REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Republic of Serbia
Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship (SAIGE)
Project ID No. P170185
Assignment Title:
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Risk Specialist, Reference No. SER-SAIGE-IC-CS-24-59**

Serbia has received a loan from the World Bank (Bank), through the "Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship Project" (Project), to contribute to the country's growth and competitiveness by improving (i) relevance and excellence of scientific research and (ii) innovative entrepreneurship and access to finance for enterprise growth.

Objective of the assignment

The Consultant will play an important role in identifying, assessing, classifying and mitigating AI risks and supporting the mitigation of environmental and social risks related to AI systems creation and applications within submitted projects for funding. The primary objective of this role is to ensure the understanding of how AI technologies proposed by the applicant work, so the Client team can ensure these are created, trained and utilized in a manner consistent with Trustworthy AI principles, minimizing potential negative AI-related impacts.

Scope of Work

A) The first task will be development of the Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) for AI covering specifically AI-related risks and possible mitigation measures for the Project. The RAF will also be complemented by an "exclusion list" of activities to be excluded from Project financing. This will be done in a manner that is consistent with the basic framework for risk management as stipulated in the Financing Agreement and as expanded in the POM.
B) Risk Assessment Framework implementation
C) Support to monitoring and enforcement of RAF

Timing and Duration

The Consultant will be engaged on a part-time basis, until September 30, 2025. The expected time effort for the assignment is approximately 100 working days (including weekends when needed). The Consultant agrees to be engaged in no more than 48 hours per week cumulatively for this assignment plus any additional assignments/contracts.

The assignment is envisaged to start in January 2025.

Required experience and qualifications

- Minimum Master's degree in Computer Science, Engineering, Data Science, Law, or a related field;
- Proven experience in data governance, AI risk assessment and management (including principles of AI systems work, their strengths and limitations, and optimization of their performance and accuracy);
- Working experience related to features of Trustworthy AI principles, as well as relevant laws, policies and procedures;
- Working experience with international guidelines and best practices with respect to AI governance;
- Knowledge of English is mandatory; knowledge Serbian language will be considered an advantage;
- Experience in the technical aspects of AI, such as data science, machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and/or robotics;
- Working experience in data quality and bias mitigation would be considered an advantage;
- Working experience with national data protection legal frameworks;
- Previous experience with integration of ethical principles and guidelines into AI design, training and development stages;
- Experience in applying the Human-in-the-Loop (HITL) Control principle and how to implement human oversight and intervention capabilities in AI systems to help maintain control and accountability;
- Experience in applying principles of transparency and explainability in AI systems;
- Implementation of data biases risks, and the ability to advise on improving fairness in AI algorithms, to avoid discrimination, would be considered an advantage;
- Experience in assessing risks to personal data posed by AI systems as well as on information disclosure and public engagement in the creation of AI, would be considered an advantage;
- Awareness and knowledge of the environmental impacts of AI, such as energy consumption, carbon footprint, waste generation, biodiversity loss, etc;

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above-referenced consulting services is posted on the website of the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation (NITRA): https://nitra.gov.rs/cir/inovacije/projekat-saige.

The Central Fiduciary Unit (CFU) of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible 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.

The evaluation criteria for the assignment:

- Knowledge and General experience (40 Points)
- Specific Experience relevant to the Assignment (60 Points)

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the *World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services (July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018)* ("the Regulations") setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the *Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants* as set out in the Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered in a written form to the email below, by **December 27, 2024, 12:00 hours, noon**, local time. Interested consultants must provide **Cover Letter** and **CV** representing description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions and availability of appropriate skills.

Contact:	E–mail:	Address:
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