

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Republic of Moldova
Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
Moldova Higher Education Project
Credit No. 6542-MD
Project ID No. P167790

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (MoECR) has received financing in the amount of EUR 35.7 million equivalents from the World Bank Group toward the cost of Moldova Higher Education Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, related services and consulting services to be procured under this project.

The Project will support the modernization and enhancement of key elements of the system's quality assurance mechanisms, such as the development of qualification standards that would guide the subsequent revision of the curricula and accreditation of academic programs. It will also support the registration of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (NAQAER) in European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), which is a pre-requisite for the recognition of diplomas issued by Moldovan universities in Europe.

The Project will also support the piloting and implementation of a new performance-based higher education financial model that is meant to increase the system's efficiency and lead to a budget planning paradigm shift, by driving universities to focus on results and performance, rather than on inputs. Moreover, it will support the development and implementation of an electronic admission system that would optimize existing outdated processes and bring in additional efficiencies for both students (applicants) and universities.

Additionally, the Project will support the development of a unique higher education management information system and a multi-functional labor market information system. While the former would strengthen the higher education system's capacity in planning and monitoring and evaluation, the latter would be paramount for addressing the needs of both employers and job seekers, including university graduates, who currently struggle to find reliable information on skills and job vacancies.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Project includes a targeted package that will benefit public universities that offer academic programs in four priority areas identified by the GoM, as well as pedagogical colleges. The priority areas are engineering, information technologies, health (medicine) and pedagogy. In total, the MoECR expects that 15 institutions (9 public higher education institutions and 6 pedagogical colleges) will be eligible for benefitting from the targeted interventions.

The Project is comprised of the following three components:

Component 1 - Improving the Quality Assurance Mechanisms.

This component aims to improve Moldova higher education system's quality assurance mechanisms, which would also contribute to improve its labor market orientation. It comprises three sub-components that support activities in higher education quality, financing and information systems (management and monitoring), which would benefit all universities in Moldova.

Sub-component 1.1. - National Qualifications Framework and Quality Assurance would finance relevant activities in higher education quality assurance, including the development and revision of qualification standards in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework, and the improvement of the existing QA mechanisms.

Sub-component 1.2. - System Management and Monitoring would finance activities to improve the higher education system's management and monitoring capacity. It would finance the development and implementation of three information systems: unified electronic higher education admission system (e-Admission), unique Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), and Labor Market Information System (LMIS) and a higher education system-wide graduate tracer study.

Sub-component 1.3 - Higher Education Financing would support (i) the piloting the implementation of the new financial model and adjusting it, (ii) development of guidelines for the implementation of the new model; (iii) training of MoECR's and universities' staff in the new model, (iv) monitoring/assessment of the implementation of the new financial model for course correction, (v) development and implementation of a communication strategy to raise awareness on the new model and its advantages.

COMPONENT 2 – Improving the Labor Market Orientation through Targeted Interventions

This component would finance the design and implementation of an institution- and needs-based program Higher Education Improvement Program - HEIP aimed to improve the labor market orientation of Moldova's higher education system. It would also support the research done at the level of universities, given the possibility of financing the improvement of laboratories. The second component comprises two sub-components:

Sub-component 2.1 - HEIP Preparation would finance technical assistance for the (i) preparation of improvement programs by selected universities and colleges, including the development of guidelines for beneficiaries, (ii) evaluation of the proposed programs, (iii) carrying out of the fiduciary tasks (procurement and financial management) at the implementation stage of the HEIP, and (iv) adaptation or development of a tool for engaging stakeholders in the HEIP.

Sub-component 2.2 – HEIP Implementation would finance the implementation of the HEIP's awarded proposals. Eligible activities under this sub-component would include among others purchase of goods to equip laboratories and learning spaces, minor civil works, consulting services, non-consulting services and training.

COMPONENT 3: Project Management -This component would support the *day-to-day* management and monitoring of the proposed Project through a Project Management Team.

Procurement under the proposed Project would be carried out in accordance with the *World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, issued on July 1, 2016, revised on November 1, 2016 and August 1, 2018*, as well as with the latest *Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.

Specific procurement notices for contracts to be bid under the World Bank's international competitive bidding (ICB) procedures and for contracts for consultancy services will be announced, as they become available, in [UN Development Business](#) and MoECR's web page.

Prequalification of suppliers and contractors will not be required for any of the Project's contracts.

Interested eligible firms and individuals who would wish to be considered for the provision of goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services for the above-mentioned project, or those requiring additional information, should contact the Recipient at the address below:

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