**PRIMARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PEIP)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for selection of individual consultant for

**STABILITY ASSESSMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION BUILDINGS**

1. **Background of the Project**

The Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP) development objective is to improve conditions for learning in primary education in North Macedonia.

The Project would support the Government of North Macedonia’s initiatives geared to:

* improve learning environment at the primary level;
* improve quality of teaching practices; and
* implement school improvement plans that use performance data and monitoring tools for improving student learning.

The project will be organized around three main elements that need to be aligned in order to be complementary to each other. Component 1 focuses on school-level interventions, which are closest to students and most likely to impact learning while also mitigating and recovering learning losses generated by COVID-19. Two enabling elements are system-level reforms that would create the necessary enabling conditions so the school teachers are empowered with data on learning and up-to-date training. Component 2 would develop a comprehensive national assessment program to inform both school improvement planning and professional development programs, serving to link the school and system levels. Component 3 would put into practice professional competences for educators. Together, these elements will provide adequate information, tools, training and support to create effective and improved conditions for learning and ultimately increase student achievement. Component 4 would strengthen sector management, project management and monitoring and evaluation. The legal framework for implementation of above-mentioned reform interventions was recently adopted and there is an adequate institutional set up to embed them and eventually further enhance. The project activities are targeted toward building the foundation of a modern and efficient primary education system that is orienting all parts of the system toward learning.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) is the main implementing agency of the Project in close cooperation with the National Examination Center (NEC), Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) and State Educational Inspectorate (SEI). Projects direct beneficiaries will include primary education students, but focused support will be given those who are vulnerable (Roma, girls, students disproportionally affected by the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic) which are expected to benefit from improved learning and physical environment in the schools as well as from better-trained teachers. Primary education teachers, school principals, and MPSTs will benefit from more efficient professional development and career advancement, teaching adds, and grant program to implement their school improvement plans. The project activities are targeted toward building the foundation of a modern and efficient primary education system that is orienting all parts of the system toward learning.

1. **Objective of the consultancy**

The objective of the consultancy is to assess the seismic and structural stability of 10 primary school buildings located in the high-risk areas as identified on the seismic map of Republic of North Macedonia, prepared in accordance with the Earthquake Risk Map of Europe, based on the first publicly available European Seismic Risk Model (ESRM20) which illustrates the relative distribution of expected risk in Europe through the composite index.

The Individual Consultant will visually observe, assess and analyze the seismic and structural stability of the buildings. The buildings shall be selected by the Consultant in cooperation with the Client.

**3. Scope of services**

* On-site visit of each of the school buildings
* Visual inspection of the building, basic construction system, (geometric characteristics, quality of embedded material)
* Inspection of the existing documentation (where available)
* Interview with the school officials on the history of the building
* Checking the quality and quantity of incorporated materials with non-destructive tests and observations
* Preparation of the report for each school

1. **Deliverables**

The consultant will prepare a separate report for each school, providing information on the mechanical and seismological history of the building, based on the visual inspection, especially in relation to the works planned to be implemented within the project.

1. **Minimum qualifications and experience**

* University degree in civil engineering, engineering seismology or related. Advanced degree (Master or PhD) shall be considered an advantage
* Extensive knowledge of Macedonian and international legislation and standards in the fields of earthquake engineering and environmental protection
* At least 10 years of proven professional experience in earthquake engineering, engineering seismology, seismic hazard analysis etc.
* Experience with international financing organizations’ projects (e.g. World Bank or EU projects) will be considered an advantage.
* Full computer literacy
* Fluency in Macedonian and English language

**6. Contract arrangements**

This is a short-term consultancy with expected duration of 30 days from the day of signing the Contract. The contract will be lump sum, and payments shall be based on deliverables acceptable to the Client.