

**Procurement:** Monitoring and advisory support to the Agency for Water Supply and Wastewater and the Ministry of Infrastructure in Albania in regards to the implementation of the Water NIPS project.

### Questions for Clarification

**Q1-** As regards the Water NIPS (the project), if it is allowed to know: what is the current status of its procurement and does its extension shall be reflected into the Technical Assistance proposal?

A1: The Water NIPS project procurement has shortlisted tenders and it is planned for the procurement to be finalized before summer.

**Q2 -** The Company Registration Documents need to be submitted as an electronic copy (generated by e-Albanian platform) or as original documents?

A2: The Company Registration Document shall be delivered as an electronic copy.

**Q3 -** We noted at the Water NIPS Project Time Schedule that the commencement month was to be April while on the ToR it is specified that it is expected to commence in September. Based on the initial Water NIPS document Time Schedule and ToR we have done the necessary adjustments while not affecting any of the project results. Anyhow, could you please provide an explanation on how does this affect the project timeline?

A3: The procurement process has been delayed and this explains the different dates. Even though project implementation is planned to start in September advisory services could be needed before that.

**Q4 -** The country practice for calculating expert fees is by working days, while on tender documents (General Conditions) is required that the calculation is done by the hour. Please confirm if both calculation units are valid or not.

A4: Fees shall be presented as cost per hour.

**Q5 –** In case that the proposal presents a pool of experts as “Backstop”, without affecting the financial costs (i.e. in kind contribution as supposed that might be needed along the project implementation), is it valuable for the methodology or You will consider it a deviation from the ToR. Please clarify.

A5: It can't be said to be favourable or not beforehand but it is not considered a deviation from the ToR.

Q6: The objective of the assignment is to support the implementation project for water investment planning – Water NIPS. Who has been awarded the contract for the Water NIPS project?

A6: Please see answer no 1 above.

Q7: Do we understand correctly that the assistance to AKUM&MIE will be provided both on-site in Albania and remotely, as requested by AKUM, MIE and the embassy? If so, we assume that it is up to the Consultant to propose in his methodology the time allocation for the presence in the field and the provision of remote assistance from the home office. Please confirm!

A7 Yes it is correct, the service will be carried out both in Albania and from home office.

Q8: Is there a template for the financial offer? If not, shall accommodation costs, per diems, and travel costs within Albania be included in the fee or are they considered as reimbursable expenses?

A8: There is no template for the financial offer. The costs for travel, accommodation and per diem should be presented under recoverable expenses.