**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**For engaging Expert to prepare the Report on Environmental Impact Assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”, provided by EU grants under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme between the Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Albania**

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| **Position title:** | Expert/s to prepare the Report on environmental impact assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”  |
| **Place of the activities** | North Macedonia and Albania |
| **Project** | Technical assistance for the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Republic of North Macedonia - Republic of Albania under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)  |
| **Organisation** | IPA CBC Programme North Macedonia-Albania 2014-2020 |
| **Financing**  | Grant Contract  |
| **Budget line** |  |
| **Duration** | Up to 15 days during the project duration |
| **Start date of assignment** | 15th of April 2022 |
| **Deadline of delivery** | 10th of May 2022 |

1. **Background**

**The Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programme North Macedonia - Albania 2014-2020 funded by the European Union,** was adopted by the European Commission (EC) on 11/12/2014. This CBC programme aims at providing assistance for CBC operations in three thematic priorities: (i) encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage; (ii) enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment; and (iii) protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management. This programme includes a specific budget allocation for TA operations aimingat supporting the implementation of the entire CBC Programme.

The responsible authorities respectively, Ministry for Local-Self Government (MoLSG) in North Macedonia and State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination (SASPAC) in Albania in their capacities as Operating Structures of this CBC programme, are planning under the IPA 3 CBC Programme North Macedonia - Albania 2021-2027, funded by the European Union, to implement the majority of interventions through grants schemes based on public calls for proposals. Besides that, both OSs also plan to support implementation of strategic projects expecting to have a significant cross-border impact throughout the programme area, in an extraordinarily integrative way.

One of the potential strategic projects under the IPA 3 CBC programme MK-AL 2021-2027, might be the one titled “Ohrid lake–Bridging Two countries towards One destination”. The objective of the project is to contribute towards economic development and social inclusion in the cross-border regions of the lake Ohrid watershed, Municipality of Ohrid, Struga and Debarca in North Macedonia as well as Municipality of Pogradec in Albania.

Lake Ohrid is a trans-boundary lake and it presents an additional challenge for its sustainable management and development.

Under this strategic project the EU plans to provide a grant for acquiring of two solar cruise ships that will be used for the international lake passenger lines, which will make the Lake Ohrid region as one destination for all.

Total maximum grant for purchasing of the two equal solar boats with additional equipment (fuel pump, sludge pump ... act) for a minimum of 50 passengers should be € 1,500,000.00. The VAT and customs duties are excluded from the price of the solar boats.

One of the challenges on a way to reach maturity of this strategic project is the preparation of an Assessment report on environmental impact of implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”.

In this respect, based on the conclusions of the technical meetings, it was decided to open a tender (open call) for selection of an Expert/s who will prepare an Assessment report on environmental impact for the implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”.

Interested Expert/s, who have expertise in preparing report on environmental impact assessment and meet the requirements of this ToR, should submit an offer.

**2. Purpose of the service**

The selected Expert/s will have to prepare the report on environmental impact assessment of implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination” that will contribute to enhancing the maturity of this strategic project idea.

**3. Scope of services**

The selected expert/s shall realize on the desk analyses and on the field visits research / analysis. During the field visits, the Expert/s will visit / interview the representatives of service providers, municipalities as well as line ministries and other relevant institutions in order to prepare a Report on environmental impact assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”.

**4. Outputs:**

Assessment report on environmental impact of implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid - lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination” will find answers of the possible significant impact, such as:

Impact on Water Quality and Quantity;

Impact on Biodiversity and landscape;

Impact on soil and air quality and noise,

Impact on Population and Human Health

Transboundary Impacts;

All other relevant matters in concern.

**5. Contracting Authority and its role**

The Contracting Authority will be the Ministry of Local Self Government (MoLSG) in the Republic of North Macedonia.

MoLSG will closely cooperate with the Operating Structure in Albanian side (SASPAC) in all other issues to this regard.

It is advisable that both Operating Structures to organize a joint meeting with the Expert/s before the beginning of the assignment.

**6. Expert Profile and qualifications**

The IPA CBC Programme North Macedonia – Albania invites Expert/s having expertise in the related field satisfying the following said conditions.

The experts should have the following educational and professional qualifications:

* 1. Senior professional level with a minimum of five years’ experience in preparing environmental impact assessment (max 25 points);
	2. Recognized degree and license according to the country’s legislation in related fields; (15 max points);
	3. Strong research analytical skills, combined with superior communication and interpersonal skills (max 20 points);
	4. Relevant experience in working for governments and/or international organizations on consultancy assignments, especially in strategic planning and project implementation (max 10 points);
	5. Strong English skills, both in written and oral format; (max 10 points);

***Only the pre-selected candidates will be interviewed.***

General Competencies

* Ability to work in a team in a multi-cultural environment;
* Ability to multi-task and work irregular and long hours; and
* Flexibility to travel as required (if applicable).

The experts will work under the direct supervision of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of this IPA CBC programme.

**7. Engagement Period and location:**

The expert/s shall discharge their duties for a maximum of **15 days** within of contract duration.

The assignment will be coordinated from the JTS Struga, within support of the Operating Structures of both coutries.

**8. Deliverables/Outputs**

The Expert/s who is assigned to prepare the Report on Environmental Impact Assessment for the implementation of the Strategic Project Idea “Ohrid lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination” shall provide outputs related to the proposed to the key duties and responsibilities on regular basis.

**9. Reporting**

Formally, the Expert/s have to submit Report on environmental impact assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”, to the Contracting Authority.

**10. Language of the Specific Contract**

Proposals, correspondence and documents relating to the deliverables should be submitted in the official programme language which is English.

**11. Remuneration**

The expert/s will be hired to discharge his/her duties – preparing the Report on environmental impact assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea *“Ohrid lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”* for a maximum of **2,250.00 EUR** – for the execution of the tasks defined by this ToR.

Travel and accommodation costs pertaining to meetings to be attended and the field work are included in the aforementioned amount.

The payments will be made on an output delivery basis, upon submission of outputs defined in point above, subject to clearance of the OSs.

**12. Evaluation Criteria**

The maximum number of points is 100. The points will be distributed by the following criteria:

80 points for profile and qualification from point 6 (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5) and 20 points for price from point number 11.

The points for price will be got according to following formula: **(lowest price) x (20) / (priced offered).**

**12. Confidentiality**

The Report on Environmental Impact Assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea *“Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination”* shall not disclose to third party any news or information relating to the project on which it is working during the period of assignment period and thereafter, without prior written consent of CA or as required by the terms of or for execution of this assignment. In this case, the CA (MoLSG) shall consult beforehand the Albanian Operating Structure.

**13. Termination**

The contract can be terminated by either side on giving a Notice period of 20 (twenty) days. During the Notice Period, both parties shall carry out their work conscientiously. At the end of the Notice Period, the Expert shall hand over all documents and relevant updates to the CA.

**14. Submission**

The Tenderers / Expert/s for preparing the Report on environmental impact assessment for the implementation of the strategic project idea “Ohrid-lake-Bridging Two countries toward One destination” shall submit **detailed technical and financial offer along with CV of Expert/s** that will work on preparation of this assignment **latest by 31th of March 2022** on the following email address**:** **jts\_mkal@yahoo.com**

The contract will be awarded to the Expert/s based on the evaluation criteria.

The selection of successful candidate will be made jointly by MoLSG and the SASPAC.

**Note** The above job description is meant to describe the general nature and level of work being performed. It is not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required for the position.