

EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Terms of Reference for the High Level Adviser for Internal Market and Competitiveness

Background

The original objective of the project is to support the Moldovan authorities in the implementation of the reform agenda, in particular in developing the capacities required for the implementation of the Association Agreement (AA) and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). Following the European Council conclusions of June 2022 granting candidate status to Moldova, the project's key objective is to assist Moldova towards the EU Accession negotiation process, in particular towards the completion of the nine steps identified in the Commission Opinion on the Republic of Moldova's application for EU membership.

Specifically, the project aims at strengthening policy-making at sector level, strategic planning and policy management capacities, enhancing stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of the EU policies, legislation and regulations, capacity building in the central level public institutions. Specific advice to ensure the political, institutional and financial feasibility of the reforms in order to ensure their effective implementation.

Position Title: HLA for Internal market and Competitiveness

Place of work: Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Type of Contract: Service

Duration of the Contract: 12 months, renewable up to 01.01.2025

Reporting to: Main beneficiary Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation and the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova

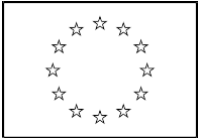
1. Description of responsibilities

The Adviser will provide policy advice to the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation and subordinated agencies. The HLA will maintain close contact and coordination with all relevant line Ministries with the aim to improve coordination and collaboration among them and increase the implementation rate of specific reforms, which will lead to increased competitiveness of local companies, especially the performance of the companies from industrial sector.

He/she will analyze and review strategic policy documents, provide policy recommendations and guidance on the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement and on policy and legislative approximation in his/her sector of expertise and support progress towards elaboration and implementation of industrial policies and signing of an Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA) with the European Union. He/she will support the EU integration process linked with his/her sector of expertise in order to enhance their ability to design and implement their related reform agenda.

The HLA will report to its Beneficiaries and to the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova. He/she will be requested to attend coordination meetings in the EU Delegation, in order to ensure common understanding and decide on common lines to take regarding EU policies and best practices.

Wherever possible, and in coordination with the EU Delegation, the Adviser will try to ease the interaction with civil society and professional sector associations to foster the public participation in decision-making processes.



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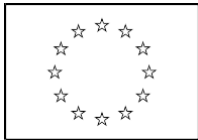
2. Key responsibilities

The Adviser will contribute to the achievement of the following **specific policy objectives**, by the end of his/her assignment (the list of policy objectives may be revised by mutual agreement between Beneficiary and EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova):

- Provide strategic policy advice and guidance to the beneficiaries in improving governance (e.g. administration efficiency, transparency).
- Contribute to the development, implementation and enforcement of the legislative framework. In particular, advise on the development and implementation of national and sectorial strategies and programmes, with the purpose of aligning to the EU acquis, promoting the development of the industrial sectors, sustainable systems, inclusive economic growth and decent work, green economy with resource efficiency, sustainable use and protection, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience and quality of living in rural areas.
- Provide advice regarding the political, institutional and financial feasibilities of policy reforms (contributing also to Policy Impact analysis), green and crisis sensitive fiscal policies and instruments, sustainable financing measures, and improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditures, with special attention to the programmes managed by the Organization for Entrepreneurship Development.
- Contribute to the implementation of recommendations from European Commission's Opinion on Moldova's EU membership application, Analytical Report on Moldova's alignment with the EU acquis and Enlargement reports, with specific focus on chapter 1 'Free movement of Goods', Chapter 8 'Competition policy', Chapter 20 "Enterprise and industrial policy, Chapter 28 'Consumer and health protection'. Contribute to the work of Cluster 2 "Internal Market" and Cluster 3 'Competitiveness and inclusive growth" with technical written inputs and advise.
- Contribute to the fulfilment of commitments under the Association Agreement 2021-27, with a particular focus on economic development, quality standards, consumer protection, market surveillance (especially chapter IV 'Economic and sectoral cooperation' and chapter V 'Trade and trade related matters').
- Facilitate sector cross-sectorial and inter-institutional cooperation and coordination (especially with Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Health) and cooperation with civil society (incl. sector Associations, producer groups etc.), national/international stakeholders, and relevant EU-funded programs. Support networking, knowledge and experience exchange with other EU member state administrations, working groups, expert networks and relevant platforms, including support to formulation and organization of TAIEX and other EU expert missions.

3. Horizontal tasks

- Raise stakeholders' awareness on policy implications of the Government's reform agenda and the EU-MD AA implementation.
- Closely coordinate with other EU High Level Advisers, and in particular with the HLAs on Agriculture, Environment, Financial Services, Customs and Tax Policy, Anti-corruption, Diplomatic and European Affairs and Reforms Coordination, to ensure coherent implementation of policies and that specific advice provided takes account of crosscutting priority issues.
- Assist the EU Delegation – through sectoral advice, regular and ad-hoc reporting or other relevant means – in monitoring, evaluating and reporting the progress made by Republic of Moldova in delivering on its commitments in the context of the Enlargement process and the Association



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Agreement.

- Engage with and sustain the communication among and coordination of international partners/donors, all other relevant projects/ programmes/instruments in the sector to support the effective dialogue with the EU for implementation of key reforms by ensuring synergies, promoting effective downstream implementation of the policies and avoiding overlaps and duplication of efforts.
- Contribute to the strategic communication of the reform priorities to ensure public and civil society support, and liaise with/raise the stakeholders' awareness of – and support their contributions to – the policies pursued. Raise stakeholders' awareness of the policy implications of the Government's reform agenda and the implementation of the Association Agreement;
- Respect and promote EU visibility at all times – ensure a thorough understanding of both the funding source and the role and significance of all EU funded actions, thereby demonstrating the results and impact of the European Union's assistance.

The Adviser is required to operate according to the Mission's Code of Conduct (which constitutes an integral part of the contract) and a prioritized work plan.

4. Requested qualifications

Qualifications and skills

- University degree in a relevant field, for example, Economics, Public administration, Engineering, Law. Alternatively a relevant professional experience in the field of the assignment of at least twelve years.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the EU acquis and implementation of EU policies in economic development, esp. industrial policies.
- Excellent analytical and communication skills (verbally and written/report writing skills).
- Cultural and interpersonal sensitivity in working with diverse stakeholders and interest groups.
- Computer literacy.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Working knowledge of Romanian or Russian language would be an asset.

General professional experience.

- At least 12 years proven work experience in EU Member States' Public Administration or EU bodies in the fields of public policy development and policy implementation in economic sector, industrial sectors, consumer protection, environment, or other domains relevant for this assignment, including experience in providing high-level policy advice.

Specific professional experience (in addition to the general experience described above)

- At least five years of professional experience in senior management positions in EU Member States' Public Administrations or EU related bodies in the domain of economic development.
- In absence of the above, at least 10 years of relevant senior professional experience in the private/business sector, or in relevant international organisation(s), or in industrial sector Associations.
- Experience in policy and reform advisory functions to a Line Ministry senior management is an asset.
- Work experience with EU external assistance programmes and policies is an added advantage.
- Previous work experience in Eastern Partnership countries is an added advantage.