

Terms of Reference

Technical Expertise in Environmental and Climate Change Impact Assessment and Monitoring

1. Background of the assignment

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 11 countries of the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova), and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Serbia).

While the program is considered one for the targeted 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.

RECONOMY is running 11 projects in the two regions, led by both Program Facilitation Unit (PFU) and Implementing Partners, strategically addressing key areas such as twin green and digital transformation of the sectors with high growth potential; ICT skills; energy efficiency and renewable energy in construction and renovation of built environment; circular economy and resource efficiency in textile & apparel production and trade; fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems; heavy-duty trucks related mechatronics; and support of regional cooperation and access to circular business models for MSMEs.

Currently, the RECONOMY program does not measure indicators related to GHG emissions, resource use, environmental impact as related to its supported specific projects. Neither were these indicators measured at the outset of the program, so baseline data is non-existent. Thus, this is a pilot initiative to understand how to effectively and with high confidence measure specific environmental and climate change impact on enterprise/project level under a Market Systems Development approach program.

In this context, **RECONOMY seeks to engage an international expert** to support its staff in developing a methodological approach and framework for assessing, monitoring, and measuring the environmental and climate change impact of its interventions.

2. Objective and Scope of Work of assignment

2.1 Objective

The primary objective of this assignment is to develop a methodological approach, a framework of environmental and climate impact indicators and identify required data inputs and data sources to measure the environmental and climate change impact of RECONOMY program, as well as at each specific RECONOMY-supported project level.

The primary owner and user of the environmental impact measuring system will be the RECONOMY's ECC Adviser in close collaboration with the MRM team. However, the data necessary for reporting on indicators will be sourced from the market actors and implementing partners.

2.2 Scope of Work

The international expert will perform the following tasks:

a. Review and Analysis:

- Review and analyze RECONOMY's current project portfolio and identify key environmental and climate impact areas to be tracked (e.g., GHG emissions reduction; water use; energy use; material/ resource use; land use; air quality; waste and recycling rates; biodiversity and ecosystems conservation indicators).
- Conduct interviews with RECONOMY program officers and/or market actors, as needed to better understand the scope and feasibility of tracking environmental / climate impacts and sourcing relevant data.
- Develop a list of RECONOMY-supported specific projects for which climate and environmental impact assessment/tracking and monitoring is feasible given available resources and capacities within the program.
- Produce and submit an inception report clearly articulating, documenting all the findings and the results of the previous steps.

b. Indicator Framework and Data Matrix Development:

- Develop a comprehensive framework of environmental and climate indicators, with necessary data inputs and data sources tailored to each RECONOMY-supported projects that were shortlisted during the review and analysis stage.

It is important that the data collection and provision should not pose a significant additional burden in terms of effort or costs to the market actors or the RECONOMY team and stay within current resources.

c. Capacity Building:

- Conduct a 1.5-2-hour online capacity building workshop for the RECONOMY program staff and relevant market actors on methodological approach and proposed indicators framework.

d. Final Reporting:

- Provide a final report detailing the tasks undertaken, lessons learned, and recommendations.

The expert will carry out the tasks in close collaboration and coordination with the RECONOMY ECC Adviser and the MRM Team.

3. Deliverables

The international expert will deliver the following:

1. **Inception report** outlining the initial findings of the 'Review and Analysis' stage, any revision to work plan and methodology.
2. **Framework of environmental indicators and data matrix** aligned with RECONOMY objectives.
3. **Capacity building online workshop**
4. **Final report** summarizing the tasks implemented during the assignment, lessons learned and recommendations for the next steps.

4. Timeline and level of effort

No	Activity	Timeline	Level of effort (days)
1	Inception Report	March 14, 2024	5
2	Indicators Framework and Data Matrix	March 28, 2025	5
3	Capacity Building Online Workshop	April 14, 2025	1
4	Final Report	April 21, 2025	1

The consultancy shall take place between **March 03 – April 30, 2025**, with a total amount of 12 working days, allocated as per the table above.

All the work related to this assignment will be conducted remotely. All logistical costs (if applicable) will be covered by the program in accordance with the approved activity plan.

5. Experience/Qualification required

The international expert should have:

- Extensive experience and technical expertise in assessing and calculating climate change and environmental impact of projects, measures, and activities at the project and/or enterprise level.
- Experience in verifying enterprise-level GHG emissions and resource (for example waste/energy/water/etc) use.
- Experience in evaluating international development projects related to climate change and/or the environment.
- Experience in designing tailor-made environmental and climate impact assessment framework(s).
- Working experience in any of the Western Balkan six and/or the Eastern Partnership countries is desirable.
- Experience with Market System Development projects and programs is desirable.
- Experience in utilizing and/or developing tools such as PowerBI, Excel-based, or similar specialized digital tools for environmental and climate change reporting is desirable.

6. Reporting

The expert reports on the assignment progress to RECONOMY Environment and Climate Change Adviser.