

TERMS OF REFERENCES

International Political Economy Analysis Expert

Conceptualization of a PEA approach in the context of Integrated Water Resource Management in Kosovo

Program Title:	Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo (IWRM-K)
Post Title:	International Political Economy Analysis Expert
Duty Station(s):	Home-based
Duration of contract(s)	One month upon signing of the contract
Estimated workload:	12 expert-days (over a period of 2 months)
Indicative start date:	15 September 2021

PROGRAM BACKGROUND:

The ongoing Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo Program (hereinafter IWRM-K or the Program)¹ is designed to catalyse the creation of long-lasting water resources management capacities at national and river basin levels in line with Kosovo's socio-economic and political priorities, as well as the needs of future sustainable development. It aims to help replace the current fragmented approach with a more comprehensive, and highly participatory approach of managing water resources, aligned with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD).

Over the coming years, the IWRM-K will help to create the enabling environment for the envisaged transformation of Kosovo's water resources management through (i) Support to the development of institutional capacity for IWRM; (ii) Preparation of coherent planning and technical documentation base to inform future measures and water resource management decisions (e.g., River Basin Management Plans - RBMPs, other country-level policies, strategies, and plans); (iii) Support to knowledge and skills development of (young) water professionals whilst facilitating relevant job creation; and (iv) Public awareness-raising on environmental issues and creating stakeholder participation mechanisms in water resources management.

In line with these strategic directions, the IWRM-K Program is designed to facilitate the adoption of a comprehensive country-level IWRM system by combining institutional and technical capacity development achievements incorporated into a comprehensive set of interlinked measures.

In such context, in line with the Donor's conceptual orientation, the Program has already taken modest initial steps to introduce **Political Economy Analysis (PEA)** as a promising approach which may shed new light on the political, economic, and societal causes of the current state of water resource management and the limited reform capacity. The immense number of similar projects/initiatives in the country and the broader region, show that **political issues, power relations and various (explicit and/or hidden) interests have often undermined good intentions and ambitious reform agendas.**

¹ The Program is being implemented by the Consortium of Skat Consulting Ltd., Switzerland, and the Environment Agency Austria (EAA), thanks to the generous funding provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Considering this experience, the **Program wishes to engage more extensively into a policy dialogue process that builds upon a solid PEA**. By using the findings and recommendations of such a PEA process, the Program intends to refine the implementation approaches in order to **tackle some of the root causes for the poor (water) governance** (e.g., opposition to change of centres of power with interest and influence to maintain the status quo situation, volatility of the political environment, frequent government changes, etc.).

In line with the agreed objectives and implementation logic, the Program is already progressing in carrying out complex environmental, social, economic and stakeholder analyses (e.g., as part of the Water Balance Study, River Basin Management Plans, stakeholder mapping exercises for the needs of creating stakeholder participation mechanisms in water resources management). All these processes can generate **valuable data and new knowledge which can be used in carrying out a more comprehensive PEA**. For example, the water balance study and the river basin management planning process are expected to identify and possibly quantify any significant asymmetries in how costs and benefits under the baseline and possible future (water) management scenarios are distributed across different interest groups in society.

SCOPE OF WORK

To be able to shape these processes in a way to support PEA-oriented policy dialogue process, the Program now seeks to hire a **highly qualified international PEA expert**. These TORs describe the scope of work, duties, and responsibilities, as well as the key deliverables expected from this important short-term consultancy. Following a careful study into the country's political and socio-economic profile (based on available documentation/literature), as well as the Program design, the expert will identify the **entry points for PEA** and will provide recommendations on how to maximize the use of ongoing and planned processes for the needs of a more comprehensive PEA. S/he will also outline the follow-up process by **conceptualizing subsequent consultancies** (e.g., to be initiated once sufficient relevant new data and knowledge are generated by the Program). Ultimately, s/he will provide advice to the Program partners (primarily the Donor) on how to refine their approach (e.g., through advocacy, communication, incentives) in promoting the necessary changes in water resource management considering the sensitivities to be revealed in the course of the PEA process.

In carrying out the duties, the International PEA Expert may be **assisted by a local expert with complementary expertise**². While the main responsibility for carrying out the analytical process and drafting the corresponding report will rest within the international expert, the local expert is planned to help in collection of data and documentation and providing the local perspective to the report.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under direct supervision of the Team Leader and guidance by the Program Manager of IWRM-K, the consultant will be responsible for carrying out the following specific duties and responsibilities:

- Desk research of available documentation / literature about Kosovo's relevant political, socio-economic and water resource management context³.

² The scope of work, and the profile of the local expert will be specified in consultation with the selected International PEA Expert. The local expert will be hired through a separate procedure and additional funding for these local support services will be provided under the Program (not to be included in the offer of the international expert).

³ For example: <https://usaidearninglab.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/pa00n87p.pdf>

- Review the relevant available Program documentation (e.g., Program Document, Program's initial report on PEA in the context of IWRM⁴, TORs for the key relevant consultancies which can generate information that can support the PEA process, selected available technical documentation), as well as relevant SDC's guidance papers and case studies on PEA processes⁵.
- Consultations with selected relevant Program stakeholders (e.g., representatives from the Donor, the institutions)⁶.
- Drafting of a report summarizing the main findings and recommendations, including:
 - Preliminary context specific understanding of the current political perspective of power positions and relations (formal and informal) governing current water resource management
 - Entry points for PEA mainstreaming into Program's design
 - How to use the Program's ongoing and planned processes to generate data, information, and knowledge to be used for future PEA
 - A concept for follow-up analytical processes (consultancies) to be supported by the Program with an overview of corresponding tools and methods that can be applied to maximize the benefits of the PEA process
 - Advice on the application of PEA in the future policy dialogue process (e.g., based on best practices)
- Presentation of the report to the key stakeholders and its finalization based on relevant feedback.

METHODOLOGY

The expert(s) will undertake this assignment through: (i) a brief inception paper; (ii) a desk review, (iii) discussions with relevant stakeholders, and (iv) drafting of a report.

NOTE: the international expert has to provide, as part of her/his application/cover letter (not more than 2 pages in total), a brief insight into the specific methodology and approach foreseen (based on an understanding of the assignment, and own previous experience).

DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables should be submitted to the Program:

- A short **Inception Paper** (max. 2 pages) outlining the agreed methodology and approach, and the structure of the required reports.
- **Draft & Final Report** (as described above).

⁴ Interested experts may request a copy of the report at kosovo@skat.ch prior to submission of the application.

⁵ For more information, please visit:

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/DDLGN/topics/politiceconomy/SitePages/Home.aspx>

⁶ To be agreed with the selected expert in line with her/his methodology and approach.

INPUTS AND TIMETABLE

Description of tasks	Input		Estimated distribution of days ⁷	
	Lead by	Supported by	International Expert	Local Expert
Concept of work and methodology (inception paper)	International Expert	Local Expert	1.5	
Desk research / review of documentation	International Expert	Local Expert	5	
Stakeholder consultations	International Expert	Local Expert	1	
Drafting of report	International Expert	Local Expert	4	
Presentation of report's findings & recommendations	International Expert	Local Expert	0.5	
Total⁸			12	Tbd

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced university degree (minimum M.Sc./M.A.) in political science, economy or related.
- Minimum 8 years of academic, research, and/or professional experience in relevant areas (political economy analyses, sociological research, resource economics, security, peacebuilding), preferably in areas related to environment/water.
- Experience from at least 2 project/assignment of comparable nature and degree of complexity (e.g., studies, consultancies, research projects on PEA or related issues).
- Understanding of the Kosovo and/or Western Balkan's relevant context a strong asset.
- Knowledge of the SDC's PEA guidelines, and case studies is considered a strong asset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal skills, and reporting skills.

QUALITY CHECK

The Experts will work under the direct supervision of the Team Leader and the Program Manager of IWRM-K. Validation of assignment deliverables will be provided through a stakeholder participation process that will involve Donor representatives.

⁷ The figures serve orientation purposes only. They are used to assess the anticipated workload. The distribution of days per tasks may be adjusted based on experts' methodology and approach.

⁸ Additional days to be considered for the possible role in the evaluation process and participation in the Advisory Committee

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

LANGUAGE

All deliverables/outputs need to be prepared in English.

TIMELINE AND DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The maximum available time for the development of the task is 12 days over a period of 2 months.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The payment for the services will be made upon completion of all duties and acceptance of requested deliverables.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Experts shall submit their applications separately to kosovo@skat.ch by 6 September 2021. Each application needs to comprise the following documents/information:

1. Cover letter (summarizing qualifications and relevance for the position based on previous experience, as well as an outline of proposed methodology).
2. Most updated professional CV.
3. Financial offer (all-inclusive) (EUR/expert-day).

For all questions interested applicants can write to: kosovo@skat.ch.