

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT, USE AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME (GWP)

Request for Expression of Interest

**for GWP External Partner to the Implementation of the
Programme Partnership Activities (Preparing,
Organizing, And Implementing Joint Activities)
(EOI 01-2024)**

July 2024

Table of Contents

1	INVITATION FORM	3
2	DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS	5
	Annex 1: Terms of Reference	8
	Annex 2: EOI Submission Form	15
	Annex 3: Applicant Information Form	16
	Annex 4: Proposal Submission Form	17

Acronyms/Abbreviations

CSO	Civil Society Organization
EIE	Education, internship and employment
EOI	Expression of Interest
EU	European Union
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GW	Groundwater
GWP	Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme (GWP) in North Macedonia – Phase 1
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
IWA	International Water Association
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LLL	Lifelong Learning
LNOB	leave no one behind
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PFU	Programme Facilitation Unit
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RNM	Republic of North Macedonia
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
ToR	Terms of Reference
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WFD	Water Framework Directive (EU)
YWP	Young Water Professionals

1 INVITATION FORM

Programme title:	Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme (GWP) in North Macedonia – Phase 1
Reference:	Request for Expression of Interest for GWP External Partner to the Implementation of the Programme Partnership Activities (Preparing, Organizing, And Implementing Joint Activities) (EOI 01-2024)
Type of Service:	Framework Agreement with External Partner(s) for implementation of selected Groundwater Programme activities
Type of Contract:	Non-procurement instrument
Post level:	National
Announcement date:	03 July 2024
Submission deadline:	17 July 2024 16.30 CET

Dear Sir / Madam,

The “Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme (GWP)”¹ (hereinafter the Programme or GWP) kindly invite you to submit your Proposal² for **GWP External Partner to the Implementation of the Programme Partnership Activities (Preparing, Organizing, And Implementing Joint Activities)**. The proposal must be submitted electronically **before 16.30 CET on 17 July 2024** to the following dedicated email:

northmacedonia@skat.ch

Please note that proposal must be submitted electronically to the dedicated email.

Please use the following e-mail subject: REF: EOI 01-2024/Name of lead institution/university

The proposal must be submitted in one PDF document. Max. size of uploaded file must not exceed 20 MB.

Entities failing to meet this requirement will be disqualified. Your Proposal must be valid for a minimum period of 120 days, after the submission deadline.

In the course of preparing your Proposal, it shall remain your responsibility to ensure that it reaches the email address above on or before the deadline. Proposals that are received after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation.

¹ The Programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by the Consortium of Skat Consulting Ltd., St. Gallen, Switzerland and Point Pro Consulting, Skopje, North Macedonia. This procurement is organized by Skat Consulting AG – Branch Office Skopje.

² Please be guided by the form attached hereto as **Annex 2**, in preparing your Proposal.

Services proposed shall be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and compliance of the Proposal and responsiveness with the requirements of the EOI and all other annexes.

Please be advised that the GWP is not bound to accept any Proposal, nor award a contract, nor be responsible for any costs associated with preparation and submission of a Proposal, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.

The GWP encourages every prospective applicant to prevent and avoid conflicts of interest, by disclosing to the GWP if you, or any of your affiliates or personnel, were involved in the preparation of the Terms of References, or other requirements and other information used in this EOI.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposal.

2 DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

2.1 General	
Brief description of programme partnership activities	<p>The GWP Programme is soliciting the support of Higher Education/Research Institutions (HEIs) based in North Macedonia (universities, faculties and research institutes) for the implementation of the Programme's partnership activities (preparation, organisation and implementation of joint activities) on various aspects of groundwater management.</p> <p>The applicant(s) should be able to implement the Programme activities with a clear objective, methodology, and implementation plan. The required programme partnership activities include the design and implementation of long-term training programs on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) for central level institutions focusing on groundwater management, cross-cutting issues, and public information/consultation programs. They should develop and implement training courses on diversity management, social inclusion, gender equality, gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, and community mapping. This also involves developing interdisciplinary groundwater management curricula for postgraduate, master, bachelor, and vocational training courses, mapping existing projects, and accrediting academic and vocational programs.</p> <p>Engaging and mobilizing the private sector for student scholarships is essential. Support for developing scholarship and internship programs for students, particularly women, for postgraduate, vocational, and bachelor/master studies is necessary. The applicant(s) should also support research improvement instruments such as summer schools, conferences, symposia, guest lectures, international exchanges, and pilot projects. Engaging in campaigns for education, scholarships, internships, training, and employment opportunities, targeting both current and prospective students and professionals, is crucial. Additionally, providing technical support for updating and developing various background studies for the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and engaging in designing and improving groundwater monitoring systems are required.</p>
Eligibility	<p>This "Expression of Interest" is open to universities, faculties, and research institutes based in North Macedonia. Eligible applicants must belong to one of these categories of institutions and meet specific institutional criteria outlined in section 3. Eligible Applicants.</p>
2.2 Preparation and submission of Expression of Interest	
Language	<p>All applications should be made in English.</p>

<p>Inquiries</p>	<p>All inquiries related to this EOI shall be emailed to northmacedonia@skat.ch no later than 12 July 2024. The subject line must be indicated as, REF: EOI 01-2024/Name of lead institution/university</p>
<p>Annexes to this EOI</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 1: Terms of Reference. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 2: EOI Submission Form. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 3: Applicant Information Form. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 4: Proposal Submission Form.</p>
<p>Documents</p>	<p>Submissions shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 2: EOI Submission Form. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 3: Applicant Information Form. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of Decision on registration of a higher education institution in the Central Register of Republic of North Macedonia. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of Decision on accreditation of the first cycle (academic) studies programme, and/or, Copy of Decision on the accreditation of a second cycle (academic) study programme or decision on integrated first and second cycle academic study programmes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of Decision on the start of work on the study programme(s). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In case of a consortium, the Proposal must submit a letter of intent to enter into consortium. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant's profile (maximum 10 pages). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of Quality Certificate (e.g., ISO, etc.) and/or other similar certificates, accreditations, awards, and citations, if any. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annex 4: Proposal Submission Form. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CVs of proposed experts.
<p>Validity period</p>	<p>Proposal should be valid 120 days upon the submission deadline.</p>
<p>2.3 Evaluation and further process</p>	
<p>Step 1: Expression of Interest</p>	<p>The expression of interest will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee against the minimum requirements, defined in the attached description of requirements/ terms of reference/technical specification (Annex 1 point 3 below).</p>

<p>Step 2 (for pre-qualified applicants): Procurement Notice/Full ToR & Evaluation of Financial Bids</p>	<p>In case of EOI with pre-qualification only those applicants that have passed the pre-qualification criteria shall be invited to provide a full technical and financial proposal. GWP will prepare detailed Terms of Reference and share with pre-qualified applicants from the list of pre-qualified applicants.</p>
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Annex 1: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference GWP External Partner to the implementation of the Programme partnership activities (preparing, organizing, and implementing joint activities)

The Swiss-funded Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme (GWP) aims to support North Macedonia in the implementation of a sustainable, long-term, multi-level and systematic groundwater management that enables a cooperative, effective and more transparent use of groundwater resources. GWP stakeholders/partners include institutions at central government level, research and academia as well as local institutions (e.g. municipalities, public utilities), civil society organisations and the private sector.

The **consortium of Skat Consulting and PointPro Consulting** has been commissioned by the Swiss Embassy in the Republic of North Macedonia to implement Phase 1 of the GWP from January 2024 to December 2027. Two further phases may follow, depending on the successful implementation of the first phase of the programme and the fulfilment of the overall commitment of the main national partners.

[Skat Consulting Ltd.](#) is an owner-managed, leading Swiss company that specialises in international cooperation and is committed to providing basic services and ensuring decent living conditions and a healthy environment for all. Skat Consulting supports governments, the private sector and civil society around the globe in improving people's living conditions by enabling sustainable solutions in the areas of water, buildings, energy and governance.

[PointPro Consulting d.o.o.](#) is a leading management consulting company based in Skopje since 2006 and comprises two business areas: (a) Infrastructure and Sustainable Development and (b) Management Consulting and Corporate Finance.

To facilitate the implementation of the programme, a so-called Programme Facilitation Unit (PFU) is jointly operated by the Skat Consulting Branch Office in Skopje and PointPro Consulting. The PFU is responsible for the direct implementation of the activities.

The GWP programme, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), aims to build sustainable water resources management capacities at the national level and in the river basins in line with the socio-economic and political priorities of the Republic of North Macedonia and the requirements of future sustainable development. An important part of the programme are the activities in the fields of education and research. The Programme now invites Higher Education/Research Institutions (HEIs) based in North Macedonia (universities, faculties and research institutes that meet the criteria listed below) to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) as an external GWP partner for the implementation of the Programme's partnership activities (preparation, organisation and implementation of joint activities) on various aspects of groundwater management.

The "Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme" (hereinafter the Programme or GWP) invites you to submit your proposal for an **external GWP partner for the implementation of the Programme's partnership activities (preparation, organisation and implementation of joint activities)**. The proposal must be sent electronically.

1. Introduction

The Swiss-funded Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme (GWP) aims to build sustainable water resources management capacities at the national and river basin levels, in line with the socio-economic and political priorities of the Republic of North Macedonia and the needs of future sustainable development. The GWP aims to support the replacement of the current fragmented approach with a more comprehensive and highly participatory approach to groundwater management, in line with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD) and other water legislation.

In line with these strategic guidelines, the GWP aims to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive groundwater management system at country level by combining institutional and technical capacity development in a comprehensive package of interlinked actions. Aware of the challenges, complexities and uncertainties associated with such an ambitious transformation process, the GWP is designed as a long-term programme that will seek to integrate and extend previous results, address systemic shortcomings and continuously support capacity building towards a modern water governance model.

A significant portion of the activities supported by the programme relate to [capacity building, including the development of knowledge and skills of water professionals](#). Specifically, the programme aims to [support government \(water\) administration, academics and researchers, CSOs/NGOs and other stakeholders](#) by establishing a capacity building programme for relevant authorities and stakeholders and training them in integrated and sustainable groundwater management; [improving academic, vocational and professional education provision on groundwater management](#); and [promoting awareness and action among the public, civil society and the private sector on groundwater-related issues](#).

In implementing activities, the GWP aims to [support the development of educational opportunities for interdisciplinary studies on sustainable \(ground\)water management](#) including transversal aspects (good governance, climate change, disaster risk reduction, environment, LNOB, GESI); [mechanisms for student scholarships, internships and employment](#) through government-funded projects and private sector engagement; and [strengthening the research and professional capacities of national universities](#) through knowledge-sharing mechanisms, development of pilot projects and equipment for field work. One of the main shortcomings of the existing system in North Macedonia is the lack of qualified groundwater professionals due to an unattractive education and training offer and low employment opportunities in the sector.

The GWP aims to create a [modern thematic ecosystem for education, internship and employment \(EIE\) with smart opportunities for existing and new students and young professionals](#). The development of a sustainable EIE ecosystem will be achieved by bringing together academic, vocational and lifelong institutions that will work closely with public authorities, the private sector and industry to design and implement attractive education and employment opportunities. One of the most important components of the EIE system is [scholarship programmes for students and professionals](#) supported by the government, agencies and private companies, as well as internships in public and private sector organisations. The final element of the EIE system is [attractive employment opportunities](#) for young groundwater professionals in companies that have supported them in their studies and training.

The programme supports the [development of study programmes together with the scholarship and employment offer that attract new students and professionals](#). Cooperation between Macedonian and high education institutions from abroad creates new attractive academic

opportunities. The national universities have a great interest in the programme objectives and outcomes and are one of the main stakeholders. In implementing the relevant activities, the programme will **create synergies with relevant organisations and existing vocational and educational projects in the country**. Academic institutions will collaborate and support existing training centres in developing attractive courses on groundwater management. The programme will also **strengthen the research and professional capacities of national universities** by supporting the development of knowledge exchange mechanisms (summer schools, conferences, invited guest lectures, student and staff exchanges and the (re)activation of professional associations.

The programme recognises that groundwater awareness at all levels is critical to good groundwater management. One of the main objectives of the programme is to **empower the public, civil society and the private sector** to drive change and play an increasingly influential role in defining and implementing the management of groundwater resources in North Macedonia. To reach a broader audience and decision makers, the GWP will **support the development and implementation of specific campaigns for existing and prospective students and professionals** on new educational, training and employment opportunities in groundwater management to increase their enrolment in new academic/vocational programmes and subsequent employment in the sector.

The programme also aims to **increase the effectiveness of the regulatory framework** by supporting the development of amendments to existing laws and regulations to promote the creation of an enabling environment with appropriate policies, strategies and laws for the management, use and protection of groundwater. Increasing legal effectiveness is achieved by supporting the harmonisation of national legislation with the objectives of the relevant EU directives and by consolidating the existing legal framework. In drafting legislation and supporting documents, the programme can use the scientific and technical knowledge and expertise and benefit from the specialised knowledge and long experience of the external party.

The programme also aims to **conduct background research on groundwater (hydrogeology, vulnerability, pollution risks) and climate change impact projections**. In conducting background research on groundwater, the programme can draw on the scientific and technical knowledge and expertise and benefit from the external party's expertise and many years of experience.

2. List of Programme activities included in the Framework Agreement

The applicant(s) should be able to implement the Programme activities (to be specified in the applications) **with a clear objective, methodology and implementation plan in relation to the following activities of the programme partnership** (preparation, organisation and implementation of joint activities):

1. Design and implement LLL courses and long-term training programme on IRBM for central level institutions in groundwater management, cross-cutting issues and development of public information and consultation programmes.
2. Support the development and implementation of training course on diversity management and social inclusion, gender equality, gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting and community mapping.
3. Development of curricula for interdisciplinary courses on water management: design of curricula for postgraduate courses (specialisation, doctorate), for master and bachelor courses as well as for vocational training. Mapping of existing vocational and educational projects as well as accreditation of academic study programmes (specialisation, Master and Bachelor programmes) and accreditation of VET and LLL programmes.

4. Mobilisation and engagement of the private sector for student scholarships (Chamber of Commerce, private sector partners) including advocacy in support of mobilisation and engagement of the private sector for student scholarships (Chamber of Commerce, private sector partners, universities) and alignment of the EIE ecosystem with IWA YWP activities.
5. Support/develop scholarship and internship programmes for students, including women, for (a) postgraduate studies (specialist, doctorate), (b) vocational training and lifelong learning, and (c) master and bachelor studies.
6. Support joint instruments to improve research, such as (Joint) summer schools for BSc, MSc and PhD students; organisation of conferences and symposia, invited guest lectures, international student and staff exchanges and joint research projects; support for the development of pilot projects at universities.
7. Engage in campaigns on education (vocational training/lifelong learning), scholarships, internships, training and employment opportunities + targeted campaigns for existing and prospective students and professionals on new opportunities for education, training and employment (EIE).
8. Support the development of amendments to existing laws and regulations by providing the programme scientific and technical knowledge and expertise.
9. Technical support for updating and developing various background studies for the RBMP and engage in the design and improvement of groundwater monitoring systems.

3. Eligible applicants

The purpose of this call is to invite interested universities, faculties or research institutes based in North Macedonia to submit proposal to enter into Framework Agreement to support and carry out the preparation, organisation and implementation of joint Groundwater Programme activities as an External Partner(s). The External Partner(s) is identified as the entity that will support and implement the Programme activities listed under point 2 (**2. List of Programme activities included in the Framework Agreement**). The External Partner(s) will have the possibility to support and host the Programme activities either alone or in partnership with other institutions in North Macedonia.

Eligible applicants must belong to one of the following categories of institutions:

- University,
- Faculty, and/or
- Research institute

If applicant is a consortium, they need to submit the letter of intent to enter into consortium with the application. The applicants should consider involving stakeholders early in the process.

The eligible applicant(s) must meet the following minimum pre-qualification criteria:

A. Minimum institutional pre-qualification criteria

Criteria	Proofs
Legal registration, including registration as a higher education institution.	Decision on registration of a higher education institution in the Central Register.
Accredited activity of the higher education institution according to the FRASCATI: CLASSIFICATION a) Scientific field - first level in the scientific field of engineering and technology and/or natural sciences, b) Scientific field - second level: civil engineering mechanical engineering chemical engineering environmental biotechnology industrial biotechnology engineering and technologies and/or earth sciences and related life sciences, environment, life sciences, other natural sciences.	Decision on accreditation of the first cycle (academic) studies programme. Decision on the accreditation of a second cycle (academic) study programme or decision on integrated first and second cycle academic study programmes. Decision on the start of work on the study programme.
Accredited degree programmes in the fields of civil engineering, hydroengineering, hydrology, geology, hydrogeology, environmental engineering – I, and II III study cycle / or interdisciplinary studies in the field of engineering and technology / natural sciences.	
Number and qualifications of experts in the field/sciences.	Elaborated in the application
Equipment, facilities.	Elaborated in application
Access to number of students/ groups of partners.	Elaborated in application
International cooperation agreements in the field including agreements for joint/dual degree studies in the field.	Elaborated in application
Capacity for international cooperation and supporting capacities (office, staff).	Elaborated in application
Have demonstrated experience with implementing similar programs with external partners (including donor-funded projects/programs).	Elaborated in application
Committed to adapt water education to the labour market and engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with relevant stakeholders.	Elaborated in application
Have the ability to interact in English.	supported by curriculum vitae of the key experts

B. Minimum expert pre-qualification criteria

	Team members and/or areas of expertise	Qualification requirements
1.	Team leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum PhD in Engineering, Natural Sciences, Public/Business Administration, Management, Organizational development, Social Sciences, or a related field. ▪ Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in curriculum development and designing training sessions. ▪ Demonstrated expertise in curriculum development, adult learning principles, and training program design. ▪ Experience working with diverse stakeholders, including government officials, and knowledge in water/environmental issues in North Macedonia is considered an asset.
2.	River Basin Management Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum PhD in Engineering, Natural Sciences, or a related field. ▪ Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in implementation of Water Framework Directive (WFD), water management, flood risk management. ▪ Experience working with diverse stakeholders, including government officials, and knowledge in water/environmental issues in North Macedonia is considered an asset.
3.	Groundwater Management Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum PhD. in Engineering, Natural Sciences, or a related field. ▪ Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in modelling and management of groundwater. ▪ Experience working with diverse stakeholders, including government officials, and knowledge in water/environmental issues in North Macedonia is considered an asset.
4.	Hydrology monitoring expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum PhD in Engineering, Natural Sciences, or a related field. ▪ Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in hydrological monitoring of surface and groundwater, and management of groundwater. ▪ Experience working with diverse stakeholders, including government officials, and knowledge in water/environmental issues in North Macedonia is considered an asset.

Applicants need to comply with the following general principles:

- Avoiding conflict of interest
- Avoiding of Swiss double funding
- Not funding of political activities and/or projects submitted by/associated with Politically Exposed Persons (PEP)

4. Pre-qualification criteria

The pre-qualification criteria are:

1. Overall experience relevant for the assignment – max. 30 points
 2. Proposed methodology and approach – max. 40 points
 3. Organization and key experts – max. 30 points
- Max total points: 100 points

The external partner is evaluated on the basis of the following pre-qualification criteria:

A. Overall experience relevant for the assignment

- Years of experience in higher education.
- Official ranking (national, regional or international).
- The overall capacity of the applicant to complete the project to sustain the positive impact (such as Staff time: the academic staff already employed by the institution(s).
- Regional, European, international cooperation (exchange programmes, joint/dual degree programmes, etc.).
- Experience with the design and implementation of relevant study programmes (water management, ecology, environmental technology, etc.).
- Partnership or co-partnership options for GWP needs (national, regional and international partners as well as public-private cooperation agreements).
- A unique position: in terms of its values, status, legitimacy and/or access to specific groups of partners and their value and contribution, delivery of programme outputs.

B. Proposed methodology and approach

- Understanding of the general requirements/criteria for the preparation of the GWP.
- Provision of staff, classrooms, information and communication technology and other resources, laboratories, subject matter experts, accreditation support, etc.
- Provide a strategy for marketing and sustainability programmes that includes a plan to attract students from various disciplines and enhance employability and ensure long-term interest in IWRM-related degree programmes.
- Provide an implementation plan that includes a timeline, tasks, delegation of responsibilities, references to accreditation requirements and other details.
- Extent of expected positive impact.
- Number and type of programmes, number of people to benefit (e.g., through training, updating educational programmes, producing master's and doctoral theses).

C. Organization and key experts

- Appointment of a HEI coordinator for GWP and composition of the project team (key experts and non-key experts).
- Available relevant staff (teaching and research, administrative) on groundwater and IWRM related topics/themes.
- Laboratory equipment: use of own laboratory equipment.
- Overview of existing capacity in water-related education; specific experience in designing and coordinating such programmes – topics/themes that can be handled with own staff and willingness to hire new staff (research and teaching staff) based on GWP needs as well as staff to support international academic collaboration).

Annex 2: EOI Submission Form

Name of Lead Applicant:	[Insert Name of Applicant]	Date:	Select date
EOI reference:	[Insert EOI Title]		

We, the undersigned, apply to be prequalified for the referenced EOI and declare that:

- a) We have examined and have no reservations to the issued by GWP.
- b) We understand that you may cancel the EOI at any time and that you are neither bound to accept any application that you may receive nor to invite the prequalified applicants for the contract subject of this prequalification, without incurring any liability to the applicant.
- c) All the information and statements made in this EOI are true and we accept that any misrepresentation contained in it may lead to our disqualification.

Sincerely,

Signed: Name: In the Capacity of:

Duly authorized to sign the EOI for and on behalf of:

Address: *[insert street number/town or city/country address]*

Dated on: *[insert day number] day of [insert month], [insert year]*

Annex 3: Applicant Information Form

The legal name of Lead Applicant:	
Legal address:	
Applicant's Authorized Representative Information (name and position, email):	
Country/ies of operation:	
Quality Assurance Certification³ (e.g. ISO 9000 or Equivalent) (If yes, provide a copy of the valid Certificate):	
Person GWP may contact for requests for clarification (name and position, email):	

³ The possession of such certification is not a mandatory requirement. However, it may result in acquiring slightly higher score on the Applicant's qualifications, capacity and experience assessment

Annex 4: Proposal Submission Form

Applicants are encouraged to use the submission form below.

1.1 Lead University/Faculty/Institution	
Name of University/Faculty:	
Address:	
Website:	
Geographical scope: <i>Local, national, International</i>	
1.2 Co-lead University/Faculty/Institution⁴	
Name of University/Faculty:	
Address:	
Website:	
Geographical scope: <i>Select if: Local, national, International</i>	
2 Overall experience relevant for the assignment	
<p><i>The applicants are encouraged to address the following points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Detail years of relevant experience and specific experience in designing and coordinating similar programs, official ranking (national, regional, or international), overall capacity to complete the project to sustain the positive impact (such as the academic staff already employed by the institution(s)).</i> • <i>Describe experience with the conception and implementation of relevant study programmes (water management, ecology, environmental technology, etc.).</i> • <i>Provide examples of successful partnerships with local and international institutions.</i> • <i>Describe mechanisms for ensuring the sustainability of the project outcomes</i> • <i>Partnership or co-partnership options for GWP needs (national, regional and international partners as well as public-private cooperation agreements).</i> • <i>Describe the proposed partnership in terms of its values, status, legitimacy and/or access to specific groups of beneficiaries and their value and contribution, delivery of programme outputs, with clearly defined expected outcomes.</i> 	
3 Proposed methodology and approach	
<p><i>The applicants are encouraged to address the following points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Describe the implementation approach (in line with ToR/requirements and this guidance).</i> • <i>Describe provision of staff, classrooms, information and communication technology and other resources, laboratories, subject matter experts, accreditation support, etc.</i> • <i>Provide a strategy for marketing and sustainability programmes that includes a plan to attract students from various disciplines and enhance employability and ensure long-term interest in IWRM-related degree programmes.</i> • <i>Provide an implementation plan that includes a timeline, tasks, delegation of responsibilities, references to accreditation requirements and other details.</i> 	

⁴ Please add more rows if more than one national/international partner institution is part of the application.

- *Extent of expected positive impact and outline plans for stakeholder engagement and community involvement.*
- *Describe mechanisms for ensuring the sustainability of the project outcomes.*
- *Provide an overview of existing laboratory equipment and capacity in water-related education.*

4 Organization and key experts

The proposers are encouraged to address the following points:

- *Available relevant staff (teaching and research) on water/groundwater related topics/themes. Detail the overall capacity of the personnel to complete the project and sustain the positive impact.*
- *Information of the qualifications and unique value of the proposed HEI coordinator for GWP and composition of the project team.*
- *Include information on staff time, highlighting academic staff already employed by the institution(s).*
- *Describe potential affiliated organization/staff from abroad in implementing activities.*
- *Describe the willingness and plan to hire new staff (research and teaching staff) based on GWP needs.*

By submitting this application form, I agree that the information was completed accurately and truthfully to the best of my knowledge.

Full name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____