Restricted Procedure: Integrity assessment of municipally owned water supply enterprises in Ukraine

Deadline for application: 22. June 2021, at 14:00, Danish time

**Description:**
**Background**
The European Union Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI) in Ukraine is a joint EU and Government of Denmark financed programme aimed at supporting Ukraine's efforts to  reduce corruption at the national and local level through the empowerment of citizens, civil society, businesses, and state institutions.

This assignments falls under EUACI’s component 2, where partner cities are supported in their efforts to strengthen integrity, transparency, and accountability.

**Integrity and Municipally Owned Enterprises (MOEs)**
Ukraine’s MOEs often have a significant economic and social impact in local communities and are among the largest employers, contributing to a substantial percentage of the workforce. Because of their role, structure, mandate, legal status, and many competing interests, they are often exposed to critical integrity risks. If compared with private companies, MOEs can face particularly heightened corruption risk owing, among others, to underlying issues in their ownership, regulatory and corporate governance arrangements, as well as shortcomings in the quality and credibility of corporate disclosure. Given the challenges, the cities' and MOEs' leadership are keen to pilot an assessment of the integrity situation and, subsequently, to follow up on its findings, probably through the development of an Integrity Plan based on the findings and recommendations of the integrity assessments.
 **The assignment**
The EUACI is seeking a Consultant (Consulting firm) that can work closely with the EUACI and its partner cities in conducting an integrity assessment of two municipally owned water supply service enterprises (MoEs) in the cities of Chernivtsi and Nikopol respectively, and provide practical recommendations (solutions) on how best to tackle identified risks to the enterprises integrity.

**Purpose**
The purpose of the assignment is to provide a sound technical foundation for the EUACI's support to its partner cities Chernivtsi and Nikopol in the integrity assessment of the water supply enterprises.

**Scope of Work**
The integrity assessment to be conducted with the two Water supply enterprises should as a minimum cover the following three main areas and sub-areas:

1) Assessment of transparency and accountability of procedures and processes:
 a. Evaluation of the MOEs internal procedures and their enforcement towards the best practices of transparency and accountability for water supply MOEs in Ukraine  and international standards (list of best practices shall be developed by the Consultant, please refer to 4. Scope of Work section below);
 b. Assessment of MOEs' compliance with the requirements of Article 78 of the Commercial Code of Ukraine.

2) Assessment of corruption risks:
 a. Analysis and assessment of legal, institutional, financial, and other factors to identify corruption vulnerabilities within the operations of two MOEs;
 b. Advice on efficient, cost-effective strategies to mitigate the identified corruption vulnerabilities or risks.

3) Corporate governance assessment:
 a. Identification of the current status and ability to implement the OECD corporate governance principles into the two MOEs.
 b. Advice on implementation of such principles. The specific industry standards shall be considered for implementation if not applied by the targeted MOEs.

**Approach and methodology**
The Consultant will pursue a respectful and participatory approach throughout the assignment with close attention to the needs of representatives in the MOEs and city corporations for understanding and subscribing to the assessment methodology, the findings, and the recommendations.

The methodology will take point of departure in generally accepted international practices and guidelines so as to adhere to generally accepted standards for integrity assessments.

The Consultant will need to pay special attention to the description of how international guidelines, practices and standards will be guiding the Consultant’s design of the integrity assessment in the specific context of municipally owned water supply enterprises.

**Duration and timing**
The assignment is expected carried out over a period of 20 weeks, tentatively starting from the first week of August, 2021.

**Budget**
The maximum budget available for the assignment is DKK 801,420.00 (equivalent to approximately EUR 107 thousand).
 **Deadline for applications**: 6/22/2021 14:00, Danish time

Interested Consultants can request the documents for participation by email to the contact person stated below.

**Contact point:**
Name of Programme Officer: Bohdan Boiko
E-mail address, Programme Officer: bohboi@um.dk
Telephone of Programme Officer: +380 67 21 70 983

**Criteria for selection:**
A minimum of three and a maximum of five applicants with references best suited for this assignment will be invited to submit a tender

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