Terms of Reference

Integration of Environment & Climate Change dimension in MRM system of the RECONOMY program

Background

In partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is leading a regional inclusive and green economic development program, RECONOMY, in 12 countries in Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus), and the Western Balkans (Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

While the program is considered one for the 12 countries, the thematic focus for Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries slightly differs based on the economic and political dynamics of the region. What unites the program is the vision for change aiming at inclusive and green economic opportunities that build on common problems and common opportunities for the target group – women and youth, including the most disadvantaged and excluded. The program was launched in 2020 with the inception phase that ended for the Eastern Partnership countries in December 2022 and will end in March 2023 for the Western Balkans. The main phase is foreseen for four years.

To achieve the overarching objective, RECONOMY works along three workstreams:

- Increasing the (self)employability and income generation of target groups by improving formal and informal training offer. Ensure the training is improved and available to the target groups and ensure strengthened and diversified intermediation.
- Improvement of business and financial services to help enterprises grow, invest, and create more/new economic opportunities.
- Improving advocacy in the areas of policy, regulatory, legislative, and administrative to help target groups and enterprises increase their participation and voice to advocate for better economic opportunities.

The Market Systems Development (MSD) approach guides the implementation of RECONOMY. Central to the application of the MSD approach is working through a variety of market actors (both public and private) and supporting behavioral changes which will lead to long-term improvements in their performance, ultimately benefitting the target groups. The program plays a facilitative role in this process, acting as an agent stimulating improvements in the way in which market actors within the system perform their functions.

RECONOMY pays special attention to environmental constraints, opportunities for green growth, and building resilience of businesses and communities. By mainstreaming environment and climate change, RECONOMY aims to enable access to green skills required

for just and inclusive green transformation, leverage the opportunities for green innovation in business models, build the resilience of businesses facing the climate and other environmental risks, and encourage the policy reforms leading to an accelerated transformation of the EaP and the Western Balkan economies in alignment with the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal.

The objective of the backstopping

Expressing commitment and readiness and designing and implementing initiatives to support the transition to green economic development is only part of anchoring an inclusive green economy objective in the program. The other important part is knowing what works and what does not and why. This is critical to obtaining a useful measure of progress, making the monitoring and results measurement (MRM) framework of the program a valid instrument. MRM framework is applied as integral to the overall results framework of the program, allows partners to have clear milestones for supporting and measuring green economic development transition, and stimulates identifying innovative, sustainable, and scalable practices among the partners and stakeholders.

MRM is a complex area in the planning and implementation of economic development programs with the "greening" component. Lack of consensus at the global level on the definitions of "green jobs", "green skills" or "green finance" is accompanied by a variety of ununified approaches to measuring among the countries and international implementers, difficulties in obtaining relevant data, and other related challenges.

The objective of the backstopping assignment is to provide support to the ECC and MRM Leads on improving the Program's approach towards measuring the "greening" indicators, integrating the relevant tools to the overall MRM system, and capacitating the members of the Program Facilitation Unit and the Implementing Partners for proper performance in the Main Phase.

Tasks / Deliverables

In the frame of the current assignment, the consultant, in close coordination with ECC Lead and MRM Lead and in consultation with other RECONOMY team members (needs-based) program, shall:

- Understand the needs of the program based on the analysis of the planned project portfolio, as well as the experience obtained by the program staff in the Inception Phase;
- Propose an overview of the suitable approaches and tools and, in coordination with the PFU members, propose necessary changes fitting the program's context, structure, and operational capacities;
- Capacitate the Program Facilitation Unit and relevant staff of the RECONOMY's Implementing Partners in applying the selected approaches and tools, ensuring the sufficient level of understanding and buy-in; provide a case-by-case coaching relevant to specific projects;
- Document in writing the key deliverables for future integration into RECONOMY MRM Manual and other relevant internal guidelines;
- Any other if needed – as per the agreement between the consultant and the Program Facilitation Unit.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities are as follows:

- **Backstopper (Consultant)** leads on overall backstopping and timely delivery and provision of the assignment results as described above; responsible for the quality of the backstopping as stipulated in the previous sections of this ToR; provides regular feedback on the deliverables.

- **RECONOMY ECC Manager** takes the lead in coordinating the backstopping including (a) ensuring that demands/needs for the backstopping are identified and agreed upon with the backstopper, (b) plans are made and followed up; (c) regular reviews and exchanges are done to ensure the quality/value addition of the backstopping, (d) all relevant documents are provided to the backstopper in a timely manner, and (e) findings are documented/synthesized and linked to Program Documents.

- **RECONOMY MRM Manager** stays in close contact with the Consultant; provides the documents or any relevant information as per needs in a timely manner; makes sure that approaches and tools proposed by the backstopper are integrated into the MRM system.

- **RECONOMY in Bern/Head Office** is responsible for overall quality assurance and support to the backstopper and the team as per needs.

Time frame and schedule

Interested candidates shall submit their financial proposal based on the level of effort outlined in the current ToR. The budget shall be allocated based on the competitive offer and ratio of the best value for money and regional/international consultancy rates of Helvetas. The approximate level of effort is outlined below.

No	Activity	Level of effort (days)
1	Review materials provided by RECONOMY (including exchanges, calls, meetings with PFU) to understand the overall context of the program, key processes and existing learnings around the measuring the "greening" indicators; consult the MRM Lead, ECC Lead and other team members to understand the needs and capacities of the program	2
2	Propose an overview of the suitable approaches and tools and, in coordination with the PFU members, propose necessary changes and solutions fitting the program's context, structure, and operational capacities. Propose recommendations for improving the MRM Manual related to "greening". The deliverables should correspond to the concrete needs in each of the planned projects for the Main Phase of the program.	7

3	Contribute to capacity building / sensitizing the PFU members and the relevant staff of the Implementing Partners	2
4	Other	1
	TOTAL days	**12**

The backstopping shall take place between **March 30, 2023 and June 30, 2023** with a total amount of **12 days**. The support will be provided online, and the first session will be used to develop a timeline which will be attached as the annex of the ToR.