ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATERS AND FORESTS

Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project (RAPID), IBRD Loan no. 9505-RO

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy services for the development of an Early Warning System (EWS) for National Phytosanitary Authority (ANF)

**Reference No**. (as per Procurement Plan): 03/QCBS/2025

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 consultancy services (“the Services”) include Design, Supply and Installation of an Early Warning System (EWS) to serve as a digital platform for automating the forecasting, issuing, and dissemination of phytosanitary bulletins and warnings to farmers and local authorities. By integrating weather data, pests/diseases information, and geospatial information, the system will enhance efficiency, accuracy, and coordination in plant protection, supporting sustainable agricultural practices and regulatory enforcement

The duration of the contract will be until March 31st, 2028, or any subsequent date, as agreed in writing by the Parties through a contract amendment.

The Consultant is expected to commence performance of the services starting with a contract kick-off meeting. The implementation of the EWS is expected to fit within the 16-month timeline. The duration of the Analysis Phase will be three (3) months, the duration of the Phase 1 (pilot phase) will be nine (7) months and the durations of the Phase 2 (Final EWS Deployment) will be six (6) months. The commencement of Phase 1 and 2 is contingent upon the successful completion of previous phase.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the assignment are published on the Ministry’s of Environment, Waters and Forests web site at the following link: <https://mmediu.ro/informatii-de-interes-public/achizitii-publice/anunturi/>

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*

The Consultants should have at least 5 years’ experience in providing consultancy services on IT systems development, preferably for public institutions.

The Consultants should have experience in cloud, hybrid, and on-premises infrastructure. Furthermore, The Consultants should prove experience in developing at least one large-scale or enterprise-level IT system for public institutions or private sector (e.g., for at least 1,000 users or` under use in multiple locations), on:

* + Business analysis,
	+ Software development,
	+ System integration,
	+ Performance testing.

*II. Specific experience - 80 points*

The Consultants should demonstrate previous experience in implementing at least one software application with the following capabilities:

* 1. The ability to display GIS layers, ensuring geospatial visualization and analysis,
	2. Real-time data processing and integration from multiple external sources.
	3. Automated generation and dissemination of notifications or reports based on predefined rules,
	4. Reporting and compliance monitoring.

Also, the Consultants should prove experience in at least two projects that involve:

* 1. Data collection and processing,
	2. Forecasting and analytics,
	3. System interoperability,
	4. Mobile Applications Development,
	5. Reporting and compliance monitoring.

Experience in Similar Projects: a strong track record in delivering EU-funded or internationally financed projects is highly desirable.

Supporting documents should be provided (recommendation letters, copies of contracts, reception letters/approval documents issued by the Contracting Authorities for the deliverables / services / final reports 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”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest and Eligibility.

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 the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Interested Consultants should clearly indicate in their Expression of interest the structure of their “association” and the duties and responsibilities of each of the partners and sub-consultants. Please note that any entity may submit only one Expression of Interest in the same selection process, either individually as a single consultant or as a partner in a joint venture***.***

The Consultant should also provide:

* Certificate of Status issued by the national register of companies. In case of a joint venture, all members of the “association” will present a Certificate of Status;
* Consultants may associate with other eligible entities 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, the proof of a Partnership Agreement for the members of the “association” or a letter of intent to form a joint venture, signed by all members through their legal representatives. All the partners in the JV will be evaluated jointly. The JV Agreement should state that all its members shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Interested Consultants should clearly indicate in their Expression of interest and in their Partnership Agreement the structure of their “association” and the duties and responsibilities of each of the partners and sub-consultants (covering the ToRs requirements);
* Declaration of conflict of interests as attached to the present request of expressions of interests. In case of a joint venture, all members of the “association” will fill in a Declaration of conflict of interests.

**A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultants Quality and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.**

**Expressions of Interest shall be submitted** in the selection procedure language (English) to the attention of the RAPID-PMU, in a written form to the address below (in person, by courier or by e-mail) **by the 28th of August, 2025, 17:00.**

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from Monday to Thursday 8:30 to 17:00 hours and Friday 08:30 to 14:30 hours.

**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;

**DECLARATION OF NO CONFLICT INTEREST**

**I, [Undersigned’s Name], representing [Consultant's Company Name], I declare on my own responsibility, under penalty of perjury, that the participation in assignment no. 03/QCBS/2025 is not creating any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, as it is established through:**

- the provisions of the World Bank’s *"Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers"*, November 2020, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on procurement;

- World Bank’s policy requirement that firms or individuals involved in Bank IPF procurement shall not have a conflict of interest;

- the requirement that a firm shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if the firm:

1. is providing Goods, Works, or Non-consulting Services resulting from, or directly related to, Consulting Services that it provided for the preparation or implementation of a project, or where such services were provided by an affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that firm. This provision does not apply to the various firms (Consultants, contractors, or suppliers), which together are performing the contractor’s obligations under a turnkey or design and built contract;
2. including its personnel, has a close business or family relationship with a professional staff of the Borrower, or of the project implementing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the Bank’s financing, or any other party representing or acting on behalf of the Borrower who:
3. is directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the Procurement Documents or contract specifications, and/or the evaluation process of such contract;
4. would be involved in the execution or supervision of such contract, unless the conflict stemming from such relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the procurement process and execution of the contract; or
5. does not comply with any other conflict of interest situation as specified in the SPDs relevant to the specific procurement process.

By signing this declaration, I confirm that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and impartiality in my professional duties.

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Company:**

**Date:**

**Signature:**