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Call for External Evaluator

Terms of Reference

Green and Digital universities in Kyrgyzstan/GreenKG to provide an independent review, including recommendations, on the achievements of the project implementation and the overall performance according to plans and objectives.

As an individual expert, the Consortium will consider applications and proposals by organizations (companies, agencies, foundation) specialized in monitoring and evaluating educational projects at the European level of assessment. The proposal by the organization has to identify the name of the staff (individual expert(s) who will perform the assignment. Overall the staff has to demonstrate the skills and experience required for individual EQE. The fee mentioned in this Terms of References is intended as maximum contract value for the engagement as EQE, being the contract assigned to an individual expert or an organization.

1. Summary of GreenKG project

The National project - Green and Digital University, is organically aligned with the EC Green Deal and the national strategy to reinforce the ecological awareness, develop and adapt a system of a green and sustainable approach in HEIs. The project addresses the need of universities to increase the knowledge and capacities of HEIs to build and implement green and digital university policy, by supporting the definition, implementation and monitoring of reform processes that is going to be done by development of a national Green and Digital University Model. The GDU Model with the help and approval of Ministry of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic could be applied on a national level to enhance the educational innovation capacities of the Kyrgyz universities by implementing green policy and digitalization to increase their sustainable, inclusive growth and competitiveness. The model of a green university will include the establishment of Green Digital Offices (GDOs) to implement the concept of reasonable management, aimed at minimizing the negative impact on the environment, managing activities of the university based on energy and resource saving and promoting development of green ideas in society. Structural changes envisaged in the project will be the development of a special mandatory interdisciplinary train-ing module for master's programs subsequently introduced into national curricula, the introduction of elective micro-credential course, as well as a general horizontal analysis of curricula and syllabi on green dimensions. Creation of the National GDU Network will allow the universities to become the platform that will unite the efforts of the academia and government to promote research and innovation and development of new policies in the field. The expected multiplying effect from the implementation of the project target directly more than 60 teachers and university management and staff and at least 10 000 students indirectly.

The transition to sustainable green development is announced as one of the national priorities in the medium and long-term documents of the country. For the last four years, the Kyrgyz government has been implementing the Green Economy Development Program, the goal of which is to ensure inclusive and balanced green economic growth, environmental safety, and actively use resource-saving and energy-efficient technologies. The formation and development of the digital economy of Kyrgyzstan is primarily determined by its regulatory framework. By the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic dated October 31, 2018, the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 was approved. One of its strategic foundations became the "Taza Koom" National Digital Transformation Program. In this program, a separate section highlights the problems of digitalization of the education system in

Kyrgyzstan. The Ministry of Education and Science has developed an automated information management system for education (hereinafter EMIS) to provide the education system with opportunities for informed and effective decision-making, development and implementation of education policy in order to provide affordable, continuous and high-quality education and growth for the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. All universities have implemented a system for automated management of the educational process and management of university activities, but in each HEI the level of application and the system is different. There is no single approach and a unified university management system and therefore it is very important to create a single standard for the digitalization of universities.

The project plans are to perform a needs analysis, develop an implementation strategy, develop a model of green and digital (GD) university, creation GD Offices at partner-universities, develop and of mandatory and elective course on green dimensions, develop proposals for revision of legal regulations in close cooperation with the authorities in charge, and pilot training activities for staff from universities and ministries representatives.

The project will study further prospects for increasing the knowledge and capacities of HEIs to build and implement green and digital university policy, by supporting the definition, implementation and monitoring of reform processes, development of a national Green and Digital University Model, enhancing the educational innovation capacities of the Kyrgyz universities by implementing green policy and digitalization to increase their sustainable, inclusive growth and competitiveness, and increasing the awareness of social responsibility of HEIs in the context of the global movement to Green Economy, climate and demographic changes.

Expertise and skills required for the external evaluator

Qualification:

The candidate must have at least an MSc degree in any area, but Educational Sciences is preferable.

Skills and experience:

EQE has to demonstrate some relevant skills, including:

- Proven professional experience in the evaluation process and monitoring process of international collaborative projects;
- Understanding of quality processes, expected activities, outputs, and quality review processes;
- Knowledge of the Bologna process, Erasmus+ projects, HE system, Quality Assurance (ESG);
- Regional and partner country expertise, partner country's green and digital of HEI's system knowledge;
- Language skills (knowledge of English, Kyrgyz and Russian);
- Ability to effectively communicate evaluation results and feedback;
- To provide a professional and independent review, the individual EQE shall not have any concurrent contractual engagement with the consortium members.

2. *Tasks and Deliverables*

Tasks

- to review GreenKG processes and products, according to the evaluation criteria of relevance and fulfilment of objectives, development effectiveness, impact, and sustainability for project evaluation;
- to provide a training to Quality Assurance Group Due May, 2024;
- to prepare the intermediate (on Months 12 and 18) and final (on Month 36) external evaluation reports;
- each 6 months to provide feedback in the form of online sessions on quality assurance processes and methodologies to the project consortium members.

Deliverables:

- Mid-term report about project implementation provides an external perspective to achievements so far reached and the overall performance of the Project according to plans and objectives; it also provides recommendations on the various aspects of Project implementation, including quality of the deliverables, consortium working relations, internal communication, processes, results, etc.
- The Final Report ensures an external and professional perspectives into project process and results and captures the overall quality of the project in all its aspects. It also provides valuable lessons learned and good practices to inform partners' work in further exploiting project results beyond its lifetime.
- A series of feedback sessions provided for the GreenKG consortium members will strengthen the implementation of the project activities.

Conditions for the service

EQE is provided full access to all project documentation to empower her/him carry out a thorough assessment of the project. EQE undertakes to carry out the required service within the specifies timeframe. EQE agrees to maintain the confidentiality of data generated or disclosed during the provision of the needed service.

3. *Deadline and requirements for the application*

The deadline for the presenting the application for the job is May, 10 2024. The application shall be sent by email to the address: green.kg2023@gmail.com and janarabaitugolova2020@gmail.com;

Applicants shall present their CV's, clearly demonstrating the skills, competences, and experiences required in these terms of reference. In addition, the application has to submit a short memo/abstract on how he/she intend to perform the assignment.