



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **2 August 2022**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: Communication Consultant

Project name: “Addressing the impacts of energy crisis and initiating solutions toward energy security and addressing energy poverty” (FPI Programme)

Period of assignment/services: August 2022 – August 2023 (up to 200 working days)

Proposals should be submitted **online by pressing the "Apply Online" button**, no later than **16 august 16:30 (Moldova local time)**.

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: silvia.pana-carp@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. PROJECT GOAL AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The overall objective of the Programme is to assist the Government of Moldova to tackle the current energy crisis and energy poverty in addressing prioritized systemic elements in the energy sector to cope with potential future energy crisis.

Specific objectives are to support the Government of Moldova to:

1. put in place the legal and regulatory framework in the energy sector with mainstreamed social and climate considerations in line with the EU requirements;
2. strengthen the capacities of the energy-related actors and enhancing institutional coordination mechanisms to address and avert risks entailed in recent and potential future energy crisis;
3. increased awareness and communication among the population to adopt the best energy saving practices and measures and to encourage the use of renewables;

4. operationalize nation-wide energy programmes and demonstrate solutions to increase energy affordability in residential and public buildings, targeting specifically the most vulnerable and affected groups of population.

2. BACKGROUND

Moldova is part of the EU's European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and in the Eastern Partnership framework, which aims at strengthening individual and regional relationships between the EU and countries in its neighborhood. Moldova is also part of the Energy Community Treaty since 2010 and has signed the Association Agreement with EU in June 2014, including the DCFTA which entered into force in 2016. As a follow-up, Moldova is required to ensure transposition of the EU *acquis Communautaire*, which underpins the EU energy legislation on electricity, gas, oil, renewables, efficiency and environment. The country is planning to fully synchronize its electricity network with the ENTSO-E to connect to European electricity market.

The energy sector is one of the top priorities for the Government and it is addressed in Government's Plans and a number of policy documents, laws and regulations. The most important are the following: the draft National Development Strategy 2030, the National Energy Strategy 2030, Law on energy, Law on electricity, Law on promoting use of energy from renewable sources, Law on natural gas, Law on energy efficiency, Law on the energy performance of buildings, Law on the labelling of products with energy impact, Law on eco-design requirements for energy-related products, etc., as well as a list of secondary legislation, meant necessary to ensure for the implementation of the primary legislation.

Moldova is Part to Energy Community Treaty since 2010. By adopting the Energy Community Treaty, Moldova made legally binding commitments to adopt core EU energy legislation, the so-called "*acquis communautaire*". The Treaty and its *acquis* evolve constantly to incorporate new sectors as well as update or replace older acts. To stay on track with the evolution of European Union law, Articles 24 and 25 of the Treaty allow the adaptation of the *acquis* and implementing of possible amendments. Thus, in November 2021, the first set of ***Clean energy package acts*** were incorporated into the Energy Community *acquis*.

On 18 November 2015, the European Commission adopted a Communication stating that integrated national energy and climate plans, addressing all five key dimensions of the energy union, are crucial tools for the implementation of the Energy Union Strategy and for the development of more strategic energy and climate policy planning.

In November 2018, the Energy Community Ministerial Council adopted the Recommendation 2018/01/EnC-MC, recognizing, that the development of integrated national energy and climate plans by the Contracting Parties would support the attainment of the long-term energy and climate policy objectives, reduce the administrative burden and enhance transparency while promoting investor certainty in the region.

The adoption of Governance Regulation 2018/1999 on 30 November 2021 marked the next step. Adopted and adapted by Decision 2021/14/MC-EnC, the Regulation sets common rules for planning,

reporting and monitoring on energy and climate policies and targets. In particular, the Contracting Parties will be required to submit National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs).

For details, please refer to the Terms of Reference.

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

The Communication Consultant will ensure, in line with the Programme scope, the provision of the following development services and products pertaining to an effective communication and public outreach:

a. Ensure the effective management of the project's communication plan, focusing on achievement of the following:

- Review, implement and continuously monitor the project's communication plan, using appropriate feedback mechanisms and monitoring tools;
- Establish meaningful partnerships with mass-media (esp. specialized), at the local and national levels;
- Coordinate the activity of the project's national consultant(s) in the field of communication and public outreach;
- Ensure synergies with other programmatic partners on joint outreach, communication and capacity development activities;
- Identify appropriate suppliers for the provision of goods/services required for the implementation of the communication plan;
- Ensure compliance with all corporate rules and regulations of UNDP and EU on in the field of communication and visibility promotion, efficiently cooperate with the UNDP and EU Communications Officers; Ensure coordination with the press-service of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development;
- Provide solid inputs to project's analytical products, work plans, progress reports, and fundraising efforts, in the area of responsibility, etc

b. Ensure the visibility of the project's component results, focusing on achievement of the following:

- Prepare communications products (via articles, success stories, interviews, blogs posts, press releases, videos, photo essays etc.) and ensure wide dissemination and visibility of project's achievements in the national media as well as in the local and regional media/websites;
- Design concepts for communication products and oversee their implementation;
- Design and conduct public events (launches, policy dialogues, roundtables, conferences) etc.
- Design and conduct campaigns;
- Conceptualize and deploy assets for social media (illustrations, infographics, gifs etc).
- Manage visibility kits (online and printed);
- Organize press trips in Programme partner communities and ensure media coverage;
- Prepare and conduct communication trainings for the Programme team, consultants and stakeholders;
- Support the communication capacities of partner communities (LPAs) and coordinate the support offered to programme partners in the area of communications and visibility (Ministry

of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Energy Efficiency Agency, National Agency for Energy Regulation, Energocom, Premier energy), with a focus on their development initiatives and opportunities;

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

I. Academic background:

- Master's degree in Journalism, Communication, Public Relations, Sociology, International Relations, or another relevant field.
- Bachelor's degree with additional two years of experience can be taken into consideration in lieu of Master's degree.

II. Experience and knowledge:

- 5 years of progressive experience in communication, mass-media and/ or public relations.
- Experience in the development and implementation of media/communication strategies and plans.
- Experience in conceptualizing and implementing national and local public outreach/communication campaigns.

III. Skills and competencies

- Solid understanding of and ability to apply communications tools and techniques
- Ability to analyze, plan, communicate effectively orally and in writing, draft report, solve problems, manage PR projects/ events, organize, and meet expected results, adapt to different environments (cultural, economic, political and social)
- Knowledge of topics related to energy efficiency, social or economic topics
- Outstanding drafting and communication skills

IV. Language requirements:

- Fluency in English, Romanian and/or Russian
- Knowledge of one or more minority languages relevant for Moldova, including Romani, Gagauzian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and sign language, is an asset.

The United Nations in 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.

5. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

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

1. Proposal, explaining why he/she is most suitable for the work, including past experience in similar assignments, providing a brief information on above qualifications and methodology on how he/she will approach and conduct the work (if applicable).
2. [**OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR \(IC\) ASSIGNMENT**](#)
3. CV with at least three names for a reference check.

6. 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.

7. EVALUATION

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

- Master's degree in Journalism, Communication, Public Relations, Sociology, International Relations, or another relevant field.
- At least 5 years of progressive experience in communication, mass-media and/ or public relations.

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 70% score of the technical evaluation (at least 210 points) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
<u>Technical</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor’s degree in communications, journalism, media studies or any other appropriate field; 	Bachelor’s degree – 10 pts., MA– 20 pts.	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 years of progressive experience in communication, mass-media and/ or public relations; 	no- 0 pts, 5 years – 50 pts, more than 5 years – for each additional year 5 pts up to the max – 80 pts	80
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in the development and implementation of media/communication strategies and plans; 	Yes –25 pts., No – 0 pts	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in conceptualizing and implementing national and local public outreach/communication campaigns; 	Yes –25 pts., No – 0 pts	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Interview</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solid understanding of and ability to apply communications tools and techniques (<i>Limited – up to 10 pts, Satisfactory – up to 20 pts, Excellent – up to 30 pts</i>); - Ability to analyze, plan, communicate effectively orally and in writing, draft report, solve problems, manage PR projects/ events, organize and meet expected results, adapt to different environments (cultural, economic, political and social) (<i>Limited – up to 10 pts, Satisfactory – up to 20 pts, Excellent – up to 30 pts</i>); - Knowledge of topics related to energy efficiency, social or economic topics (<i>Limited – up to 10 pts, Satisfactory –</i> 	150

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
	<p><i>up to 20 pts, Excellent – up to 40 pts);</i> - Outstanding drafting and communication skills <i>(Limited - 0 pts, Satisfactory – up to 20 pts, Excellent – up to 30 pts);</i> - Fluency in Romanian, English and/or <i>(Romanian – 10 pts., Russian and English – additional 5 pts. each, up to max 20 pts.)</i></p>	
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
<u>Financial</u>		
<p>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.</p>		200

Winning candidate

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

8. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS