



MINISTERUL SĂNĂȚĂȚII
UNITATEA DE MANAGEMENT AL PROIECTULUI BĂNCII MONDIALE

Str. Cristian Popișteanu 1-3, etaj 2, cam. 235-236
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Nr. de înregistrare 1892/04.05.2022

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

ROMÂNIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Health Sector Reform
Improving Health System Quality and Efficiency Project
Loan no. 8362 – RO
Reference no.: CS/B/48.2

Assignment title: *Assistance to outline and implement a pricing and reimbursement system for all pharmaceutical products with clear governance, process and accountability rules*

Romania has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to support the implementation of the Health Sector Reform. The Ministry of Health (MoH) through the Project Management Unit (PMU) is implementing the Health Sector Reform - Improving Health System Quality and Efficiency Project ("Project"), Project no. 8362 – RO. The Romania Health Sector Reform Project (the Project) was approved on March 28th, 2014, ratified by Law no. 179 on December 16, 2014, with subsequent amendments. The project amount is EUR 250.00 million and the closing date is December 31st, 2024.

The objective of the Project is to contribute to improving access to and quality of selected public health services.

The Project support the comprehensive reforms in the Health Sector on medium and long term, focusing on four main areas/components:

Part A: Strengthening Health Service Delivery;

Part B: Public Health Sector Governance and Stewardship Improvement;

Part C: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Part D: Strengthening of Public Health Emergency Response to COVID -19.

Part B of the Project aims to support the improvement of the sector governance and stewardship of the MoH and other relevant governmental institutions to bridge the gap between policy and practice and to strengthen the capacity of improving the quality of medical care services.

Ministry of Health, through Project Management Unit intends to apply a part of the proceeds for consulting services in order to provide *Assistance to outline and implement a pricing and reimbursement system for all pharmaceutical products with*



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clear governance, process and accountability rules within Part B of the Project – “Public Health Sector Governance and Stewardship Improvement”.

The purpose of the consultancy services is to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Health Insurance House (NHIH) in their institutional capacity to develop and implement health sector governance and stewardship improvement activities within the Public Policy and Strategy Evidence-Based approach.

The technical assistance is required to: provide the MoH and NHIH with policy analysis and in-depth strategy advice on key decisions in pharmaceutical policies, pricing and reimbursement decisions; translate research into policy advice and structure new policy proposal for the Romanian context; facilitate policy proposal implementation in the legislative framework and at technical level; communicate with all stakeholders throughout the project and participate at round tables and press conference on the new policy proposal. The Consultant will support the strengthening of institutional capabilities for the adequate stewardship, promoting the development and establishment of standards for the Public Policy and Strategy mechanism.

The task includes assisting Ministry of Health and National Health Insurance House specialists in defining suitable models’ policies to employ, selecting components that are appropriate for Romanian needs, and assisting authorities during conversations with key technical stakeholders (national public health institutions, industry representatives, patient associations representatives).

The Consultant will: 1) analyse the current pricing and reimbursement structure; 2) attend working group meetings on pricing and reimbursement; 3) draft a policy proposal on pricing and reimbursement to be implemented in Romania based on lessons learned and examples of good practice from other countries; 4) assist with drafting new legislation based on the proposed policy; 5) participate in meetings with technical representatives of MoH and NHIH to ensure proper implementation of the proposed policy, and 6) support the beneficiary in communications with all concerned stakeholders throughout the entire process, including participating at round tables and press conferences.

The key objectives of the project are: to propose a new policy for the pricing and reimbursement system for medicines, accepted by the public institutions and main stakeholders involved, including political partners, which will improve transparency, predictability, effectiveness and budget sustainability; coordination with the technical assistance on HTA will be secured throughout the process of drafting the policy proposal; to assess the supply of medicines and formulate proposals to improve the mechanism of “obligation of public service” for the actors involved (MAHs, wholesalers, pharmacies, etc.); to implement a more efficient mechanism to update prices of medicines (catalogue prices and internal reference prices); to ensure efficient, predictable and sustainable public spending on medicines and implement



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mechanisms for budget control for medicines that also reduce the pressure on out-of-pocket expenditures.

Ministry of Health, through Project Management Unit, now invites eligible companies to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the provisions of *CQS – Selection Based on Consultants Qualification* method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.11, 1.12 și 1.13 regarding the Eligibility from Guidelines Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011. According to para 1.13 (b) The Consultants which are Government-owned enterprises or institutions of the Borrower's country may participate in the Borrower's country only if they can establish that they (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under commercial law, and (iii) are not dependent agencies of the Borrower or Sub-Borrower². Exceptions from the provisions 1.13 (b) are the cases detailed in para 1.13 (c).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9. of the *World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines")* setting forth the World Bank's policy on Conflict of Interest.

The Expression of Interest must contain detailed information regarding the address, contact person, number and country of registration and information regarding the Consultant's Profile as it is described within the Terms of References for Consulting services *Assistance to outline and implement a pricing and reimbursement system for all pharmaceutical products with clear governance, process and accountability rules*, as follows:

– **General qualifications - 30 points**

Consultants shall provide information on: core business and years in business, presentation of services provided which are relevant for this assignment, references;

– **Specific experience - 40 points**

Consultants shall provide relevant information and a presentation of the similar projects/assignments implemented by the Consultant, that are similar to this assignment, considering the specificity of the present assignment: at least 5 years of general experience in research/studies in the areas of pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement.

– **Availability of appropriate skills among staff - 30 points**



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Consultants shall provide relevant information regarding the availability of appropriate skills among their staff, as requested in the ToRs. Consultants shall provide relevant information regarding their Human Resources capacity, in terms of number of employed experts and/or freelance collaboration experts and their relevant skills, as necessary for implementing the requested services. Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The “association” may take the form of a Joint Venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In case of a Joint-Venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract in case of award is made to that JV group. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the members and sub consultants in their application. Please note that a firm shall submit only one Expression of Interest in the same selection process either individually as a consultant or as a member in a joint venture.

A short-list will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”). Only the selected firm shall be asked to submit a combined technical and financial proposal and, if such proposal is responsive and acceptable, be invited to negotiate a contract in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3.7 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”).

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in English to the address below by **23.05.2022, 12:00, Bucharest local time**. Also, the Expressions of Interest may be submitted by e-mail.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours Monday – Thursday from 8:30 to 17:00 hours and Friday from 08:30 – 14:30 hours.

Ministry of Health

Project Management Unit

Attn: Mr. Mihai Monoranu, Head of PMU, Anna – Maria Mares, procurement consultant
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