

**MONTENEGRO**

**Ministry of Science**

**Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness**

Consulting Services: **Individual Consultants**

 Loan No. **8118-0 ME**

Reference No. **MNE-HERIC-81180-IC-CS-13-3.3.1.4**

**Request for Expressions of Interest**

**International Scientific Peer Review of the CoE Applications**

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in *Development Business* on May 03, 2012.

Montenegro has received a loan in the amount of 12.00 million EUR (equivalent to US$ 15.98 million) from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the “Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness” (HERIC) project. The Ministry of Science (MoS) intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan towards payment for consulting services under the contracts for ***Individual Consultant - International Scientific PeerReview of the CoE Applications.***

The Development Objective of the HERIC Project is to strengthen the quality and relevance of higher education and research in Montenegro through reforming the higher education finance and quality assurance systems and by strengthening research and development capabilities.

The HERIC Project Component 3 – "Establishing a Competitive Research Environment" – will support, inter alia, establishment of the first CoE in Montenegro as a pilot for future centres, and thus contribute to accomplishment of one of the most important strategic goals in the science in Montenegro.

The CoE aims to join the scientific and professional potential in Montenegro so as to contribute to the development of a knowledge based society that strives to be competitive in the EU market. The establishment of the pilot CoE, will help to upgrade Montenegro’s science and technology institutional system and infrastructure in areas where the scientific and economic potentials are esteemed highest. Montenegro will focus on the following priority areas: Energy, ICT, Medicine and Health, Sustainable Development and Tourism and Agriculture and Food. The pilot CoE will amplify scientific and economic resources through a large and impactful research and development project.

The individual consultant is expected to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Science by

Individual remote scientific review and evaluation of the grant application submitted for financing that meets eligibility, administrative and environmental compliance criteria in accordance with the program evaluation criteria.

**The general functions and responsibilities of the ISPR will be:**

• Evaluating of the detailed project proposal closely related to their field of expertise based on the evaluation criteria set in the Annex 7a of the Guidelines for Applicants for Preparing an Application for a pilot Centre of Excellence*;*

• Submitting the written comments and scores for the project in the Proposal Evaluation Form to the HERIC PMT for the consideration of the second stage evaluation that will focus on the project feasibility taking into account local economic conditions, as well as for consequent negotiations between the MoS and the “Host”. Each ISPR will prepare a report that both awards the application a merit based mark and also include a narrative section highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the application and indicate any issues that might be clarified with an applicant at the later stages, during second stage evaluation and negotiations.

\**Name of the peer reviewer is confidential. He/she must declare any conflict of interest prior to undertaking the evaluation of a particular project proposal.*

**Required qualification and criteria for selection of the consultant will be:**

* Advanced degree in science or engineering
* At least 10 years of work experience in the field of applied and development research
* Relevant peer review references
* Fluency in English
* Proven experience in R&D project management, implementation and evaluation in the following fields: Energy, Information- and Communication Technologies, Medicine and Health, Sustainable Development and Tourism and Agriculture and Food
* Excellence in academic and/or applied and developmental R&D

The Consultant shall work closely together with the representatives of Ministry of Science (MoS) and HERIC PMT. The MoS will provide the projects to be reviewed and all the necessary documentation and templates needed for evaluation to the ISPR. The peer reviewer undertake to comply with the Code of Conduct for independent experts appointed as reviewers/evaluators and to maintain confidentiality on all information that is not in the public domain and shall not be involved in another assignment that represents a conflict of interest to the prevailing assignment.

It is expected that assignment will be completed within 1 month period over which the ISPR will review and evaluate application proposal.

The MoS through the HERIC PMT and Technical Service Unit now invite eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (CV, brochures, description of similar assignments performed, experience in similar conditions, etc.). Individual consultants may be offered through firms or other organizations, but the qualifications of the individual consultant will be the basis of selection.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the selection of Individual Consultants-IC procedures set out in the World Bank’s [*Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*](http://www.worldbank.org/html/opr/consult/contents.html) (*January, 2011).*

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 9-15 hours local time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **September27, 2013, 17,00h** local time.

EOI can be submitted Via E-mail or in envelope and must clearly indicate project name, subject number and sender details.

Ministry of Finance

Technical Service Unit

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