



TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESEARCHER IN SOCIAL INCLUSION POLICIES IN EDUCATION SECTOR

“GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT COMPONENT”

1. Background

The project “Strengthening evidence-based policy processes” in the Republic of Macedonia aims to contribute to more effective policy-making in the country through the preparation processes of the “People-centred Analyses” report series. The objective of the report is to provide professional in-depth analyses and forward-looking policy options based on regular monitoring of citizen’s perceptions of key social, economic, governance and inter-ethnic developments, of issues that affect their lives.

Over the past 15 years, governance has become a key concept in the debates surrounding international development. Governance assessments vary according to the interests, needs and culture of the assessor. Some focus mostly on public sector corruption; others take a broader approach which can include elements of human rights and democracy examined across civil society, the private sector, the judiciary and government institutions. An increasing number of nationally-based organizations are giving greater priority to the need to assess democracy, governance and human rights as part of their country's national development plans. The value of a nationally owned governance measurement system is that it serves as a critical accountability mechanism for local stakeholders, especially the citizens of a country and non-state actors. Nationally owned systems provide upward internal rather than external pressure for reform.

Therefore, in view of the above and having in mind the results achieved so far with the ongoing People –Centered Analyses, UNDP and the South East European University with the support of the Global Programme on Capacity Development for Democratic Governance Assessments and Measurement, will undertake the activities that relates to the definition and implementation of a specific governance assessment. These activities consist of development of a nationally owned methodology for governance assessment and related capacity building activities of local pool of trainers and researches to conduct the assessment. The analyses will be built on the results of a survey of stakeholders/local governance officials in accordance with the methodology developed. Such Assessment will contribute to further examine the governance in the area of poverty reduction and social inclusion policies and will mobilize a wide range of stakeholders that would participate in defining the indicators and consequent development of the methodology for governance assessment. In this way the developed methodology would be nationally owned and consequent capacity building activities that will enable continues monitoring of the progress and development of the quality of the governance. For that purpose, the aimed activities are directed toward the further development of the existing draft methodology and by its

testing, capacity and conduction of the governance assessment in the field of poverty reduction and social inclusion.

The undertaking of such governance assessment in the area of social exclusion is expected to facilitate the process of national efforts to monitor and evaluate the governance, bridging the existing gap of shared understanding among governments and citizens on the meaning of the democratic governance, through a participatory approach in the *process* of assessing it and with consequent activities for capacity development to do it on the regular bases.

Since there is a draft methodology produced by a national consultant with the support of the International Expert the next step is conducting the governance assessment by a research assessment team (three members) based on the methodology framework. The team, focusing on the issues of social inclusion in the health sector, should be composed of one person with strong policy/legal background, another person with a strong economic background and a third person with detailed knowledge in the education sector.

2. Scope of work

Overall Objective

- As a part of the research team to conduct credible and inclusive governance assessment according to the Methodology on Governance Assessment on social inclusion policies in education sector
- As a research team to write a report and provide recommendations for short to long-term policy reforms to strengthen social inclusion policies in education

The RAT should have collectively experience and skills applying a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods (including) field and desk-based research methods.

3. Specific Duties and Responsibilities

The Research Assessment Team (RAT) member should have knowledge in the health sector and should closely collaborate with other team members. S/he will work on the daily bases with the team leader in charge of planning, organizing and overseeing the research assessment, and under the supervision of the project coordinator in charge for Governance assessment component. S/he will report directly to the SEE University (above mentioned staff), while the overall guidance of the researcher will be provided by the SEEU focal person designated for this project.

During the assessment the researcher is expected to apply the following approaches for data collection and analysis:

- Desk review of relevant documents and legislature
- Discussions with relevant policy makers in the central and the local level in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Interviews of partners and stakeholders;
- Field visit (Schools);
- Consultation meetings and interviews:
- Interviews with school principals
- Interviews with partners

- In-person interviews and focus groups with local authorities and a sampling of vulnerable communities and stakeholders
- Participate on training regarding the overall methodology on governance assessment
- With the support of SEEU build an interest and buy-in on governance assessment on social inclusion process by the policy makers in the central and local level demonstrating the value of governance assessments to improve the overall governance in the Republic of Macedonia.
- Design a working plan according to the methodology provided
- Actively involved in all the stages of the assessment process (pre-testing, planning of field work, data entry & initial analysis, draft report writing, consultations, final report writing).
- Provide tailored training, and all training materials needed for capacity building of identified stakeholders

4. Expected Outputs:

- Review of the GA Methodology prepared
- Report on social inclusion process by the policy makers in the central and local level demonstrating the value of governance assessment to improve the overall governance in the Republic of Macedonia.

Products expected from the assessment

The key product expected from this assessment is a comprehensive analytical report (education sector) that includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Executive summary;
- Introduction;
- Description of the assessment methodology;
- Analysis of the situation;
- Key findings;
- Conclusions and recommendations;

5. Necessary qualifications

- Post-graduate education in their relevant area of expertise
- Strong knowledge on the education systems in Macedonia and at least familiarity with any major government policy initiative related to this sector (particularly those pertaining to issues of social inclusion and poverty reduction).
- Excellent field research and analytical skills; including the ability to gather and analyze information on complex social and political situations from a variety of sources;
- Commitment to an inclusive development process in Macedonia that recognizes the equal right of all people in the country to quality education services, regardless of ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.
- A keen understanding of the conceptual, strategic and practical challenges of conducting a multidisciplinary research project on sensitive political issues related to governance and social exclusion.

Additional assets for the research assessment team member:

In addition, it is desirable for the candidates to have the following supplementary qualifications:

- Familiarity with and understanding of ethnic issues in Macedonia and of gender issues.
- Experience of working collaboratively in interdisciplinary teams
- Knowledge about typical governance problems related to the theme or sector to be analyzed.

6. Timeline and duration

The assignment is expected to be implemented within the period of April 2010 until August 2010.

7. Payment schedule

The engagement of the research assessment team member for this assignment will be administrated by SEE University. A consultancy contract will be prepared between the selected candidate and SEE University.

The total compensation for the consultancy will be made in form of a lump sum payment in one instalment - upon the delivery of the report;

Candidates are requested to submit the lump sum financial offer that includes all costs in USD. The compensation amount will be discussed on a competitive and negotiable basis.

8. Other information

Interested candidate should send CV directly to the Project Coordinator, Mrs. Shqipe Gërguri s.gerguri@seeu.edu.mk.

Deadline for the expression of interest is 25th March 2010.