REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**ROMANIA**

**Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project**

**Loan No.: 9505-RO**

**Assignment Title:** *Consultancy services* *for the evaluation of the Component 2 of the RAPID Project implementation*

**Reference No**. (as per Procurement Plan): 04/CQ/2024

The Government of Romania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project (RAPID Project), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The assignment includes specialized consultancy services (“the Services”) of a consulting firm / JV Associations for **the evaluation of the Component 2 of the RAPID Project implementation.** The duration of the contract is until the end of March, 2028, or any other period mutually agreed by the parties, as may be necessary. The Consultant will commence their duties starting with a contract kick-off meeting.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest.

The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests - Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project, now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) 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.

The shortlisting criteria are:

 **I. General qualifications - 20 points**

Consultants shall provide information on: core business and years in business, presentation of services provided which are relevant for this assignment, including references (such as, recommendation letters, copies of previous implemented contracts, etc.).

**II. Specific experience - 80 points**

Consultants shall provide a description of the relevant projects/assignments they have implemented in rural areas. By relevant projects/assignments is understood projects/assignments in South-Eastern Europe, in recent years (in the last 5 years), considering the objectives of the ToRs. The relevant experience in Romania and in agriculture is desirable.

Consultants should have the qualifications and the experience to conduct national-level surveys, with a portfolio of at least three national, statistically representative survey-based studies.

Consultants should be personal data operators under the EU Regulation no. 2016/679 and should demonstrate that has the needed equipment to perform the tasks (e.g., mobiles, software for processing the information, etc.).

No CVs should be provided at this stage of the selection procedure, as the Key Experts requested in the Terms of Reference will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

**The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.21 to 3.24 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers”, November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations” -** [**https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf**](https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf)**), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest and Eligibility.** Interested consultants will **consult all these conditions** and will sign and send together with their Expression of Interest a declaration of no conflict of interest and eligibility, in the format attached to this request for expressions of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in 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 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 Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant’s Qualification-based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from Monday to Thursday 09:00 to 17:00 hours and Friday 09:00 to 14:30 hours.

Expressions of interest and supporting documents, must be submitted in a written form, in English language, (by e-mail or/and in person or/and by mail) to the address below by 18th of December, 2024.

**Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests – Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project**

Attn: **Mr. Mihai CONSTANTINESCU, Director of the PMU**

**Ms. Cătălina CRIVEANU, Procurement Manager**

**46-48, Calea Plevnei, Sector 1, Building E, 1st Floor, Room 11**

City: **Bucharest, ZIP Code: 010233, Country: Romania**

E-mail: ump.achizitii@mmediu.ro.

**TO:** **Mr. Mihai Constantinescu**, Director of PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT OF THE “Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction”

**Ref. Assignment: 04/CQ/2024** -Consultancy services for the evaluation of the Component 2 of the RAPID Project implementation

**DECLARATION**

Dear Mr. Constantinescu,

I, the undersigned, **………………………………....** the authorized representative of the Consultant [*insert name of the Company or JV Association, as the case may be*], confirm our availability to provide the services under the **assignment 04/CQ/2024**, in accordance with the requirements in the Terms of Reference and for the duration specified thereto.

I also confirm that our hiring, in case we are selected, would not create a conflict of interest or eligibility issue as per the provisions of Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.21 to 3.24 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”).

**Name of the Consultant / JV Association:**

**Authorized Representative:**

Signature

Date: