

Call for Expert(s) for Feasibility Study on

Developing Regionally Based Standards of Qualifications

within the project Towards Regionally-based standards of occupations - TO REGOS

The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is announcing a **Call for Expert(s) for Feasibility Study on Developing Regionally Based Standards of Qualifications** (the Study). The Study is to analyse the potential use and applicability of developing regionally based standards of qualifications in the area of vocational education and training (VET) in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia.

The call is open to individual consultants or consulting companies. The application deadline is **12th July 2020** at **00:00 CET**.

Based on the analysis of the application documents (CV, work programme, financial offer, letter of interest,) the final selection decision will be made. Online interviews with short short-listed candidates may be conducted prior to the final selection decision.

The results of the Call may include hiring one or more local or international experts, depending on the expertise of the applicants and needs of the Contractor.

Documents needed for application are to be sent by email to office@erisee.org. The subject of the e-mail should state: Call for expert(s) on Feasibility Study on Developing Regionally Based Standards of Qualifications.

Expert's Fee: To be agreed between the expert/s and the Contracting Authority (Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe – ERI SEE)

N.B.: The Contracting Authority (ERI SEE) reserves the right to engage 1 or more experts, depending on their expertise and the Contractor's needs. The tasks and fees will be appropriately divided in case the Contracting Authority opts for more than one. Contracting authority also reserves the right to expand the assignment with additional tasks for the selected expert/s, which will be the subject of a separate contract under the conditions agreed between the Contractor and expert/s.

Terms of Reference for
Expert(s) for Feasibility Study on
Developing Regionally Based Standards of Qualifications
for the project Towards Regionally-based standards of occupations - TO REGOS

Contracting authority (Contractor): Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)

Related project: Towards regionally-based occupational standards (TO REGOS)

Funded by Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with funding from Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

Assignment: Developing a Feasibility Study on Regionally Based Standards of Qualifications and Action Plan and presenting the Study to regional stakeholders

Target economies: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia.

Expected date of the assignment and duration:

In the period 20.07.2020 – 31.12.2020 the total of approximately 30 working days should be allocated to the development of the draft Study, participation in the workshop dedicated to presenting the Study, consultations with regional stakeholders and preparing the final Study.

Application deadline: 12th July 2020 at 00:00 CET

Application documents:

- **CV** including published papers and reports on relevant subjects if applicable,
- Proposal of the **Work Programme** (free format)
 - The Work Programme should take into consideration all the activities mentioned under the section Activities and provide a concise proposal for the methodology to be applied for the assignment.
- **Financial offer** (free format) for the entire assignment with a breakdown for each activity listing the number of days and costs per activity (list of activities provided on page 4 of this ToR)
 - The financial offer should reflect the listed activities and approximation of the number of days.
 - All figures should be expressed in EUR. VAT amount, if applicable, should be presented.
- **Letter of Interest** detailing the related expertise

Application procedure: Documents needed for application are to be sent to by email to office@erisee.org. The subject of the e-mail should state: Call for expert(s) on Feasibility Study on Regionally Based Standards of Qualifications. Above listed documents must be written in English and submitted by e-mail only.

Background information:

The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is a regional platform for cooperation in the field of education and training. ERI SEE is established by the Memorandum of Understanding on the Role and Organisation of the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe, signed at Brdo, Slovenia, on the 5th June 2010 (2010 Brdo MoU) as an international organization. ERI SEE supports sustainable education reforms through regional cooperation. It aims at fostering shared European standards in education and training for a rapid integration of its member countries into a wider European area of education, thus contributing to the success and sustainability of the EU integration process. ERI SEE takes into account both country-specific needs and demands in education reforms, as well as present trends in the development of the envisaged European area of education. Members of ERI SEE are signatory parties and acceding parties to the 2010 Brdo MoU. Those are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. Kosovo* participates in ERI SEE activities as an associated partner. ERI SEE institutional structure consists of a Governing Board, a Consultative Body and a Secretariat.

One of the areas prioritized by the ERI SEE is Vocational Education and Training and its modernization. To address this area, ERI SEE, in cooperation with the VET agencies and Chambers of commerce for the region, gathered under the Western Balkans Alliance for Work-based Learning (WBA for WBL), are implementing a project on the development of regionally-based standards of occupations (Towards Regionally-based Occupational Standards – TO REGOS), funded by the Austrian Development Agency with funding from Austrian Development Cooperation.

Standards of occupations are documents relevant for the modernization of the VET as they collect, systematize and emphasize the input from the business sector on the skills, knowledge and competences needed at the labour market and incorporate it into the occupational standards. Occupational standards are the first step in the development of qualification standards and curricula. With the occupational standards addressing the needs of the labour market, the related curricula will result in the learning outcomes relevant for the greater employability of young people. Working in this process at regional level, which happens within the TO REGOS project, will ensure greater mobility of the labour force in the region as well as greater employability of young people on the wider labour market.

The activities planned within this project include the following outputs in the course of 26 months:

- Output 1: Increased cooperation between private and public sector supporting national activities
- Output 2: Methodology for regionally based occupational standards
- Output 3: Five regionally based standards of occupations (hotel and restaurant technician, dry construction worker, floor-layer, tile-setter and painter)
- Output 4: Adoption of five regionally based standards of occupations
- Output 5: Translation of adopted standards of occupations into standards of qualifications
- Output 6: Analysed possibilities for regional standards of qualifications

Apart from the thematic priority areas, the project also integrates the cross-cutting issues of environmental sustainability, social inclusion and gender equality.

Objectives and scope of the assignment:

The objectives and scope of the assignment include but are not limited to:

- Providing expertise on the development of qualification standards on the international level
- Conducting comparative analysis of institutional and legislative framework in six economies
- Developing recommendations and action plan elaborating potential for development of regionally based qualification standards

Activities:

Activities	Approximate Date
Analysis of similar interventions/projects, needs and benefits for regionally-based qualification standards	Mid September
National and comparative regional analysis of legal and institutions framework regarding QS development	Mid September
Interviews with relevant actors (if needed)	Mid October
Study (first draft) – integrating comparative analysis, needs and benefits analysis, recommendations, action plan	Mid November 2020
Consultations and feedback and development of the second draft with integrated comments	Mid November 2020
Regional workshop – presenting the study	December 2020
Final version of the Study	End of December 2020

The **Work Programme** (free format) should take into consideration all the activities mentioned under the section Activities above and provide a concise proposal for the methodology to be applied for the assignment.

Financial offer (free format) for the entire assignment with a breakdown for each activity listing the number of days and costs per activity (list of activities provided on page 4 of this ToR)

Deliverables:

Deliverables	Date
Study (first draft) – integrating comparative analysis, needs and benefits analysis, recommendations, action plan	Mid November 2020
Regional workshop – presenting the study	December 2020
Final version of the Study	End of December 2020

In order to deliver the deliverables, the expert(s) shall:

- Research whether similar regional and European initiatives and experiences would be applicable to the WB Region
- Analyse the needs and benefits (strengthening employability, mobility, quality of processes and other potential aspects) of coordinated approach in the region in terms of developing regionally-based qualification standards
- Analyse relevant legislation and policies in the countries defining the development of qualification standards in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia (desk research)
- Conduct interviews with relevant stakeholders in six economies (if needed) on the related subject
- Conduct comparative analysis of the development of qualification standards and identify common practices that can be shared across the region as well as the most problematic and challenging areas that may impede the development of a regionally-based qualification standard
- Analyse the feasibility of development of regionally-based qualification standards – under what conditions, at what levels, in which sectors, with what segments, with what methodology
- Run consultations with the with relevant stakeholders
- Produce recommendations and action plan (list of possible actions to be taken) on how to develop regionally-based qualification standards
- Participate in the regional workshop on the validation of the feasibility study, present the results of the study and recommendations/action plan
- Provide expertise during the regional workshop in the form of presentation and working group moderation

Potentially, further elaboration of the Feasibility Study in the written form, or other assignments, could be requested from the expert/s - subject of a separate contract.

The Contracting Authority (ERI SEE) reserves the right to utilise the Study in its draft and final versions for planning, promotional, developmental, and other activities of the Western Balkans Alliance for Work-based Learning - WBA4WBL and share it with the funding agency ADA.

Competencies and relevant expertise needed:

- Proven expertise in the development of qualification standards in the field of Vocational Education and Training on national level (expertise on regional/ European level will be considered an advantage).
- Proven experience in working in education and training sector and education policies
- Proven experience in developing studies, policy analysis, or scientific research
- Knowledge of one of the languages from SEE (level c1 or c2) is an advantage
- Fluent use of English (level c1 or c2)
- Analytical skills, reporting skills and out of the box-thinking
- Experience in developing occupational standards and/or skills identification is an advantage
- Experience in the governmental sector will be considered as an advantage
- Experience in working in international projects is an advantage
- Proven understanding of the concept of skills improvement is an advantage

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNCSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*