

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES -FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT – FIRMS  
SELECTION)**

**The Serbia Railway Sector Modernization (SRSM) Project  
Project ID No. P170868**

**Assignment Title:  
Preparation of Environmental and Social Instruments  
and other Relevant Risk Management Plans**

**Reference No.SER-SRSM-FA-QBS-CS-23-52**

The Republic of Serbia has received a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), toward the cost of the Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project, Phase 1 of the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for consulting services consulting services to be procured under this project.

The consulting services include but are not limited to preparation of environmental and social instruments and other relevant risk management plans (“the Services”) for the following project components:

- **Component 1:** Infrastructure Investments and Asset Management. This component focuses on improving the quality and safety of railway infrastructure and enhancing rail asset management practices.
- **Component 2:** Institutional Strengthening and Project Management. This component focuses on strengthening rail policies and institutions to deepen and sustain recent reforms.
- **Component 3:** Railway Modernization Enablers. This component will finance measures to protect the vulnerable and the poor and strengthen sectoral enablers for sustainable business growth and job creation

The objective of the assignment is to support the Client in ensuring full project compliance with the World Bank's requirements for environmental and social risk management, by conducting adequate E&S risk assessments and developing proportionate risk mitigation instruments. Proposed instruments should meet the environmental and social requirements within the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia and in accordance with the World Bank’s environmental and social policies and procedures. Proposed studies and instruments should be developed in line with the WB environmental and social policies and procedures including, relevant environmental and social standards (ESS), the Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG), the Bank's Directive on Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups, as well as any other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). The Client will provide all the necessary documentation related to the SRSM Project prior to the commencement of Services.

The Client intends to appoint a Consultant for the Assignment and sign a Framework Agreement by the end of May 2024. The first subproject environmental and social assessment services are expected to start shortly after the contract signing and services will continue as various subprojects are developed. The Assignment is expected to last at least until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Time input highly depends on respective technical documentation for each of the sub-projects upon which the necessary level of details will become available.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the primary procurement stage for the assignment can be found at the following website: : <https://mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/serbia-railway-sector-modernization-project-srsm-esia-framework-agreement>.

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

To be shortlisted, a Firm or joint venture submitting the EoI must meet the following requirements:

**i) General experience:**

The Consultant firm must be a legal entity or joint venture with at least 7 years of relevant working experience. Relevant working experience means preparing the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study according to the WB regulation (and other financing institutions, IFC, EBRD, EIB) related to transport sector. Projects related with railway infrastructure will be consider strong advantage.

**ii) Specific experience**

The Consultant firm or joint venture should have specific experience in successfully completed assignments expected to meet the financing institutions environmental and social policies (IFC, EBRD, EIB, etc.). The Consultant Firm or joint venture must provide references in last seven years with a successful track record of at least:

- Experience in writing at least (2) Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)
- Experience in preparing at least (2) successfully completed RAP assignments
- Experience in at least (2) successfully completed SEP

To substantiate the above, the firm or JV must submit as part of the expression of interest, a table listing information, demonstrating the fulfillment of the above criteria.

The table should include the following information: name of the assignment (and Project) and location, **with brief description of most significant challenges related to environmental protection and social impacts on the relevant project**; Types of deliverables provided (ESIA, ESMP, RAP, SEP, etc.) with links to any publicly disclosed deliverables; Name of contracting entity, time period within which the assignment was carried out, Names of companies or JV who participated in the assignment; Contact details of persons who may be contacted for references (from the contracting entity or involved financial institution).

The Shortlisting will be based on the following criteria:

- General company experience ( 30 Points)
- Specific company experience relevant to the Assignment ( 70 Points)

If the firm or joint venture fails to fulfill **any of the above-mentioned criteria**, the application will be rejected as insufficient.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage and their CVs should not be submitted as part of the expression of interest.

The Client, intends to shortlist up to 8 eligible firms to whom a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP), shall be sent.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” (July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020) (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Furthermore, Expressions of interest of JVs will be evaluated solely based on experience and qualifications of JV, whereas the experience of other firms not constituting formally in the JV will not be considered in the evaluation.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Framework Agreement arrangements described in the Procurement Regulations and to be specifically set out in the Request for Proposals.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, Monday to Friday, between 09:00 and 17:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address by e-mail by **Friday, April 26, 2024**.

Contact:	E-mail:	Address:
To:	<a href="mailto:zorica.petrovic@mfin.gov.rs">zorica.petrovic@mfin.gov.rs</a> Ms. Zorica Petrovic Procurement Specialist	Ministry of Finance Central Fiduciary Unit Balkanska 53
Cc:	<a href="mailto:ljiljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs">ljiljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs</a> <a href="mailto:larisa.puzovic@mgsi.gov.rs">larisa.puzovic@mgsi.gov.rs</a>	11000 Belgrade, Serbia Tel/Fax: (+381 11) 765 2587

*The Serbia Railway Sector Modernization (SRSM) Project  
Phase 1 of the Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach*

**Terms of reference for framework agreement**

*for the Preparation of Environmental and Social Instruments  
and other Relevant Risk Management Plans*

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **1.1 THE PROJECT**

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD<sup>1</sup>) launched a Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) which aims to support the Government of Serbia in the continuation of institutional, physical, and operational modernization of the railway sector in an integrated manner. The MPA will be implemented in three overlapping phases over a ten-year period.

In Phase 1 of the MPA, the IBRD and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) have jointly provided a loan of EUR 102 million to the Republic of Serbia for implementing the Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project (the Project). The aim of the Project is to enhance the efficiency and safety of existing railway assets and improve governance and institutional capacity of the railway sector. The Project includes the following Components:

- **Component 1:** Infrastructure Investments and Asset Management. This component focuses on improving the quality and safety of railway infrastructure and enhancing rail asset management practices.
- **Component 2:** Institutional Strengthening and Project Management. This component focuses on strengthening rail policies and institutions to deepen and sustain recent reforms.
- **Component 3:** Railway Modernization Enablers. This component will finance measures to protect the vulnerable and the poor and strengthen sectoral enablers for sustainable business growth and job creation.

The Project is managed by the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MoCTI) (the Client) through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

The primary responsibility for Project execution lies with the PIU which will ensure that the Project development objectives are met. The PIU, among other staff, includes an Environmental Specialist and a Social and Citizen Engagement Specialist (PIU E&S experts).

As Project funding is being provided by international financial institutions, all subprojects are expected to meet World Bank (WB) recognized international standards in the area of environmental and social (E&S) impact assessment and management, in addition to national legislative requirements. Mandatory standards

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<sup>1</sup> IBRD is a part of the World Bank (WB).

which will be utilized for E&S assessment and management include those defined by the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), the World Bank Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP).

## **1.2 SUBPROJECTS**

The subprojects to be financed as part of Components 1 and 2 of the Project are currently being defined. At the current stage of development, it is too early to define precisely which E&S assessments and instruments will be needed for which subproject. It is possible that some of the documents described in this ToR will be added or removed as the Project evolves. Documents assessed as being needed at this stage of the Project, are listed in section 2 of this ToR.

Some of the subprojects are expected to involve the design and construction of certain railway facilities and in accordance with national legislation require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to be carried out. However, national legislative requirements and WB ESF requirements differ while it is necessary that E&S Assessments meet requirements of both. For example, national legislation does not trigger preparation of E&S assessments for small-scale civil works, or/and does not require the identification and addressing of social impacts to a level expected by the lenders who may require a full analysis that includes an assessment of the potential impacts on the environment, as well as in the communities. It will be the task of the Consultant, the subject of this ToR, to address the potential gap.

## **2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of the assignment is to support the Client in ensuring full project compliance with the World Bank's requirements for environmental and social risk management, by conducting adequate E&S risk assessments and developing proportionate risk mitigation instruments. Proposed instruments should meet the environmental and social requirements within the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia and in accordance with the World Bank's environmental and social policies and procedures. Proposed studies and instruments should be developed in line with the WB environmental and social policies and procedures including, relevant environmental and social standards (ESS), the Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG), the Bank's Directive on Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups, as well as any other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). The Client will provide all the necessary documentation related to the SRSM Project prior to the commencement of Services.

The final goal is to prepare and implement adequate instruments for mitigating the potential environmental and social impacts and risks of the Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project, in a timely manner.

This includes but is not limited to the following activities:

1. Review of the subproject design, national EIA, and other relevant documentation against WB requirements, implement additional studies, procedures, and actions to meet WB requirements. National EIA and WB ESIA gap analysis will be prepared if necessary;
2. When required (following the screening and WB risk conformation) prepare a full Environmental

and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as per WB requirements, or Appendix to be integrated with the national EIA report, to satisfy all WB requirements for an ESIA report. Prepare Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as a part of ESIA.

3. When required (following the screening and WB risk conformation) prepare a stand-alone Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as a part of ESIA and when requested prepare an ESMP Checklist, with support of the PIU E&S experts.
4. Carry out additional studies / assessments and with the assistance of the PIU environmental and social specialists prepare any other E&S risk sub management plans such as: Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Cumulative Impact Assessment.
5. Prepare an activity Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for public disclosure and consultations, if deemed necessary, and participate in any relevant consultation events.
6. When required (following the screening and WB risk conformation) prepare a full Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) as per WB requirements, or Appendix to be integrated with the national SEA report, to satisfy all WB requirements for the SESA.

Tentative list of documents which will be requested as deliverables of the assignment under prospective call off contracts<sup>2,3</sup>, per activity is:

1. Reconstruction of railway tunnels Dedinje, Vezni, Stadion, Vračar, and section Pančevački most – Pančevo Glavna: **Subproject SEP, ESMP or ESIA**
2. Stage 2 of construction of main railway station - Belgrade Center (Prokop): **Subproject SEP, ESMP**
3. Railway Level Crossings: **Subproject SEP, ESMP checklists**
4. Measurement Stations: **Subproject SEP, ESMP checklist**
5. Bogojevo Station bypass: **RAP, Subproject SEP, ESMP**
6. Design for reconstruction and modernization of Pančevo - Vršac - border with Romania railway line: **ESIA with NTS, RAP, Subproject SEP**
7. Design for reconstruction and modernization of Ruma - Šabac – Loznica - border with Bosnia and Herzegovina railway line: **ESIA with NTS, RAP, Subproject SEP**

Since the scope and content of the documentation mentioned in the list above are various, and also that their preparation is conditioned by the dynamics of the completion of the technical and spatial documentation, the expected sequence and timeframe for call off contracts per activity is:

1. No longer than two months after signing this framework agreement (for activities listed under ordinal number 1,2 and 4)
2. No longer than six months after signing this framework agreement (for activity listed under number 5)
3. During the first half of 2025 (for activities 6 and 7).

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<sup>2</sup> The documents are defined in World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, available on the following [link](#).

<sup>3</sup> The type of required document will be confirmed after E&S screening is finalized.

### 3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This section provides an overview of the general scope of the Assignment which will be adapted to each subproject as the necessary level of detail becomes available. The Consultant will work closely with the Client and the PIU, particularly the Environmental Specialist and Social and Citizen Engagement Specialist, as well as the Occupational Health and Safety Specialist. The PIU will coordinate interaction between the Consultant, the design team including the EIA consultants, as well as any other relevant stakeholders, such as the PITs.

#### 3.1 REVIEW AND GAP ANALYSES

Depending on the risk assessment of each subproject determined in respective Environmental and Social Screening Report, the Client will define the necessary instruments to be prepared by the Consultant. On behalf of the Client, the PIU E&S expert team will provide support to the Consultant in preparation of the sub-project documentation (ESIA, ESMP, ESMP Checklist, RAP, SEP).

When preparing the ESIA, the Consultant will carry out a gap analysis between the national EIA issued by the responsible institution and the requirements of the World Bank, for the scope of the ESIA. Based on the results of the gap analyses, the Consultant will develop an Addendum which will include all needed information to fulfil the gaps. The Addendum to the national EIA will be proportionate to the risks and impacts of the subproject and will, enable the subproject to achieve objectives materially consistent with the applicable ESSs (ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS5, ESS6, ESS8, ESS10), WB EHS and GIIP. The ESIA will be prepared in accordance with the ESMF, and ESF including the WB standards and applicable Policy, Directives and Guidelines:

***Environmental risks and potential impacts***, identified in relation to Project E&S aspects, including, but not limited to: (i) those identified in the sub-project screening as well as those defined by the ESF, ESMF, WB Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (ii) those related to community safety; (iii) those related to climate change and other transboundary or global risks and impacts; (iv) accumulative, (v) any material threat to the protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and biodiversity; and (v) those related to ecosystem services and the use of living natural resources, such as fisheries and forests.

***Social risks and impacts***, including: (i) threats to human security through the escalation of personal, communal or inter-state conflict, crime or violence; (ii) risks that project impacts fall disproportionately on individuals and groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable; (iii) any prejudice or discrimination toward individuals or groups in providing access to development resources and project benefits, particularly in the case of those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable; (iv) negative economic and social impacts relating to the involuntary taking of land or restrictions on land use; (v) risks or impacts associated with land and natural resource tenure and use, including (as relevant) potential project impacts on local land use patterns and tenure arrangements, land access and availability, food security and land values, and any corresponding risks related to conflict or contestation over land and natural resources; (vi) impacts on the health, safety and well-being of workers and project-affected communities; and (vii) risks to cultural heritage.

### **3.2 ADDITIONAL E&S STUDIES**

The Client will identify, and include in the call of contract, any additional baseline or other studies that must be undertaken by the Consultant to ensure that WB ESF requirements can be adequately addressed. (For example, a social impact assessment, a biodiversity assessment, hazard or risk assessment, traffic impact assessment, etc.)

Once the scope for additional studies or activities, as well as risk management plans is defined, the Consultant will agree on a budget and timeline with the Client and carry out the required studies/assessments and prepare risk management plans (preferably in parallel with the development of the national EIA). In that manner, all the measures and monitoring from the national EIA must be fully implemented in the ESIA, and vice versa. This is to avoid any differences in the chapters of the national EIA, that define measures and obligations in the case of accident, and monitoring.

### **3.3 PREPARATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The Consultant will prepare other risk management plans with the assistance of the PIU, as needed. This includes Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) or ESMP checklists, to manage all identified impacts. The Consultant will prepare and participate in the ESMP public disclosure process, including presenting the ESMPs and preparing Minutes of Public Meetings and responding to all received questions and comments. The consultant is obliged to prepare Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment using the results of public consultations during the preparation of the Strategic Impact Assessment and spatial plan, when required.

At this stage of the Project, it is assessed that in addition to ESMPs and ESMP checklists, Stakeholder Engagement Plans, Resettlement Action Plans, Traffic Safety Plans, or other documents might be needed as the project evolves. Since the sub-projects are still not in the design stage, it is not possible to state with complete certainty which documents are needed for which sub-projects.

## **4. DELIVERABLES**

The Consultant will deliver the following documents as part of each subproject assignment:

- (i) Gap Analysis Report;
- (ii) A draft and final ESIA Addendum, containing any additional assessments needed to close the gap between the national EIA and the WB ESIA, ESMP or an ESMP checklist, which has been publicly disclosed and consulted; or a full ESIA, of the national EIA has not been prepared;
- (iii) Other necessary risk management plans (RAP, SEP, and others if needed).
- (iv) Non-Technical Summary of the E&S documentation package.

In the call off contract for each activity mentioned of the above in point 2, the deadlines and content for the submission of each individual document will be defined.

The consultant is obliged to make all corrections at the request of the Client. The additional time needed for corrections and addressing the comments will not be included in the following timeframe.



However

- the deadline for the delivery of the SEP for each individual component cannot be longer than 2 months, counting from the day of delivery of the valid ESSQ.
- The deadline for the delivery of the RAP for the components for whose preparation is indicated no longer than 3 months following delivery of valid preliminary design.
- The ESIA delivery should not exceed 6 months following the completion of the preliminary design of the specific activity (unless there is baseline research with a longer timeframe).

The Consultant will be provided the necessary documentation at the time of the call off for signing the contract for each subproject.

#### **4.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The Consultant will report and submit the deliverables to the Client. Upon request by the Client the Consultant shall produce progress reports on the implementation of the assignment.

### **5. LOCATION AND TIMING**

#### **5.1 LOCATION**

The Consultant is expected to use own offices for the assignment. Meetings with the Client and the PIU staff, as well as other Project participants will be held in Belgrade. The Consultant will also be expected to travel to subproject locations for specific tasks as part of the Assignment, which are located in different regions of Serbia.

#### **5.2 COMMENCEMENT DATE AND PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION**

The Client intends to appoint a Consultant for the Assignment and sign a Framework Agreement by the end of May 2024. The first subproject environmental and social assessment services are expected to start shortly after the contract signing and services will continue as various subprojects are developed. The Assignment is expected to last at least until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Time input highly depends on respective technical documentation for each of the sub-projects upon which the necessary level of details will become available.

### **6. REQUIREMENTS**

The assignment will require a qualified company or a joint venture (JV), that can demonstrate extensive experience in the provision of subject services and have the listed key experts that possess extensive experience in the applicable field. The Consultant shall establish the Team in accordance with the needs and requirements of these ToR. The Team shall consist of a core team made of key experts with the qualifications and skills defined below, and non-key experts, as needed.

## 6.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF THE KEY EXPERTS

Suitably qualified staff to carry out the tasks specified in the point 2 of this ToR (tentative list of deliverables). The Core Project Team of the Consultant for this assignment must include minimum one key expert for each of the positions listed below. The key experts should meet the following requirements:

- **Environmental specialist**
  - 10 years or more of working experience in environmental impact assessment.
  - University degree in environmental, natural, or technical sciences (environmental science and/or management, biology, chemistry, construction, or similar).
  - Experience in writing E&S documents (ESIA, EIA) required to meet finance institutions policies.
  - Advanced knowledge of Serbian and English and clear and concise writing and presentation skills.
  - Experience in working with World Bank will be considered a strong advantage.
  
- **Social specialist**
  - 10 years of working experience in social impact assessment.
  - Experience in writing E&S documents (ESIA, SEP, RAP) required to meet finance institutions policies.
  - Advanced knowledge of Serbian and English and clear and concise writing and presentation skills.
  - Experience in working with World Bank will be considered a strong advantage.

Other, non-key experts, such as occupational health and safety specialist, biologist/s, community health and safety specialists, transport specialists, etc. can be engaged for specific tasks if needed.

## 7. SELECTION OF THE CONSULTANT

The Client intends to shortlist up to 8 eligible firms to whom a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP), shall be sent.

A Consultant will be selected under Quality - based selection method procedures, in accordance with the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" (July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020) ("Procurement Regulations"), which can be found at the following website: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

The Framework Agreement to be concluded will be "Single-User." A Framework Agreement will be concluded with one Consultant for provision of Services ("Single Consultant Framework Agreement"). Single Consultant Framework Agreement will be concluded with the consultant with the highest technical score, subject to successful negotiations.

A Call-off Contract will awarded through a Secondary Procurement as defined in the Framework Agreement. However, the conclusion of a Framework Agreement shall not impose any obligation on the Procuring Agency, including participating Clients, to procure the consulting services under a Call-off

Contract. The conclusion of Framework Agreement does not guarantee that a Consultant in the Framework Agreement will be awarded a Call-off Contract.