

Terms of Reference

Promotion of innovation opportunities related to the blue economy in Albania

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| Title | Promotion of innovation opportunities related to the blue economy in Albania |
| Application Deadline | October 15, 2022 |
| Reference | POLICY ANSWERS- |
| Contacts | Legal representative: Wolfgang Michalek (michalek@zsi.at) Project lead, contact for this agreement: Elke Dall and Desiree Pecarz (policy-answers@westernbalkans-infohub.eu ; dall@zsi.at) |

1 Introduction and Background

POLICY ANSWERS R&I POLICY making, implementation AND Support in the WEStErN BalkanS) is a project funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101058873.

POLICY ANSWERS (supports policy coordination in the Western Balkans and with the EC and the EU. 14 partner organisations, representing network nodes in the region and EU expert organisations, support policy dialogue through formal meetings (such as ministerial and steering platform and ad-hoc policy meetings), monitoring and agenda setting, capacity building and implementation of the EU's Western Balkan Agenda, as well as the alignment of thematic priorities. The project implements regional pilot activities and offers an information hub based on the westernbalkans-infohub.eu online information platform. The partners provide analytical evidence via monitoring and mapping activities of the stakeholder ecosystem, of the implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda and of the Western Balkans' integration into the European Research Area as well as via strategic foresight.

POLICY ANSWERS also allows for tailored and targeted capacity building activities in the Western Balkans as well as regional alignment of priorities in relation to the digital transformation, the green agenda and towards healthy societies. Pilot activities provide learning opportunities on policy and programme level and reach out to final beneficiaries related to improved academia-industry cooperation, researcher mobility, inclusion of youth in policy processes, promotion of research infrastructures and increased innovation skills in all areas.

This activity is placed in the frame of the targeted capacity building activities (Work Package 3 of the project) in ALBANIA (Task 3.1) which is coordinated by

Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in cooperation with the National Agency for Research and Innovation (NASRI) as Associated Partner.

Upon the request of Government of Albania, the World Bank has prepared a report on Realizing the Blue Economy potential in Albania in 2020. The national Strategy for Blue Economy is currently under development. Several projects have been launched and opportunities created (see e.g. <https://blueair.adrioninterreg.eu>). To exploit the opportunities, capacity building activities are needed addressing in particular also innovation management. Active involvement of the quadruple helix actors in the development of a Macro-Regional S3 on Blue Growth and a dedicated Innovation Community (via BLUEAIR) is needed, with a view on future scenarios. Cooperation in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region but also within the country offers chances in the field of nature, as well as cultural heritage and fisheries and tourism having great potential. Apart from the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, also the EU Mission “Restore our Oceans and Waters” offers opportunities related to Blue Economy and Blue Growth with living labs and lighthouses in the Mediterranean and respective calls. Stakeholders in this process are the already running projects, the local, national and macro-regional stakeholders in the fisheries and tourism sectors, ports, etc. On government level, the Prime Minister Office is national coordinator of the Blue Economy Process, NASRI is local coordinator in the processes of the BLUEAIR project.

In order to strengthen the blue economy ecosystem, the POLICY ANSWERS Capacity Building Programme for Albania foresees dedicated activities to promote innovation opportunities in the sector.

The aim is to feed into national priorities and provides innovation knowledge for a key sector in Albania.

Detailed information about the activities is available at the following website www.westernbalkans-infohub.eu.

Upon award of the service contract, the contracting institution will share further information.

2 Description of the Scope and Purpose of the Service

This call requests the provision of the following services for [repeat title of the service], in detail the following work shall be carried out:

Two workshops focused on “Innovation Management in the Blue Economy” shall be implemented.

These capacity building workshops shall provide the following content:

1. An introduction to innovation as a management process, developing and sustaining an organisational culture of open innovation;
2. Information on developing technology and knowledge-based products and services, including IPR issues;

3. Tackling innovation in the context of Blue Growth with a focus on blue economy and innovation strategies, technologies and trends.

Throughout the workshops, adequate examples and case studies for the Albanian blue growth context are to be used.

The target group for the workshops include stakeholders of the blue economy, ocean industries, fisheries, ports, etc. and thus it is suggested to choose a location at the Albanian coast for their implementation.

In concrete terms, the following services shall be implemented:

- The service provider shall define in more detail the workshop targets and target groups.
- The service provider shall invite participants, consulting and involving NASRI, the local associated partner of POLICY ANSWERS.
- The service provider shall create, adapt and define training contents.
- The service provider shall organise and implement the workshops.
- The service provider shall provide information to promote the workshops in due time and support promotion.
- The service provider shall, as far as possible, make training materials available for publication.
- The service provider shall draft the concluding report including follow-up recommendations.

The following aspects should be taken into account:

The participants for the training workshops shall not receive any reimbursements, fees or travel support (participation is free of charge for the participants, but there is no additional financial support foreseen in the project budget).

The local organisation, including securing a venue and any costs occurring for the implementation need to be included in the fee.

The service provider is expected to suggest the most suitable methodology for successful completion of the assignment, including the identification of the target group. A brief overview of the planned training contents needs to be an integral part of the application.

Please note that the materials used in the framework of this agreement shall be published on the project website and, unless otherwise agreed in writing, made available under open creative commons license CC-BY (see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>).

Implementation period, expected deadlines and tentative timeline
October 2022 to September 2023

Workshops should be promoted at the already planned promotion events for Blue Growth by NASRI or potentially co-organised at respective events. The timing can be adapted to the availability of the expert but events should be announced a minimum of 8 weeks prior to the event to allow for adequate promotion.

Requested outputs and reporting

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| Work plan to be agreed | November 2022 |
| Interim report (if applicable, 1-3 pages) | April 2023 |
| Final report (3 to max. 10 pages) including agenda, participant lists, training materials, results of a satisfaction survey of the participants, follow-up recommendations | September 2023 |

Language

Working language is English.

Quality Assurance

The service provider shall perform the service with reasonable care and skills and in accordance with the best commercial practices and standards in the industry of similar services.

Funding and Reimbursement

The maximum budget for the above described tasks to be delivered is 8.000 EURO. This maximum budget includes the service fee, any travel and daily allowances for the travel to the workshops, workshop materials and other costs as well as VAT and any other taxes and duties.

This Service will be funded by the POLICY ANSWERS project¹. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101058873 for the project "R&I POLICY making, implementation and support in the Western Balkans" (POLICY ANSWERS).

3 Application, selection and contracting procedure

Required qualification/skills/experiences of the Service Provider

The service provider needs to provide at least one experienced trainer and enclose the CV in the application:

- Education: Masters degree in fields relevant for the assignment.
- Experience: Minimum of 5 years experience in similar activities. Experience with similar capacity building workshops in the area of blue economy, research and innovation policies, e.g. innovation management in the blue economy, blue leadership or similar. Proven knowledge of the region, experience in working with stakeholders in the Western Balkans, experience

¹ www.westernbalkans-infohub.eu

in Albania is an advantage. Experience in successful workshop planning and implementation.

- Language requirements: Excellent English written and spoken. Knowledge of Albanian is an advantage.

Application

The application from the Service Provider shall include the following documents:

- Price (with a rough budget breakdown)
- Skills: CV or description of the implementing organisation including information in relation to the required qualifications/skills/experiences
- Optional: recommendations (documented positive feedback in relation to previous workshops / courses is considered an advantage)
- Content: Short implementation plan and rough content plan for the workshops

Submission of application

Please submit the required documents for the application per e-mail to:
Zentrum für Soziale Innovation / Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
c/o Elke Dall

policy-answers@westernbalkans-infohub.eu (and in CC: dall@zsi.at)

Deadline for the submission of an application referencing to this ToR is **October 15, 23:59 CET (date of entry of the e-mail)**.

Selection

The best value for price principle will be applied, thus the following criteria will be taken into account:

- Price
- Skills
- Content of the short implementation plan
- References

The Contractor reserves the right not to place any order. Costs for necessary document preparation by the Applicants to this call for tender will not be reimbursed.

Contracting procedure for Service Provider

The selected expert will be informed until **October 25, 2022** on the result of the selection procedure. The contract with the Service Provider will be established shortly after the selection.