

Project: The Western Balkan Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (WBTF)

Clarifications No. 1 to the Request for Expression of Interest: Development of National Transport Strategy 2027 - 2034

Reference no.: SER-WBTF-QCBS-CS-25-28

Dear All,

With respect to the Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) for **Development of National Transport Strategy 2027 - 2034, Reference no.: SER-WBTF-QCBS-CS-25-28**, issued on 16 May 2025, please be informed that the Client hereby issues the Clarifications No.1 to the REoI as follows:

Reference Section in the <u>RFB</u>	Question	Answer
<u>ToR, pg. 14</u>	<p>Q1: We kindly ask you to clarify the selection criteria, namely, Criterion 2 states: <i>The Consultant (individual company or joint venture altogether) has successfully completed, during the last seven years (from the January 2018 up to the deadline for the receipt of applications indicated below), at least two (2) contracts that are similar to these Services. Similarity will be assessed based on the complexity of the assignments, such as the development of strategic documents and/or plans for the transport sector at the national/regional level or covering at least two modes of transport. Experience in preparing strategic documents and/or plans in Serbia, in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia, will be considered as strong advantage.</i></p> <p>Could you please clarify: - “development of strategic documents and/or plans for the transport sector at the national/regional level or covering at least two modes of transport” – please confirm that “at least two modes of transport” will have to be demonstrated only for those references/contracts which have not been implemented at national/regional level? - “Experience in preparing strategic documents and/or plans in Serbia, in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia” – please confirm whether this requirement is related only to transportation sector, or will preparation of any strategic documents in other sectors (in accordance with the Law) be accepted as eligible?</p>	<p>A1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We confirm that “at least two modes of transport” have to be demonstrated only for those references/contracts which have not been implemented at national/regional level. 2. We confirm that this requirement is related to any strategic document in any sector that was prepared in compliance with specified Law.
<u>REoI</u>	<p>Q2: We would kindly like to request a two-week deadline extension due to the number of tenders which have been launched in the recent period</p>	<p>A2: Please see the Amendment No 1 to the issued REoI. The deadline is extended to June 10, 2025.</p>
<u>REoI</u>	<p>Q3: We are writing to formally request an extension of the submission deadline for the Development of National Transport Strategy 2027 – 2034,</p>	<p>A3: Please see the Amendment No 1 to the issued REoI. The deadline is extended to June 10, 2025.</p>

Reference Section in the <u>RFB</u>	Question	Answer
	<p>Reference No. SER-WBTTF-QCBS-CS-25-28, by three weeks from the current deadline of June 3, 2025. This extension would allow us to thoroughly prepare a comprehensive and high-quality EOI in line with the project's requirements.</p>	
<u>ToR, pg.14</u>	<p>Q4: In the REoI, on page 14 of the REoI the following text mentions that:</p> <p>"The Consultant (individual company or joint venture altogether) has successfully completed, during the last seven years (from the January 2018 up to the deadline for the receipt of applications indicated below), at least two (2) contracts that are similar to these Services. Similarity will be assessed based on the complexity of the assignments, such as the development of strategic documents and/or plans for the transport sector at the national/regional level or covering at least two modes of transport. Experience in preparing strategic documents and/or plans in Serbia, in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia, will be considered as strong advantage."</p> <p>As far as it concerns the eligibility criteria could you kindly clarify whether the term "national/regional level" refers to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National or regional level within any country (EU / NON-EU), or 2. Specifically to countries within the Balkan region? 	<p>A4: Please note that specified eligibility criteria refers to any country (EU/non-EU).</p>
<u>ToR, pg. 14</u>	<p>Q5: We would like to ask for clarification regarding the advantage of the project reference preparing strategic documents and/or plans in Serbia and its role in the Reevaluation criteria. According to the requirement of the Criteria 2 it is stipulated that:</p> <p><i>2) The Consultant (individual company or joint venture altogether) has successfully completed, during the last seven years (from the January 2018 up to the deadline for the receipt of applications indicated below), at least two (2) contracts that are similar to these Services. Similarity will be assessed based on the complexity of the assignments, such as the development of strategic documents and/or plans for the transport sector at the national/regional level or covering at least two modes of transport. Experience in preparing strategic documents and/or plans in Serbia, in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia, will be considered as strong advantage.</i></p>	<p>A5: Your understanding is not correct. Namely, as it is written, during the evaluation of submitted references, beside similarity in complexity of the assignment, the Evaluation Committee will also take into consideration if the consultant/JVs has experience in preparation of strategic documents and/or plans in Serbia in accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia, and such experience shall be considered as an advantage in the determination of the short-list.</p>

Reference Section in the <u>RFB</u>	Question	Answer
	<p>And the Reevaluation criteria on page 14 stipulates that: <i>In the event that more than eight firms fulfil all the qualifying criteria above, the MCTI shall use the following criteria to rank the applicants and the top eight shall be invited to submit proposals:</i></p> <p><i>(i) The number of contracts in a field related to these Services brought as reference in para (3) above and in case of equality on this criterion, then the value of the eligible part (the value of the activities carried out by the candidate) of the projects found eligible in para (3)</i></p> <p>In our understanding, according to the Reevaluation criteria, in case of equal qualifying criteria, the reference in Serbia does not play a determining role.</p> <p>Could you please kindly indicate the extent of the advantage for the reference(s) in Serbia?</p>	
<u>REoI</u>	<p>Q6: We respectfully request an extension of the current June 3, 2025 submission deadline.</p>	<p>A6: Please see the Amendment No 1 to the issued REoI. The deadline is extended to June 10, 2025.</p>
<u>ToR, pg.14</u>	<p>Q:7 Regarding the requirement for "signed certificate of the ordering side on completion of the assignment," we would like to seek clarification on acceptable alternative forms of proof. In the UK, Ireland, and France, it is not standard practice for strategic transport planning projects to issue formal completion certificates. Instead, we propose the following alternative documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed contracts - Final payment certificates - Official project close-out documentation - Client reference letters confirming successful completion <p>These documents would provide equivalent verification of our experience while adhering to the transparency and accountability principles of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (July 2016, revised November 2017).</p>	<p>A7: Please note that Client reference letters confirming successful completion would be eligible proof of successfully completed contract/project.</p>

Please acknowledge receipt of this Clarifications no. 1 to the REoI.

Kindly note that the consultants shall acknowledge receipt of Clarifications no.1 in writing.

Sincerely,



Zorica Petrović, Procurement Specialist