December 5, 2024

Subject: Request for Information (RFI)

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

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**

The USAID Economic Governance Program (the Program) is designed to improve economic governance and leadership in Georgia. Building on the progress of the government’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, including international trade and the transport and logistics industry.

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 35 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.

Under this scope of work (SOW), the contractor shall cover the EU acquis/policy area as included in the Chapter 14 (Transport Policy). The EU Transport Policy Chapter encompasses several interrelated sectors, including railway, road, maritime, inland waterways, aviation, and combined/multimodal transport. These sectors complement each other and collectively aim to enhance the EU’s internal transport market. The focus of this chapter is to promote safe, efficient, environmentally sustainable, and user-friendly transport services. Key areas covered include technical and safety standards, security measures, social standards, state aid regulation, and market liberalization.

The European Commission's 2024 report, part of the EU Enlargement package, highlights that Georgia's legal framework is partially aligned with the EU Transport acquis. However, significant gaps remain, particularly in road safety, where fatality rates exceed the EU average, and in maritime transport, where further alignment with EU regulations is needed. Despite progress in areas like civil aviation, Georgia has yet to adopt key EU legislation for the road transport, road safety, and maritime sectors. These areas are critical for EU transport market integration and require urgent harmonization with EU standards.

**Objective**

The main objective of this scope 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 transport policy specifically focusing on road, road safety, and maritime transport sectors.

This activity aims to help civil society, private sector, and other interest groups develop critical expertise on the implementation of EU road, road safety and maritime transport acquis.

**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:

**Special Tasks Related to Accomplish the Scope of Work’s Objective**

**Task I: Inception phase**

Activity 1. Engage EU transport policy specialists in road, road safety, and maritime transport sectors (the selected sectors) with experience of transposing the relevant EU acquis and policies into national legislation in new EU Member States and/or EU candidate countries. The EU transport policy specialists will be engaged throughout the project implementation to provide feedback and guidance.

Activity 1.2. Identify relevant Georgian stakeholders under the targeted policy area - EU road, road safety and maritime transport - and create the Stakeholders’ Consultative Group(s), which will be active throughout the contract implementation.

Activity 1.3. Conduct an introductory workshop for Stakeholders’ Consultative Group(s) members on key aspects of the selected transport sectors - EU road, road safety and maritime transport - and new Member States experiences in transposing the relevant acquis. The workshop will be led by EU transport policy specialists. Prior to the workshop session, the specialists will prepare training materials including the relevant case studies.

**Task II: Conduct legislative and policy gap analysis of Georgian legislation with that of EU in the area of EU road, road safety and maritime transport**

Activity 2.1. Analyze the requirements of the relevant EU legislation and policies concerning EU transport policy in the areas of EU road, road safety and maritime transport. If there are complementary policy topics across different EU acquis chapters, several cross-cutting themes can be selected.

Activity 2.2. Define the general status of compliance of Georgian legislation and policy with EU acquis Chapter 14 (Transport Policy) on the selected sectors.

Activity 2.4. Prepare a legislative and policy gap analysis and recommendations for priority actions for the short, medium, and long-term perspectives.

Activity 2.5. The EU transport policy 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(s) of the findings of the legislative and policy gap analysis and relevant recommendations**

Activity 3.1. Organize the Stakeholders’ Consultative Group(s) meetings to discuss the intermediary findings and collect inputs from the stakeholders

Activity 3.2. Hold a Stakeholders’ Consultative Group(s) meeting to present the final findings of the legislative and policy gap analysis study and discuss the recommendations for priority actions.

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

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

a. Commission Staff Working Document Georgia 2023 and 2024 Reports, which accompanied the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 2023 and 2024 Communication on EU Enlargement policy document

b. EU Enlargement package 2023 and 2024

d. Georgian legislation on areas corresponding to the relevant chapter of EU law

e. EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) implementation reports on Georgia

f. 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:

a. The USAID Economic Governance team

b. Other relevant public and private stakeholders, as necessary

**Deliverables/Results**

The contractor shall produce a comprehensive report fully covering the tasks in section C. The deliverable shall be the following:

Activity report with the following annexes:

a) Legislative and policy gap analysis under the EU chapter 14 (Transport Policy)

b) Recommendations for priority actions

Unless otherwise indicated in writing, the contractor will prepare, as applicable, written deliverables in the USAID Economic Governance Program-branded MS Word and MS PowerPoint templates provided to the contractor by the USAID Economic Governance Program sector or sub-component manager overseeing their work.

**Review and Acceptance of Deliverable**

All deliverables mentioned under section 4 must be submitted to the Program leadership in draft form and are subject to review. If further revisions are required, the contractor will make the necessary revisions to the drafts and submit the final version within ten calendar days of receiving the comments. All documents should be presented in both Georgian and English.

**Place and Period of Performance**

The tasks will be performed in Tbilisi, Georgia, on or around February 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. The tasks under the contract will be performed in Georgia and are expected to last approximately six months from the start of the contract.

**Milestones:**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Estimated Completion Date** | **Milestone** | **Deliverable Fixed Price** |
| February 15 | Report on the Inception Phase, covering all three activities of the Task I. | 30% |
| April 15 | Preliminary report on the legislative and policy gap analysis under the EU chapter 14 (Transport Policy) on road, road safety and maritime sectors and recommendations for priority actions | 40% |
| June 30 | Final report encompassing all three tasks | 30% |

**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.