December 4, 2024

Subject: Request for Information (RFI)

Reference: USAID Economic Governance Program (EGP) - CSOs and PSAs Capacity Building to Effectively Engage in EU Accession Process - Digital Transformation

Dear Potential Offeror,

Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC (“Deloitte”) invites you to submit your response related to the services associated with this Request for Information. Refer to Enclosure 1 (“Request for Information”) for the information requested. Please submit your response or “no bid” to the undersigned on or before **12:00 pm U.S. Eastern time, January 7, 2025**. Note that all submissions become Deloitte property and will not be returned.

This Request for Information shall not obligate Deloitte, in any manner whatsoever, to enter into a contract or result in any claim whatsoever against Deloitte, for reimbursement of costs for any information efforts expended by you in your response to this RFI.

**Please note that the NAICS Code for the program is 937 and 110. This RFI applies to all interested offerors located in the United States of America and/or Georgia only.**

All questions related to this RFI should be addressed to the undersigned at [akkaul@deloitte.com](mailto:akkaul@deloitte.com).

Sincerely,

Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC

Akshat Kaul

Subcontracts Manager

Government & Public Services Contracts

Subcontracts and Purchasing

Enclosure 1

Request for Information

**1. Description**

Deloitte in support of the **USAID Economic Governance Program** is seeking information on how an interested contractor could support the anticipated program needs.

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This Request for Information does not commit Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Further, Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC is not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondees are advised that the Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party’s expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if any is issued.

**2. Background**

**Background and Specific Challenges to Be Addressed by this Scope**

The purpose of the USAID Economic Governance Program (the Program) is to improve economic governance and leadership in Georgia. Building on the progress of the country’s economic reform agenda, the Program supports the sustainability of the consultative economic reform-making process and promotes the formulation, adoption, and implementation of priority economic reforms.

After receiving candidate status in December 2023, the next step in Georgia’s EU integration process is the EU accession negotiations. As part of the negotiation framework, Georgia will be required to fully harmonize with the EU *acquis*, transpose EU legislation into its national legal framework, and implement relevant policies. The EU *acquis* comprises 33 chapters divided into six clusters, which should be fully reflected in the national legislature.

The EU promotes the increased role of civil society actors such as civil society organizations (CSO), private sector associations (PSA), and think tanks in the accession negotiation process. The experiences of the acceding countries (specifically the Western Balkan countries, as they have most recent experience of the EU accession negotiations) demonstrate that EU candidate states have formal mechanisms for consulting with CSOs and businesses during the accession process under each chapter or cluster. These mechanisms include Accession Working Groups and public consultations, where CSOs and businesses provide input on various aspects of EU-related reforms and policies. They play a crucial role in determining transitional periods and adjustment mechanisms based on the inputs from interest groups.

The Program announces a procurement of services for Georgian CSOs, PSAs, and think tanks to help them understand the EU acquis and relevant policies; engage in policy dialogue during accession negotiations; and develop expertise across different chapters of EU law. The scope of work activities will include research and analytical tasks to deepen their understanding of specific EU acquis chapters (including legislation and policies) and high-level legislative and policy gap analyses. The contract will also facilitate knowledge transfer from specialists with experience working in new EU Member States and/or EU candidate countries to Georgian stakeholders.

Chapter 10 (Digital transformation and media) of the EU *acquis* aims to eliminate obstacles to the effective operation of the internal market in telecommunications services and networks; promote competition; and safeguard consumer interests in the sector, including universal availability of modern services. It advances open data policies to guarantee the accessibility and reusability of public sector information. Cross-border interoperability is another cornerstone, ensuring seamless interactions among member states’ digital systems to facilitate trade, e-governance, and mobility. Additionally, it integrates frameworks for artificial intelligence to encourage ethical innovation and responsible AI usage that align with European values of democracy, human rights, and privacy protection. In audio-visual policy, the *acquis* requires the legislative alignment with the Television without Frontiers Directive, which creates the conditions for the free movement of television broadcasts within the EU.

Building on the EU acquis's objectives Chapter 10 of the "Georgia 2024 Report" covers various aspects of digital transformation topics, many of which Georgia is already actively working on. However, despite advancements, gaps remain which include **the need for** **a** **universal service regime for electronic communications; the full alignment of local legislation with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF)** and **the directive on open data; enhanced coordination on digital reforms**; **better enforcement of newly adopted laws on infrastructure sharing and e-commerce** and **alignment with the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA)).** Additionally, country has not aligned with the **regulation on geo-blocking,** the **platform-to-business relations**, and the **European Electronic Communications Code**. Finally, Georgia would benefit from the alignment of **the strategy with the latest EU standards (AI Act)** and **best practice (EU AI innovation package)**.

In addition to the areas outlined above, digitalization topics are incorporated across nearly all chapters of the EU enlargement policy document to address cross-cutting digitalization issues.

Under this scope of work (SOW), the contractor shall cover the EU *acquis*/policy areas as included in Chapter 10 (digital transformation and media), which encompasses concrete sub-areas - **electronic communications**, **open data, cross-border interoperability, and AI** – that are integral to digital transformation and closely align with the Program’s objectives of promoting economic growth.

**Objective**

The objective of this scope of work (SOW) is to build the capacity of CSOs, PSAs, and think tanks to effectively engage in Georgia’s EU accession negotiation process and policy dialogue on the harmonization of Georgian legislation with the EU acquis in the area of digital transformation and media (electronic communications, open data, cross-border interoperability, and AI). This activity aims to help civil society, the private sector, and other interest groups develop critical expertise on the implementation of different chapters of EU acquis and EU policies.

**Specific Tasks under this Scope of Work**

Under this SOW, the contractor organization shall perform, but will not be limited to, the tasks specified under the following categories:

**Background Reading Related to Understanding the Work and its Context:**

The Contractor shall read and familiarize themselves with the following and other materials related to the work specified under this scope:

1. Commission Staff Working Document Georgia 2023/2024 Report, Accompanying the document *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee* and the *Committee of the Regions 2023/2024 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy* (including EU Georgia factsheet 2024)
2. EU Enlargement package
3. Digital Governance Strategy of Georgia 2024-2029
4. Georgian law corresponding to relevant chapters of EU law
5. Association implementation reports on Georgia (considering integration into the EU's Digital Single Market)
6. Relevant studies conducted previously on the subject matter

**Meetings Related to Understanding and Performing the Work**

The contractor shall meet, but is not limited to meeting, the following individuals, or groups of individuals to fully understand and perform the work specified under this consultancy:

* 1. Natalia Beruashvili, Chief of Party, the USAID Economic Governance Program
  2. Nino Chokheli, Deputy Chief of Party, the USAID Economic Governance Program
  3. Tamar Buadze, Component Lead, the USAID Economic Governance Program
  4. Giorgi Chapidze, Trade and Investment Advisor, the USAID Economic Governance Program
  5. Mari Tsutskiridze, Digitalization Advisor, the USAID Economic Governance Program
  6. Other relevant public and private stakeholders, as necessary

Specific Tasks Related to Accomplishing the Scope of Work’s Objective

Under this SOW, the Contractor must complete the following tasks:

**Task I: Inception phase**

**Activity 1.1*.*** Engage specialist(s) in Digital Transformation (DT) with experience transposing the EU *acquis* and policies into national legislation in new EU Member States and/or EU candidate countries. The EU DT specialist(s) will be engaged throughout the project implementation to provide feedback and guidance.

**Activity 1.2.** Identify relevant Georgian stakeholders under the targeted policy area and create the Stakeholders’ Consultative Group, which will be active throughout the project implementation.

**Activity 1.3.**Conduct an introductory workshop for Stakeholders’ Consultative Group members on key aspects of EU digital transformation and new Member States experiences in transposing the *acquis*. The workshop will be led by an EU DT specialist. Prior to the workshop session, the specialist will prepare training materials including the relevant case studies.

**Task II: Conduct legislative and policy gap analysis of Georgian legislation with that of the EU in the area of digital transformation policy**

**Activity 2.1.** Analyze the requirements of the relevant EU legislation and policies concerning EU **digital transformation** policy (with the focus on **electronic communications**, **open data, cross-border interoperability, and AI**).   
If there are complementary policy topics across different EU *acquis* chapters, several cross-cutting themes can be selected.

**Activity 2.2.** Define the general state of compliance of Georgian legislation and policy with corresponding EU *acquis* chapters and policies.

**Activity 2.3.** Prepare a legislative and policy gap analysis and recommendations for priority actions for the short, medium, and long-term perspectives.

**Activity 2.4.** The EU DT specialists will provide methodological guidance in the process of conducting legislative and policy gap analysis and developing the recommendations for priority actions.

**Task III: Inform the Stakeholders’ Consultative Group of the findings of the legislative and policy gap analysis and relevant recommendations**

**Activity 3.1.** Organize Stakeholders’ Consultative Group meetings with the appropriate representatives of key sectors to discuss the intermediary findings and collect input from the stakeholders.

**Activity 3.2.** Hold a Stakeholders’ Consultative Group meetings with the appropriate representatives of key sectors to present the final findings of the legislative and policy gap analysis study and discuss the recommendations for priority actions.

**Deliverables/Results:**

The contractor shall produce a comprehensive report covering the tasks highlighted in section C.

**Review and Acceptance of the Deliverables**

The deliverables shall be submitted to the Program in draft form for review. The contractor will make all necessary corrections/additions and submit the final draft within five days from the receipt of comments. The study shall be both in English and Georgian.

**Place and Period of Performance**

The tasks will be performed in Tbilisi, Georgia on or around February 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, a total of six months.

**Milestones**

This assignment is governed by a fixed price agreement. Payments scheduled based on milestones:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Estimated Completion Date** | **Milestone** | **Deliverable Fixed Price** |
| February 26, 2025 | Inception phase: Conduct an introductory workshop for Stakeholders’ Consultative Group members. | 30% |
| April 14, 2025 | Legislative and policy gap analysis: Conduct legislative and policy gap analysis of Georgian legislation with that of EU in digital transformation. | 30% |
| June 20, 2025 | Recommendations for priority actions: Prepare recommendations for priority actions for the short, medium, and long-term perspectives. | 40% |

**3. Requested Information**

* Address your response to Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects LLC.
* Provide a company overview in the form of a Capabilities Statement. Proprietary information, if any, should be minimized and must be clearly marked.
* Provide three (3) references for projects like the services being sought for the anticipated program.

**4. Points of Contact**

The following are Points of Contacts who will review the responses.

*Contractual Point of Contact*

Name: Akshat Kaul

Email Address: [akkaul@deloitte.com](mailto:akkaul@deloitte.com)

Phone Number: +1.678.249.1720

**5. Summary**

This is a Request for Information only to identify sources that can provide the services described above. The information provided in the RFI is subject to change and is not binding on Deloitte. Deloitte has not made a commitment to procure any of the items discussed, and release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorization to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought.