

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

„SHORT TERM HIGH QUALITY STUDIES

TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES UNDER THE EASTERN

PARTNERSHIP”

HiQSTEP General Information:

Duration: 3 years

Budget: *3 million Euro*

Started on 13 January 2014

Funded by the EU (DG DEVCO – Europeaid)

Implemented by the Consortium led by KANTOR Management Consultants, S.A. and composed of IBF International Consulting SA, ICMPD and EPTISA

Project Purpose:

Produce high quality studies on specific subjects as defined by the Eastern Partnership Platforms and Panels, to support the activities of the said Platforms / Panels in specific areas.

The project supports activities under the **multilateral framework** of the Eastern Partnership, which are channelled through four Platforms, namely:

Platform I – Democracy, good governance and stability

Platform II – Economic integration and convergence with EU sectoral policies

Platform III – Energy security

Platform IV – Contacts between people

Project Objective

- The objective of this Project is to provide **short-term expertise** which can be **mobilised at short notice** in order to carry out different types of studies:
 - mapping studies,
 - pre-feasibility studies,
 - feasibility studies, evaluations,
 - needs assessments,
 - policy recommendation reports,
 - Other based on the needs of the beneficiaries and/or the Contracting Authority
- These studies are conducted within the framework of the four Platforms, Panels and work areas of the Eastern Partnership to support in **technical terms** the discussion and deepening of the reform process
- There **are individual Terms of Reference** per Study to be conducted

Expected result:

Partner countries have deepened their knowledge have acquired further knowledge in respective work areas, in line with the requests from Platforms and Panels.

Activities:

To achieve the expected results the Project will organize and manage the implementation of individual studies – **each study being a fully fledged project on its own**. Therefore, unlike in most technical assistance projects, the activities are not assigned to the specific expected results, but they rather directly refer to the Project Purpose, i.e. to the production of high quality studies. Along this logic, the activities include:

- Set-up of a Pool of Short-Term Experts
- Responding to Requests for Studies
- Implementing High Quality Studies
- Project Management and Quality Management
- Dissemination of Study Results

Who is who?

Project Team:

Przemysław Musiałkowski – Team Leader

Hans- Juergen Zahorka – Key Expert, Platforms 1 and 4

Gabriele Bonafede – Key Expert, Platform 2

Ioannis Rampias – Key Expert, Platform 3

Project Office (Kiev):

Svetlana Atamanenko – Office Manager

Gennadiy Lavrynovych, - Accountant

Kantor:

George Seferiadis – Project Manager

Our Commitments:

- Respond to Study Requests within 14 work-days (getting clarifications on the TOR, search for experts, evaluation of candidates, proposing the methodology and budget etc.);
- Carry out the study in a timely manner;
- Ensure management and monitoring throughout the study;
- Ensure 3-stage quality control;
- Submit the Study Report to the Contracting Authority
- Disseminate study result (dedicated website)

How to request a study?

- HiQSTEP is a regional project, therefore study subjects should be of interest to (supported by) **several EaP countries**
- Requests should be proposed/approved by Platforms/Panels
- Study TOR are prepared by respective services of the EC (HiQSTEP is ready and able to support this)
- Platform Co-ordinators submit requests and TOR to DEVCO
- HiQSTEP Team Leader receives requests from DEVCO

Ongoing Studies:

Cross-country study on **matching and anticipation of skills demand and supply** in the Eastern Partnership region (Platform 2)

Started in May 2014

Deliverables:

6 national reports on skills needs identification and anticipation policies and practice in the EaP countries – by June 2014

A cross-country report on skills needs identification and anticipation policies and practice in the EaP – by September 2014

The information and analyses will feed the regional EaP network on skills anticipation and matching.

Study Team: Team Leader and 6 National Experts

Studies under Platform 3

No studies have been requested or proposed so far under Platform3.

In consultation with Platform 3 Co-ordinator, HiQSTEP experts have come up with **some ideas** of studies which are herewith submitted for discussion:

“Horizontal Study on Energy Pricing and Subsidies Reform across the EaP countries”

Context

- In many countries energy prices to end-users are well below costs which results in the need for subsidization to cover for the loss incurred, stressing national budgets
- Has shown to be particularly inefficient in terms of resource allocation (destroying value) and the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution receives only 15–20 percent of the fuel subsidies

Proposal

- To support the beneficiaries on rationalizing their subsidy regimes throughout the energy sector and also provide the platform for discussion and experience sharing between the more and least developed in terms of the topic countries in the region
- Such a study can be a full Project on its own. However, various diagnostic modules could form part of smaller studies that fall under our project. Different such modules include:
 - International experience and reform efforts
 - Estimation of gaps towards cost reflective prices
 - Price transition scenarios
 - International best practices in mitigation measures to alleviate impact of price transition
 - Platform creation for experience and “good practices” exchange

“Analysis of the Energy Efficiency Policy Process in the EaP Countries: National Energy Efficiency Action Plans and the Use of Energy Efficiency Indicators,,

Context

- EU acquis on Energy Efficiency (EE) along with experience of its implementation as well as Energy Community Treaty obligations of signatory members provides an important framework for EaP countries for the development of the EE policy
- Eastern Partnership countries have high energy savings potential and in conjunction with the on-going reforms in the energy sector that will result in an increase of energy prices, there is a need to use energy wiser in order to keep living standards of populations at decent levels

Proposal

- To support the beneficiaries on rationalizing their Energy Efficiency policies in line with the EU requirements and targets and also provide the platform for discussion and experience sharing between the more and least advanced countries in the region
- Such topic could produce a number of studies, such as:
 - overview of the EU energy efficiency governance system and the role of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEAPs) and of the EE indicators in the policy process;
 - analysis of the EE decision-making and planning process in the EaP countries, inventory of energy efficiency measures;
 - institutional gap analysis, capacity building needs assessment, monitoring and information needs analysis at each stage of the planning process in the EaP countries;
 - proposals for improvement of the policy process, the reporting of NEAPs and the use of EE indicators

“Analysis of the Use of Decentralized Alternative Energy in Sustainable Rural Development Planning in the EaP countries”

Context

- The focus areas of the EU rural development policy in 2014-2020 include, inter alia, increasing the efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food processing and facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, by-products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw materials for the bio-economy
- Agriculture holds an important role in economic development of EaP countries as large part of population of these countries is involved in agriculture

Proposal

- To support the beneficiaries on rationalizing and streamlining their alternative energy policies and also provide the platform for discussion and experience sharing between the more and least advanced countries in the region
- Such topic could produce a number of studies, such as:
 - analysis of legislative framework and initiative schemes related to RES in EaP countries;
 - technological outlook for developing and use of RES in rural areas in EaP Countries;
 - assessment of RES support instruments and development mechanisms (strategic, legislative, economic and institutional);
 - policy recommendations

“Analysis of licensing frameworks for concession agreements”

Context

- Investment in the energy sector is necessary and capital intensive. Having efficient and transparent frameworks for concessions is a major element in order to attract private capital into investing in the sector
- Most countries including EaP countries are in need of investment in order to explore and/or modernise the sector

Proposal

- To support the beneficiaries on rationalizing and streamlining their concession frameworks and contrast to those used in the EU
- Such topic could produce a number of studies, such as:
 - Best practice frameworks for licenses / concession agreements
 - Streamlining procedures for licenses / concessions
 - Improved frameworks for involving local communities/consultations