport network have raised concerns about the impact of the planned court consolidation on access to justice services. This becomes particularly relevant for women and girls and people with disabilities.

According to World Bank data, low-income groups have lower awareness about the functioning of the court system compared to higher-income groups, and state that the judicial system is least accessible in terms of cost and information. Only 1 in 10 citizens are satisfied with the efficiency of courts, prosecutors, and bailiffs, while unreasonably long proceedings and lack of thoroughness of proceedings are major citizens' concerns. On the access to court services, respondents said more attention should be paid to making information on cases and court decisions available to the public and making complaint-filing procedures simpler and clearer. Less than half of the respondents reported being able to find the court decision they need. 57% of citizens are not aware of court reforms, while those who are aware, complain about insufficient information.

Therefore, despite the ongoing reforms, little progress is felt at the local level by citizens, and the coherent coordination mechanisms among law enforcement, security, and justice institutions for effective administration of justice seem to be lacking at both national and local levels. Men and women, particularly from marginalized or minority groups, are not able to claim their rights and access justice effectively.

According to the results of the Barometer of Public Opinion, the justice system in the Republic of Moldova faces a low level of public trust, with only 19,1% of respondents (19,5% men / 18,6% women) trusting the system as per the data available in February 2021.

Monitoring the policies, both at national and local levels, remains a main task of the Moldovan Government's agenda. The demand for quality data for evidence-based policy and decision-making continues to grow. Evidence-based policymaking can only be successful if it is based on a reality which is described by quality statistics. In addition, good evidence-based policies responding to the financial crisis require a good basis of statistical data as well as the appropriate literacy on using those data.

High-quality statistics are necessary for formulating realistic strategies and policies, setting targets, measuring, and managing results, monitoring outcomes, and for making evidence-based decisions about allocation and management of scarce resources. This is true for the justice sector, where sound decisions and actions require high-quality statistics. Accurate and up-to-date statistics and information provide a better understanding of policy impacts.

Criminal justice statistics assist in policy analysis within criminal justice systems and as part of other social and global policy formulation and planning. Finally, good criminal justice statistics are essential for understanding and trying to shape the social development of communities.

In the context of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union (under Title IV, chapter 6 Statistics), the national statistical system should respect the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, taking into account the acquis in statistics, including

the European Statistics Code of Practice , in order to align the national statistical system with the European norms and standards (Article 41).

The A2J Project seeks to address the crime and justice statistics through an assessment of the gaps in relation to compliance of the Moldovan statistics to the European and UNODC standards in the relevant statistical areas. The identified gaps and recommendations aim to strengthen the capabilities of the NBS and other data producers for effective approximation to EU norms and UNODC standards.

According to the latest survey on user satisfaction with available statistics, statistical information from the justice sector is most frequently used for the purpose of overall informing by the local public administration, followed by international organizations and mass-media. According to the same survey, the CSOs underlined the insufficient level of disaggregation for the justice statistics, this type of statistics being the most used for professional purposes by the CSOs, LPAs, think-tanks, and researchers.

Moreover, when considering the weaknesses related to the justice statistics, the data users noted the lack of promptness of data dissemination and lack of methodological explanations, as well as the low level of trust in these statistics.

The Moldovan official statistics in the field of crime and justice (mainly based on official, aggregate figures from administrative sources) provides data which seem to be reasonably accurate and relevant to the needs of national users, but which may not be necessarily internationally comparable because of certain factors. Among them there are the methodological differences which might exist conditioned by the national needs and specific features, as well as different mandates of the institutions which produce data for a specific purpose, weak institutional memory, or lack of metadata repository of the definitions, methodologies and tracking of changes made over time. All these affect the completeness, relevancy, and coherence at the national level.

Moreover, the lack of a national classification of crimes transposing an international standard, in particular the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), is the core impediment in ensuring the international comparability of Moldova's crime and justice statistics. It is important to identify and gradually resolve these problems by exploring various approaches, harmonization with the existing standards in the field and learning from EU member countries' experience.

Crime and justice statistics disseminated by NBS refer to data on the level of crime in the country (offenses and perpetrators), including juvenile delinquency, convicted and detained persons, road accidents and the justice system (cases brought to the courts and legal professionals). NBS disseminates a concise list of crime and justice statistical indicators through its web-site, databank Statbank , periodic releases or other modalities.

To ensure the production and dissemination of crime and justice statistics, the National Bureau of Statistics collects only the data on administrative contraventions, while the other field-related data are received, according to the annual Statistical Work Programmes approved by the Government , in aggregated format, from the holders of administrative data registers, such as: Ministry of Internal Affairs and subordinate authorities such as the Information Technology Service, General Police Inspectorate, Ministry of Justice and its subordinate authorities such as Court Administration Agency, National Administration of Penitentiaries. An in-depth evaluation of the statistical capacity available in the country should be conducted with the full cooperation of the data producers and users, which

will provide a detailed assessment of the system's strengths and weaknesses in the selected areas of concern. The resulting conclusions should also suggest where and what kind of improvements are most needed.

In this regard, UNDP is seeking to hire a National Consultant to offer support to the International Consultant engaged within the A2J Project to conduct an in-depth assessment of the official Crime and Justice Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and its adherence to the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime standards.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

The expected output for the National Consultant's assignment is to support the UNDP International Consultant¹ by providing substantive and administrative support, in the process of carrying out the assessment of compliance of crime and justice statistics area in line with the international standards in the field, in particular of the Manual for the Development of a system of Criminal Justice Statistics² developed by the UN as a general framework for the development of a national system of crime and justice statistics.

The Consultant is also expected to contribute alongside the UNDP International Consultant in designing a Roadmap of actions and measures necessary to further comply with the above listed and other standards belonging to the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)³, as well as to approximate to [EU Statistical Requirements Compendium](#)⁴.

The assignment will be conducted in close cooperation with the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS) and main data providers, building on the previous and on-going activities undertaken by NBS, and closely observing the provisions of the Law on Official Statistics⁵, Annual Statistical Work Programme⁶, Statistical Strategy, RM-EU Association Agreement (title IV, chapter 6, art. 41-46)⁷ and other national and sector policy and regulatory documents and in compliance with international standards in statistics and relevant best practices of other countries.

In order to achieve the stated objective, the Consultant will have the following responsibilities:

1. Prepare an Inception Report containing the description of the scope of inputs and support to be provided and workplan for the accomplishment of the current assignment. The Inception Report shall be coordinated with the UNDP International Consultant as to ensure the interconnection of the two assignments;
2. Provide substantive inputs to the UNDP International Consultant in the process of **desk review** of the national regulatory framework covering the assessed area and **facilitation of the consultation process** (*including both meetings related to the assessment and survey below described as well as consultations organised throughout the assignment to validate findings and recommendations*);
 - 2.1 Identify and submit to the international Consultant the list and copies of the relevant national legal framework, existing guidelines/manuals and reports detailing current practices and methodologies on national statistics;

¹ International consultant to conduct in-depth assessment of the official Crime and Justice Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and its adherence to the EU Statistical Requirements Compendium and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime standards

² https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesF/SeriesF_89e.pdf

³ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/crime-and-criminal-justice.html>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-21-006>

⁵ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105689&lang=ro

⁶ <https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=323&>

⁷ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=83489&lang=ro

- 2.2 Provide translation of short excerpts from the national regulatory framework covering the assessed area;
- 2.3 Draft list of relevant key stakeholders (*state institutions and CSOs, etc*) to be engaged in the **consultation process**, including facilitate organisation and conduct the meetings, focus-groups and/or in-depth interviews with relevant counterparts and stakeholders with regard to the topics of the statistical fields covered by the current assignment and that of the UNDP International Consultant. The consultation process will also include in its the scope identifying potential gaps in relation to users' needs as well as users' views and feedback to the data producers in relation to strengthening the statistical outputs and make them more easily available, with the bellow listed stakeholders, but not limited to:
- National Bureau of Statistics: top management, head and staff of concerned division of the NBS;
 - Central public authorities and other relevant entities related to crime and justice sector (justice chain) which collect and provide data for official statistics disseminated by NBS or which are using data for their institutional purposes:
 - crime statistics - General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and subordinate authorities such as the Information Technology Service, General Police Inspectorate;
 - justice statistics - Ministry of Justice and its subordinate authorities such as the National Administration of Penitentiaries and the Court Administration Agency, Superior Council of Magistracy, Supreme Court of Justice, Courts of Appeal and first instance Courts, National Legal Aid Council, and any other institutions identified in close consultation with NBS);
 - Civil Society Organizations acting as watchdogs in the justice sector area;
 - Other stakeholders identified at the desk review and methodology preparation phases, mainly as users of crime and justice statistics.
3. Provide analytical and administrative support in the process of conducting the independent assessment for individual stakeholders which are producers and users of crime and justice statistics via application of self-assessment tools as well as the survey designed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes of the crime and justice statistics. The National Consultant shall also contribute to development of the Outline of the results of the consultation meetings and interviews, preliminary findings of the self-assessment and survey of data providers/producers and data users. In this regard the following tasks shall be carried out, but not limited to:
- 3.1 Provide inputs in drafting the questionnaires to be used in conducting the assessment of the current statistics reporting practices;
- 3.2 Facilitate the process of conducting the independent assessment and dissemination of the survey tools, as well as collecting data;
- 3.3 Contribute to the analysis of the collected information and provide substantive inputs in the context of development of the Outline of the results of the consultation meetings and interviews, preliminary findings of the self-assessment and survey of data providers/producers and data users;
- 3.4 Provide support to the UNDP International Consultant in organizing and facilitating participatory workshops to present and validate the findings included in the Outline of the results of the consultation.
4. Based on the findings of the assessment, provide support to the UNDP International Consultant in shaping the recommendations and advise aiming to align the national crime and justice statistics to the international standards;

5. Provide substantive support to the UNDP International Consultant in the process of developing the Report on the Comprehensive Assessment of the crime and justice statistics addressing the current status and the degree of their harmonization/ conformity with the UN and EU standards and methodologies and identifying the gaps and the weaknesses per each statistical subdomain, and the crime and justice statistics domain as a whole. The support shall include, but is not limited to:
 - Provide necessary references and legal grounds to substantiate the findings of the comprehensive assessment;
 - Provide necessary references and legal grounds to substantiate the recommendations and solutions targeted at addressing the weakness, gaps and issues identified as part of the assessment;
 - Provide support to proof reading of the Report on the Comprehensive Assessment, as to ensure compliance with the specialised language and national regulatory framework covering the assessed area;
 - Support organisation and facilitate discussions and consultations with the relevant stakeholders, when necessary, in relation to validating and or clearing the findings and recommendation in the Report.
6. Provide substantive support to the UNDP International Consultant in the process of developing the Roadmap containing specific solutions/actions for further approximation to UN (including UNODC) standards and EU statistical standards, through provision of necessary references and legal grounds to substantiate the findings and ensure compliance with the national context and regulatory framework;
7. Provide upon necessity ad-hoc translation of legislative documents relevant for the activity of the UNDP International Consultant as well as interpretation during meeting and interviews, as well as coordinate with the A2J Project Team engagement of any such specialised services;
8. Provide throughout the assignment administrative support related to organisation and conduct of meetings, interviews, survey, validation workshops, presentations with the stakeholders, including other support necessary for preparation of the UNDP International Consultant missions to the Republic of Moldova.

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

The contractor's performance will be evaluated against the following criteria: timeliness, professionalism, proactiveness, communication, accuracy, and quality of the products delivered. Any person applying for this Bid shall have a certain profile in terms of qualifications, skills and special professional experience required to carry out the assignment. The candidates shall have the following relevant skills, qualifications and experience:

Academic Qualifications:

- Master's degree or equivalent (5-year university degree) in statistics, economics, accounting, law and/or other science related to areas relevant for the assignment;

Work experience:

- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience (expertise, executing function, consultancy, advising, etc.) in or related to statistical activity (preferably official/Government statistics system);

- Proven experience (at least 3 assignments, undertaking or participation) in assessments, evaluations and/or reviews preferable in the statistical area/s relevant to the present assignment (methodologies for calculation of statistical indicators, designing of questionnaires, classifications and business registers, assessments, evaluations, reviews, thematic analysis, legislation adjustments, etc). Confirming documents will be mandatory provided;
- Working experience with senior officials within government, development partners and nongovernment organizations will be an asset;
- Proven previous experience in working with UN agencies & EU organizations will be an asset.

Competencies:

- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the UN, UNODC, EU standards in the field of crime and justice statistics;
- Excellent knowledge of the peculiarities (notions, concepts, legal and regulatory framework, European standards, best practices, etc.) of statistical sector as a whole, and the areas of justice sector statistics in particular;
- Strong understanding of quality issues in a national statistics system and methodological/technical knowledge on how to assess and address them;
- Ability to analyse, plan, communicate effectively orally and in writing, draft reports, solve problems, organize and meet expected results, adapt to different environments (cultural, economic, political and social);
- Excellent written and spoken Romanian and English. Knowledge of Russian is an asset;
- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status. *Please mention in CV if you belong to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment.*

UNDP Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

- Offeror's Letter confirming interest and availability for the Individual Contractor assignment with financial proposal (LUMP SUM) (in USD, specifying a total requested amount per working day, including all related costs, including daily fee, travel expenses and per diems - quoted in separate line items). The travel costs to Moldova shall be indicated separately and will be covered only if the travel will be allowed in the COVID-19 context. Financial proposal template included in Annex 2;
- Duly updated CV with at least 3 references;
- Proposal, explaining why he/she is most suitable for the assignment, including past experience in similar assignments, providing a brief information on above qualifications, and brief methodology on how he/she will approach and conduct the work.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in installments or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including fees, taxes, travel costs, accommodation costs, communication, and number of anticipated working days).

Travel

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

The travel costs to Moldova shall be indicated separately and will be covered only if the travel will be allowed in the COVID-19 context.

6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be short-listed based on the following minimum qualification criteria:

- Master's degree or equivalent (5-year university degree) in statistics, economics, accounting, law and/or other science related to areas relevant for the assignment;
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience (expertise, executing function, consultancy, advising, etc.) in or related to statistical activity (preferably official/Government statistics system).

The short-listed individual consultants will be further evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight – 60% (300 pts);

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (200 pts).

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
<u>Technical</u>		
Master's degree or equivalent (5-year university degree) in statistics, economics, accounting, law and/or other science related to areas relevant for the assignment	<i>Master – 5 pts., PhD – 10 pts.</i>	10
At least 5 years of relevant professional experience (expertise, executing function, consultancy, advising, etc.) in or related to statistical activity (preferably official/Government statistics system)	5 years – 35 pts., each additional year of experience – 10 pts. up to a maximum of 55 pts.	55
<u>Interview</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven experience (at least 3 assignments, undertaking or participation) in assessments, evaluations and/or reviews preferable in the statistical area/s relevant to the present assignment (<i>3 assignments – 30 pts., each additional assignment – 10 pts, up to max 50 pts</i>) • Working experience with senior officials within government, development partners and nongovernment organizations (<i>None – 0 pts, limited – 10 pts, good – 20 pts, strong – 30 pts</i>) • Proven previous experience in working with UN agencies & EU organizations (<i>No – 0 pts, Yes - 30 pts.</i>) • In-depth knowledge and understanding of the UN, UNODC, EU standards in the field of crime and justice statistics (<i>None – 0 pts, limited – 10 pts, good – 20 pts, strong – 30 pts.</i>) • Excellent knowledge of the peculiarities (notions, concepts, legal and regulatory framework, European standards, best practices, etc.) of statistical sector as a whole, and the areas of justice sector statistics in particular (<i>None – 0 pts, limited – 10 pts, good – 20 pts, strong – 30 pts.</i>) 	225

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong understanding of quality issues in a national statistics system and methodological/technical knowledge on how to assess and address them (<i>None – 0 pts, limited – 5 pts, good – 15 pts, strong – 25 pts pts.</i>) • Ability to analyse, plan, communicate effectively orally and in writing, draft reports, solve problems, organize and meet expected results, adapt to different environments (cultural, economic, political and social) (<i>None – 0 pts, limited – 5 pts, good – 10 pts, strong – 15 pts</i>) • Excellent written and spoken Romanian and English. Knowledge of Russian is an asset (<i>each language 5 pts, up to 15 pts.</i>) 	
Belonging to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment*	(no – 0 pts., to one group – 5 pts., to two or more groups – 10 pts.)	10
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300

* Under-represented groups in UN Moldova are persons with disabilities, LGBTI, ethnic and linguistic minorities, especially ethnic Gagauzians, Bulgarians, Roma, Jews, people of African descent, people living with HIV, religious minorities, especially Muslim women, refugees and other non-citizens.

<u>Financial</u>	
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: <u>S = Fmin / F * 200</u> S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration	200

Winning candidate

The winning candidate will be the candidate, who has accumulated the highest aggregated score (technical scoring + financial scoring).

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS