

INNOVATION FUND
Competiveness and Jobs Project
LOAN NUMBER 8528-YF

REQUEST FOR 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 science;
- 3) Information and communication technologies;
- 4) Food science and agriculture;
- 5) New materials and nanotechnologies;
- 6) Civil engineering and construction materials;
- 7) Machines and mechanical engineering;
- 8) Electrical engineering and
- 9) Environmental science.

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.

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 15 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 Reviewers are:

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

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

The Terms of Reference for this assignment is provided in the following link: http://www.inovacionifond.rs/cms/files//ostale-nabavke/2019_TOR_Additional_Peer_Reviewers_CJ.pdf

Experience and Qualifications

Minimum required qualifications of the Peer Reviewer:

- Education: University degree - Bachelor
- Work experience: At least 5 years of relevant working experience in business development (entrepreneurship, VC/ Private Equity/ angel or other similar types of investing, industry consulting) or R&D (faculties, research organizations, labs or company research branch) or project management (leadership role in conducting development R&D projects within industry or research organizations,) in one or more of the following technical 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
- Peer review experience: Minimum 5 technical peer reviews conducted in last three years

The application process and documentation for the Mini Grants Program, Matching Grants Program and Collaborative Grant Scheme Program is conducted in English language, due to international evaluation process. Therefore, the Applications submitted are in English language and the Peer Reviewers are conducting their work in English.

Evaluation criteria

The candidates will be ranked based on the following criteria

EDUCATION *Max. score 15 points:*

- Bachelor's degree 5 points
- Master's degree (MSc) 10 points
- PhD degree 15 points

WORK EXPERIENCE *Max. score 55 points*

- 5 years 30 points
- From 6 to 10 years 40 points
- From 11 to 15 years 50 points
- More than 15 years 55 points

PEER REVIEW EXPERIENCE in the past three years *Max. score 30 points*

- From 5 to 10 reviews 20 points
- From 11 to 20 reviews 25 points
- More than 20 reviews 30 points

Timing and Duration

The assignment is expected to start approximately in January/February 2020 and last approximately 1 year. 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.

Candidates submission procedure

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

Interested and eligible individual consultants are invited to submit filled Submission form (on-line application) in English language to the following email address: peer.reviewers@inovacionifond.rs. The submission form can be found at <http://www.inovacionifond.rs/cms/files//ostale-nabavke/PeerReviewerSubmissionForm.pdf>

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered to the e-mail address below **by November 30, 2019**.