

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Competiveness and Jobs Project
LOAN NUMBER 8528-YF

DEADLINE EXTENSION FROM
September 3 to October 1, 2018
FOR SUBMISSION
OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

ADDITIONAL PEER REVIEWER(S)

The Republic of Serbia has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD i.e. World Bank) for the **Competiveness and Jobs Project** (Project) which objective is to improve effectiveness and coordination of selected public programs to alleviate constrains to competitiveness and job creation, including investment and export promotion, innovation, active market programs and labour intermediation. The Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia (IF) intends to engage up to 50 additional qualified individuals in following areas of industry, science and technology:

- 1) Energy and energy efficiency;
- 2) Life sciences;
- 3) Civil engineering and construction materials;
- 4) Machines and mechanical engineering;
- 5) Electrical engineering;
- 6) Information and communication technologies;
- 7) Food science and agriculture;
- 8) Environmental science and
- 9) New materials and nanotechnologies.

Background

Subject assignment belongs under the Component A2 Program for Innovation of the Project, which is implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD). The IF is implementing under Component A2 following programs: Mini and Matching Grants Programs (to finance specific proof of concept, prototyping, research and development (R&D) and technology development projects with commercialization potential in start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises), Collaborative Grants Scheme Program (designed to incentivize private sector companies and public sector R&D organizations to engage in joint scientific research and development projects), Innovation Voucher Program and Technology Transfer.

In order to secure objectivity, transparency and quality of the evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the Mini and Matching Grants and Collaborative Grant Scheme Program, the IF has secured international peer review selection process by engaging qualified individuals for Peer Reviewers.

Since the beginning of the Project the IF issued two calls for Request for Expression of Interest for the position of Peer Reviewers, and signed contracts with 85 qualified individuals. Due to a great interest shown in previous period during announced calls for project proposals, high number of applications submitted by companies, the IF is looking to engage up to 50 additional qualified individuals as Peer Reviewers with expertise required to cover relevant areas of industry, science and technology: energy and energy efficiency, life sciences, civil engineering and construction materials, machines and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, information and communication technologies, food science and agriculture, environmental science and new materials and nanotechnologies.

Objective of the Assignment

Engagement of the Peer Reviewers is required for the Mini and Matching Grants and Collaborative Grant Scheme Program (MGs Programs) evaluation. Peer Reviewers will provide technical expert evaluation of the project proposals submitted for financing in accordance with the MGs Programs evaluation criteria, depending under which program is being evaluated. The Peer Reviewers will leverage their expertise to produce high quality evaluations for each project they are assigned and which they accept to evaluate, as to ensure valuable insight to be subsequently utilized by the IF's independent Investment Committee in the overall evaluation process.

Scope of work

The general functions and responsibilities of the Peer Reviewer are:

- Evaluating detailed project proposals based on the evaluation criteria listed in the Grant Manual and in line with the Review Guidelines for the respective program;
- Submitting the comments and scores for the project in the Review Evaluation Form (via IF's online Portal, except where and if requested otherwise)

Name of the Peer Reviewer is confidential, and he/she must declare any conflict of interest prior to undertaking the evaluation of a particular project proposal.

Experience and Qualifications

The person suitable for this position should have the following qualifications:

- General Qualifications and experience
 - University degree
 - At least 5 years of work experience in the field of applied research or relevant area of expertise
 - Experience in conducting peer review
 - Fluency in English
 - Good computer skills (Office programs).
- Specific Qualifications and experience
 - Proven experience in R&D project management in any of the following fields: energy and energy efficiency, life sciences, civil engineering and construction materials, machines and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, information and communication technologies, food science and agriculture, environmental science and new materials and nanotechnologies

- Proven advisory skills - preferred industry consulting experience (memberships in advisory bodies, mentoring experience, industry employment or joint projects is preferred)
- Preferred excellence in academic and/or industry R&D (experience in conducting cutting-edge research in the field of interest, publications in leading journals, patents, invited lectures at leading conferences).

Timing and Duration

The assignment is expected to start approximately in November/December 2018 and last approximately 2.5 years. Generally, the Peer Reviewers are expected to provide their services upon the timely notification by the IF team, depending on the timing of the announcement of the Call for Proposals for financing.

Additional Information for Candidates

The IF invites all interested eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services.

The individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IF’s general Rulebook on procedures for selection of independent international experts for the purpose of implementation of the IF’s financing programs (March 2017).

Interested and eligible individual consultants should send expressions of interest, together with information on relevant experience and CV, by e-mail to the contact information listed below.

When submitting Expressions of Interest please indicate **area of expertise** for which you are applying.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered to the e-mail address below **by October 1, 2018**.

To: bojana.novakovic@innovationfund.rs

**Cc: milan.vidljinic@innovationfund.rs
office@innovationfund.rs**

Bojana Novakovic
Senior Legal Advisor
Innovation Fund – Republic of Serbia
Veljka Dugosevica 54 Street
Science Technology Park Belgrade
11 000 Belgrade
Republic of Serbia
Tel: + 381 11 655 56 96

Milan Vidljinic
Administration Manager
Innovation Fund – Republic of Serbia
Veljka Dugosevica 54 Street
Science Technology Park Belgrade
11 000 Belgrade
Republic of Serbia
Tel: + 381 11 655 56 96