
Projects: Modernization of Local Public Services

PN: 14.2267.4-001.00

TERMS OF REFERENCE
for a consulting company
to support MRDC and RDC/RDA Gagauzia in the development of the new
Regional Development Strategy(RDS) for Gagauzia development region

1. Context

Since the beginning of 2010, the GIZ Project Modernization of Local Public Services (MLPS) supports various Local Public Administrations of the Republic of Moldova in extending and modernizing service provision in water and sanitation, solid waste management and energy efficiency of public buildings. The project is funded and commissioned by the Government of Germany, namely, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and receives additional support from the European Commission, Government of Sweden and Government of Romania. The MLPS project is its 2nd phase of implementation and is (currently) supposed to end in December 2018.

The overall objective of the project is as follows:

“The framework conditions for a citizen-oriented implementation of regional development policy in priority sectors of local public service provision are improved.”

The project comprises 4 intervention areas, including Intervention Area 1 (IA 1) under which it is proposed that :

“MRDC puts in place a coherent framework for the effective implementation of national regional development policy in priority sectors.”

The main counterpart(s) of the MLPS project is the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Regional Development Councils and Regional Development Agencies from development regions North, Centre, South and Gagauzia.

Since 2010, the MRDC together with partner agencies has been implementing the National Strategy on Regional Development (NSRD). According to the 2006 law on regional development, the NSRD is “the main document for regional development planning, reflecting national policy in this area and setting national mechanisms for regional development”. The most recent have been developed for the period 2016-2020 and have been recently approved (in April, 2016) by the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Also, by the end of 2015, 3 Regional Development Strategies (RDS) for the regions North, South and Centre have been developed, approved and currently, are under implementation. The Regional Development Strategy, according to the 2006 law on regional development, is “a medium-term (7 years) regional development policy document at the regional level, which identifies priorities, includes projects and specific measures for the implementation of regional development policy within the development region”. Thus, RDS are the main document for laying out the three development regions’ vision, strategy, results and targets.

In accordance with the Law on Regional Development, 3 more regions have to be established – Gagauzia, Chisinau and Transnistria. In relation to Gagauzia development region, after a series of negotiations, this has started to be operationalised. The Regional

Development Council of Gagauzia was established in October, 2015. Currently, the establishment of RDA Gagauzia is under process. However, there is a lack of strategic development vision of the regions for the period 2016-2020. The Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) of Gagauzia for the period 2009-2015¹ has not been extended and Regional Development Strategy for the region Gagauzia for the period 2016-2020 is not in place.

In coordination with the main national counterparts, it was decided to develop 2 strategic documents: new Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Gagauzia and Regional Development Strategy for the period 2016-2020 in line with the National Strategy of Regional Development for the period 2016-2020. In this context, the authorities of Gagauzia requested the support of UNDP in the development of the new SEDS, as well as the support of GIZ/MLPS in the development of the RDS 2016-2020 for Gagauzia development region.

In line with the above, GIZ seeks to commission a consulting company/organisation which have most qualified expertise in policies area to support MRDC and RDC/RDA Gagauzia in carrying out this complex assignment.

2. Overall objectives of the assignment

The overall objective of this assignment is to provide support to MRDC and RDC/RDA Gagauzia in the development of the RDS 2016-2020 in line with National Strategy on Regional Development 2016-2020 and specifics of the development region.

3. Tasks and responsibilities

In order to achieve the objective of this assignment, the consulting company or organisation(s) is/are expected to:

- Carry out a desk review of the strategic, operational and regulatory documents related to the development of national policies and Gagauzia normative framework, with particular focus on regional development, procedures and tools applied by State Chancellery, MRDC, RDAs, evaluations of the previous NSRD and RDSs, as well as the good practices and lessons learned captured by GIZ and other relevant international counterparts in the regional development and RBM area, etc.;
- Develop a work plan, based on the provided methodology, for the assignment and the concept note;
- Provide support to MRDC and RDC/RDA Gagauzia in establishing a participatory approach and develop a concept note laying down the vision and priorities of future regional development during the period 2016-2020;
- Participate in meetings and interview the relevant MRDC, RDC/RDA Gagauzia, Gagauzia administration representatives, inter-ministerial working group, as well as relevant GIZ, donor representatives (where required);
- Support MRDC and RDA in establishing and coordinating of thematic working groups to discuss the developed draft chapters of the RDS;

¹ SEDS 2009-2015 can be found at: http://viitorul.org/public/files/Strategie_Gagauzia_rus.pdf

- Drafting RDS as per Government Decision 33/2007, best practices and NSRD 2016-2020;
- Support RDC/RDA Gagauzia in delivering presentation and carrying out public consultations on draft/final RDS;
- Develop and submit an assignment report.

4. Key deliverables:

- Work plan, based on the provided methodology and the concept note developed and submitted;
- Participation/interviews in all meetings with stakeholders;
- Summary of interviews results, site visits;
- Thematic working groups session successfully facilitated and feedback/recommendations incorporated in the draft documents;
- Presentations on preliminary and final findings and recommendations;
- Intermediary and final draft RDS developed and submitted to RDA Gagauzia/MRDC/GIZ;
- Assignment report (intermediary and final) with the key findings and recommendations on the development of the new RDS and related M&E system.

5. Timeframe / Tentative Work Plan (15 June – 15 November 2016)

Start of the assignment	15 June
End of the assignment	15 November
Intermediary draft RDS	1 September
Final draft RDS	30 October
Handover of draft work results by the expert	In accordance with the tasks deadlines (by e-mail to the GIZ responsible advisor, copy to the PAU Senior Advisor);
Number of expert days	Up to 101 days overall

6. Management arrangements

The development of the RDS will be managed by the RDA Gagauzia in close coordination with RDC Gagauzia, MRDC and GIZ. The draft and final RDS shall be presented to the RDC.

7. Company profile:

- Extensive experience in the development of strategic documents, projects or programme for at least 3 years for the company (preferably in the regional or local development area);

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- Have a pool of national experts with proven backgrounds in the fields of economy, social affairs, regional/local/rural development, legal affairs, finance and cross-cutting issues (up to 5 national experts);
 - Proven experience in performing similar activities for at least 5 years for the individual consultants;
 - Experience in working with international organizations;
 - Sufficient technical resources and human resources for the successful implementation of the proposed activity;
 - Extensive knowledge of government, public, civil society organisations, local and regional representatives, as well as donors working in local/regional development;
 - Professional organisational skills and delivery in a timely and qualitative manner;
 - Proven research, analytical and writing skills
 - Excellent command of Romanian, as well as good knowledge of Russian and English languages.

9. Principal contact persons:

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