



ToR for Senior NKE

Title of ToR: Forest Policy expert

1. Background

A Particip GmbH led Consortium has been contracted to implement the project “Supporting the reforms in Forestry in North Macedonia”, NEAR/SKP/2022/EA-RP/0036.

The overall objective of this action is to facilitate the implementation of EU related strategies, policies and acquis in order to boost sustainable development of the Forestry sector in the country. Furthermore, the project is to support the efficient and effective use of available assistance under IPA II 2019 Action programme - EU supports Rural Development and Competitive Sustainable Agriculture.

The specific objectives of the contract are to provide assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) to progress in the reforms in the forestry sector including strategic, legal, institutional and entrepreneurial frameworks, as well as development of informational and other tools for sustainable forest management.

Altogether, Key and Non-Key Experts (NKEs) serve the purposes of this project set as follows:

- Component 1: Drafts of the two specific forestry legislation (Forest Agency Law and Forest Company Law), drafts of a number of the secondary forest legislation (rulebooks), drafts of two Governmental regulations, draft of the forest-related IPARD III programme component with the guidelines for applicants, concept and results of monitoring the implementation of the adopted strategic and legal framework documents; recommendations for improvement of the adopted strategic and legal framework.
- Component 2: Developed technical and economic backgrounds and strategic plans for establishing the Forest Agency and restructuring and transformation of Public Enterprise “Nacionalni Shumi” (PENF) (into state-owned company of limited liability) and build technical capacities of the forestry professionals of the existent and new forestry institutions / organisations.
- Component 3: Upgraded existent forest information systems and databases, introduced and adapted certain new databases and established a (web-based) Integrated Forest Information system (IFIS), and built technical capacities for its use - as a precondition for efficient management with forests and prevention of illegal harvesting.
- Component 4: Developed inventory (National Forest Inventory at pilot level) and planning instruments (Plan for Sustainable Development of Forests), developed methodologies for forest management planning and for mapping of forest functions, developed guidelines for sustainable and close-to-nature forest management, improved tools for prevention of forest damages, developed concept and criteria for forest biodiversity conservation; sustainability of forest management assessed through forest certification and a multi-site certificate for the selected (best) state forest management units under Public Enterprise National Forests issued.

2. Objective and purpose of the short-term mission

The overall objective of this assignment is to contribute to the achievement of project planned results. The specific purpose of the SNKE – Forest Policy expert is to assist KE1 and the Project Team, by contributing to the implementation of Activities I.1, I.3, and I.4 under Component I.



3. Table of Activities/allocated WDs

Project Activity No.	NKE Activity Description	No. of WDs allocated
I.1	Presenting the Forest Policy documents (long-term Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forestry (SSDF), the new Forest Law (FL) and the National Forestry Programme (NFP) on the stakeholder workshops and public consultation meetings, exchange information with stakeholders and disseminating project results. Elaborating recommendations for necessary improvements on the Forest Policy documents. Contributing to the analytical studies on establishment of monitor mechanisms for SSDF, the new Forest Law and NFP.	8
I.3	Contributing to drafting rulebooks for Forest management planning, mapping of forest functions and forest protection, and Integrated Forest Information System (IFIS). Assisting in trainings on drafting rulebooks. Contributing to the preparation of by-laws and Governmental Regulations for the transposition of requirements derived by Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and the EU Timber Regulations.	6
I.4	Performing an analytical study on the forest-related component of IPARD III Programme (2023-2027) including identification of the forest-related rural development measures that would be funded by the national rural development programmes.	6
Total WDs allocated:		20

If relevant, the SNKE expert shall also perform other ad hoc tasks and activities relevant to his/her background, identified in the process of project implementation.

The expert will ensure that meetings are appropriately documented. He/she is expected to work closely with other project experts. All documentation/correspondence/presentations shall respect the EU visibility guidelines, as provided to the expert by Project Office.

4. Expected Outputs

1. Recommendations for improvements in Forest Policy documents;
2. Analysis on the implementation of the long-term Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forestry (SSDF), the new Forest Law (FL) and the National Forestry Programme (NFP);
3.
 - a. Drafts of rulebooks for Forest management planning, mapping of forest functions and forest protection, and Integrated Forest Information System (IFIS);
 - b. Contribution to the preparation of by-laws and Governmental Regulations for the transposition of requirements derived by FLEGT and the EU Timber Regulations;
4. Assessment report of rural forestry development measures in Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forestry (SSDF) document and preparation measures/sub-measures with all necessary specifications for rural forestry development under IPARD III Programme.

5. Duration, sequence and location:

Indicated period of implementation: May 2023 – until the end of project implementation (included in the project contract and its addenda). The actual starting date will be after written approval issued by the Contracting Authority.

Duration: maximum 20 working days.



Location: Skopje (operational base of the Contract) and other parts (possible missions) of the Republic of North Macedonia.

6. Reporting

- a. Provide Time sheets related to her/his actual work performed;
- b. Provide inputs into the project reporting as requested by the Team Leader.

7. Expert profile

The SNKE - expert is required for the job with the following qualifications and skills.

A. Qualifications and skills:

- Master degree in Forestry or any other related field or in its absence 4 years above the required general professional experience;
- Excellent command of English;
- Excellent communication skills;

B. General professional experience:

- At least 7 years of relevant professional experience in the field of forestry in EU member states and / or EU candidate countries.

C. Specific professional experience:

- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in creating and/or implementing environmental and agriculture policies and/or rural development programmes in EU members states and/or in other countries in line with the relevant best practices;
- Experience in analytical work in forestry sector; (analysis on forest related measures, sustainable forest management practices etc.)
- Knowledge of the national legislation, government and public administration will be an asset.

Civil servants and other staff of the public administration, of the partner country or of international/regional organisations based in the country, shall only be approved to work as experts if well justified. The justification shall include information on the added value the expert will bring as well as proof that the expert is seconded or on personal leave.

Experts must be independent and free from conflicts of interest in the responsibilities defined by the Terms of Reference.

8. Performance indicators

The indicators reflecting the STEs performance are: timely presentation of results and outputs, quality of documents and reports to be provided to the Team Leader, the Beneficiary and the Contracting Authority.

9. Evaluation of work

Performance of the task will be assessed by the KE1.