REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION

**COUNTRY:** **Georgia**

**NAME OF PROJECT: Georgia I2Q - Innovation, Inclusion and Quality**

Loan No. **89550-GE**

**Assignment Title:** **Consulting Services for Promoting Internationalization of Higher Education**

**Reference No**. **GE-MESCS-212280-CS-QCBS**

The Georgia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Georgia I2Q - Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include: the development of a joint doctoral program that provides comprehensive knowledge to identify and research complex issues within the field of education and science management, in partnership with international institutions/universities. Another priority is to develop Disciplinary English Language modules and an Entrepreneurship Module to be taught at the Bachelor level of education. In addition, the Services aims to support the establishment of an International Excellence School, which provides a focused academic environment with short-term courses. The focus of the International Excellence school should be on innovation with the main aim to prepare early career researchers, as well as train, experienced researchers to be more successful in the grant application, project management, technology transfer and innovation, intersectoral cooperation, patenting, licensing, intellectual property laws and rights both on national and international levels. Participants should be familiarized with international good practices as well as national laws and regulations in the field.

The implementation period of the assignment is 33 months, which includes the time needed for the Client to review and approve all submitted reports. Expected start date of assignment is December 2022.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the primary procurement stage for the assignment can be found at the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/brbh2cmu1lq0zee/AABrzYoQs-qA9evmGqb1LtMDa?dl=0>

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services, followed by short listing criteria:

**General Experience:** Consulting company should have at least 10 years of experience in the higher education sector, including at least 5 years of international experience.

In the case of a Joint Venture, the leading member should have at least 7 years of relevant experience as set out above, including at least 3 years of international experience, while each member should have at least 5 years of relevant experience, including at least 2 years of relevant international experience.

**Specific Experience:** Consulting company should have experience in successfully implementing at least 3 contracts/projects on a similar scale and scope, such as curriculum development in higher education, implementation of the Bologna system and/or internationalization of higher education, with an estimated cost of each contract/project at least USD 350,000, which is confirmed by the recommendation letters issued by the relevant clients.

In case a single applicant/JV member is a HEI, in addition, it needs to demonstrate experience in collaborating with international partners, such as HEIs, research centers and/or private companies outside their country and have experience of working on a joint degree doctoral programme with a foreign HEI(s).

In the case of a Joint Venture, the specific experience will be aggregated.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The shortlist will contain 5 to 8 firms.

Experience in the projects relevant to the assignment should be submitted in the **Form N1** on the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/brbh2cmu1lq0zee/AABrzYoQs-qA9evmGqb1LtMDa?dl=0>

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” revised November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the “Quality and Cost-Based Selection” method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours:

**Email:** **procurement****@iiq.gov.ge**

Expressions of interest must be delivered electronically to the address below by mail, by **July 26, 2022, COB Tbilisi Time.**

Attn: Ia Iashvili, Procurement Specialist of the Georgia I2Q - Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project

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