TERMS OF REFERENCE

**for short-term engagement of expert for developing draft ‘Republic of Srpska Strategy for Regional Development’(SSTE/EU4CS/2)**

# I BACKGROUND

## Beneficiary country

The action will be implemented in Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Project description

*Title:* **‘**EU for Civil Society (EU4CS) - Capacity building of Governments to include CSOs into the decision-making, Bosnia and Herzegovina'

The *overall objective* of this project is to address the problem of weak cooperation and dialogue between governments and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to extend support to inclusive social dialogue and social partners (employees, employers, governments) including in relation to legislation, collective negotiations, assessing the need for new legislation, drafting the laws and monitoring the implementation of reforms.

The *specific objective* is to target the problem of weak cooperation and dialogue between governments and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina and extend it in direction of support to social dialogue and social partners (employees, employers, governments) including on such issues as legislation, collective negotiations, assessing the need for new legislation, drafting the laws and monitoring the implementation of reforms.

Expected *outputs* to be achieved include:

* Strengthen capacity of the public institutions and CSOs for better cooperation on policy dialogue,
* Strengthen capacity of the CSOs for better cooperation on creating and drafting strategic, legal and policy framework,
* Improved social dialogue between social partners (employees, employers, governments) at all institutional levels,
* Ensure participations of CSOs in the public consultations process/public debates on different institutional levels,
* Improved transparency in financing of CSOs by public institutions and
* Improved CSOs programme and financial reporting system to relevant institutions.

Project ‘*EU for Civil Society (EU4CS) - Capacity building of Governments to include CSOs into the decision-making, Bosnia and Herzegovina',* is implemented by international consortium led by

PCM Consulting, Igor Stojanovic sp, Voždovačka 4, 78000 Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Phone:  +387 51 329560; info@pcm.ba

## Relevant country background

Since 1995 and according to the Dayton Agreement the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has been divided into two political entities – the Republic of Srpska (RS) and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) – and the Brčko District (condominium). The RS covers 49 % of the territory and forms a semi-circle around the north and east, while the FBiH occupies the other 51%. Each Entity has its own political structure and administration. The BiH State government consists of a Parliamentary Assembly, which is divided into a House of Representatives and a House of Peoples, a rotating tripartite presidency (with one member from each of the constituent peoples – Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs), and a Council of Ministers with nine ministries. The political structure of the FBiH is divided into three levels: the Entity level, the Cantonal level and the Municipal level, with each municipality having its own municipal council and administrative structures. By contrast, the Republika Srpska (RS) has no cantons, only municipalities.

Therefore, in such a complex environment non-state actors (NSA) have difficulties in advocating for reforms in the above mentioned areas.

According to the latest data obtained from the BiH Ministry of Justice, for more details please consult http://zbirniregistri.gov.ba/ only accessible in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s official languages, there are more than 27,000 organisations that can be considered as civil society non-profit organisations. At the State and FBiH level, the Ministries of Justices are responsible for registration and for keeping the Registry Books for Associations and Foundations. According to RS's Law on Associations and Foundations, associations and foundations register at the Basic Court in the seat of the District Court in the area in which they have their seat.

## Current state of affairs in the relevant sector

BiH remains at an early stage of preparation in the area of regional policy and coordination of structural instruments and still needs to establish a system for managing EU structural funds. The country still lacks a number of countrywide strategies in fields relevant to cohesion policy. There is no sound countrywide regional development policy, with accompanying institutional structure and performance monitoring framework.

Also, BiH made no progress in the areas of resources, agriculture and cohesion (agriculture and rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, fisheries, and financial and budgetary provisions), where preparation is mostly at an early stage. The country must step up its efforts to prepare and adopt a post-2021 countrywide strategy for rural development, align its legislation on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy and strengthen its administrative capacities. More efforts are also needed to prepare and adopt a countrywide strategy on fisheries and aquaculture and harmonise data collection. Furthermore, BiH should start preparing a countrywide regional development strategy.

# II SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

## 2.1. Purpose of the assignment

## Regional Development Strategy Expert on (hereinafter referred to as “Expert”) has to facilitate and draft the RS Regional Development Strategy (further – Strategy) in line with existing RS Law on Strategic Planning and Management of Development and in close cooperation with RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation, civic society and other interested actors (including EU4CS project).

## It is envisaged that the Expert will perform its duties according to the following framework:

## Related work plans, timeframes, methodologies and relevant data assessment should be agreed with RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation and EU4CS.

## The elaboration of the Strategy, will be provided according to the RS Law on Strategic Planning and Management of Development. This also should consider the relevant legislation of RS governing the decentralisation processes, as well as international standards and regulations, (e.g., relevant EU standards, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 etc.).

## Final draft of the Strategy should be approved by RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation

## 2.2. Geographical area

The geographical area to be covered by the project is entire entity Republic of Srpska.

## 2.3. Target groups

* RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation,
* Civic society organizations (CSOs) which Ministry established cooperation and held training on CSOs participation in regional strategy development (info about those CSOs to be acquired from the Ministry during the realization of the tasks),
* other RS public institutions from the working group (established by the Ministry) and stakeholders engaged in strategy development through other means,
* EU4CS personnel.

## 2.4. Tasks and deliverables to be provided by the Expert

Tasks description:

* Development of draft RS Regional Development Strategy in line with RS Law on Strategic Planning and Development Management,
* Design and delivery of a series of thematic workshops for the institutional working group (consisted by representatives of public institutions and CSOs), which offers practical learning experience for Ministry representatives along the main steps of the strategic planning process and,
* Participate in consultation events with public on draft RS Regional Development Strategy.

Expert will provide the following deliverables:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Description of the deliverable | Number of assignments days | Due date |
|  | Draft RS Regional Development Strategy, reviewed and quality assured by the expert, ensuring internal coherence is approved by EU4CS and endorsed by the institutional working group of the - RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation | 25 | Four months from start of the contract  |

##  2.5. Payment

The payments will be completed upon the full completion and acceptance of the contract’s obligations, after RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation signs the certification of acceptance and upon the approval of the Experts’ time and log sheets from the EU programme manager.

# III REQUIREMENTS

## 3.1. Expert’s profile

**Qualifications and skills**

* University degree in public development studies, economics, political or social sciences or a related fields;
* Computer literacy;
* Fluency in both written and spoken English and BiH languages is advantage.

**Professional experience**

General professional experience:

* Minimum 10 years of general professional experience;

Specific professional experience:

* At least 5 years of proven experience related with facilitation of creation of regional development strategies within the public sector
* Experience in working in IPA countries (Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)) will be considered an advantage

**Please note that, civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the beneficiary country cannot be recruited as experts, unless prior written approval has been obtained from the European Commission.**

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# IV EVALUATION

# Received applications from the experts will be evaluated against evaluation criteria

# development in line with required qualifications and experiences of the experts, as presented

# within the section 3 of this ToR.

# V DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

# 5.1. Applicants shall submit the following documents:

# Personal CV including information on experience in similar projects / assignments

# Offeror's Letter to EU4CS, confirming interest and availability for the expert assignment with Financial Proposal, indicating fee per working day.

# 5.2. Application Procedure

Applicants interested in applying should submit documents from 5.1. via email on following email address info@eu4cs.ba.

Application must contain reference number JSTE/EU4CS/2 in the subject line.

Deadline for submission: August 31st, 2023 (16:00h)