

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Moldova  
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project  
**Credit No.:** 7027-MD

**Reference No.:** MD-PIU-NORLD-369172-CS-INDV

**Assignment Title:** International consultant for assessment of the need to update/adjust the *Moldovan Construction Normative G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations"*, and *Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks Small municipal wastewater treatment plants”* to conform with the European Union standards, including assessment of the need for separate development of the new Moldovan Construction Normative "Sewerage networks and outdoor installations" for localities with up to 10000 inhabitants and for localities with more than 10000 inhabitants and elaboration of proposals for updating

**Date:** July 21, 2023

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP) is a World Bank-financed Project implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD).

The NORLD now invites eligible Individual Consultants (“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 attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement 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” method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

The objective of the assignment is to support the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) in assessment of the need to update/adjust the Moldovan Construction Normative G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations", and Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks. Small municipal wastewater treatment plants” Draw-up relevant recommendations / proposals sustained by due argumentation in order to decide the need to develop new Moldovan Normative in Construction for external sewerage network and installations in localities of: (i) up to 10,000 inhabitants and (ii) over 10,000 inhabitants.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the NORLD web page: <https://www.ondrl.gov.md>

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09 00 to 16 00 hours.

The applications should include letter of Expression of Interest, CV, and related recommendation letters, if any, together with a copy of CV **in WORD format**.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **August 4, 2023, 16:00 o'clock**, Moldova time, indicating the assignment title in the subject line.

P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development,  
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project  
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Tel/fax: 022 27-91-21, 069265292  
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**TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)**  
**Implementation of the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project**  
**(P173076)**

**International Individual Consultant Selection (IC)**

**Lump-Sum Contract**

**International consultant for assessment of the need to update/adjust the *Moldovan Construction Normative G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations", and Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks Small municipal wastewater treatment plants” to conform with the European Union standards, including assessment of the need for separate development of the new Moldovan Construction Normative "Sewerage networks and outdoor installations" for localities with up to 10000 inhabitants and for localities with more than 10000 inhabitants and elaboration of proposals for updating***

**within the**

**Public Institution National Office for Regional and Local Development**

I. Moldova water security and sanitation project BACKGROUND

The Government of Moldova (GoM) is currently implementing a project supported by the World Bank (IDA) financing the **Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP)**. The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project directly supports the Government's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal No.6: to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030 through its Action Program and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-2028.

The World Bank's Water Security Diagnostic and Future Outlook<sup>1</sup> showed that there are several pressing challenges to Moldova's water security, such as (i) inequalities in access, inadequate quality of water supply in small towns and weak performance of service providers; (ii) poor environmental health and environmental pollution due to lack of sanitation and wastewater collection and treatment; (iii) weak institutions, fragmented financing streams and unresolved reform areas which hinder programmatic delivery of services.

Access in water supply and sanitation (WSS) is constrained by large coverage gaps in rural areas, compounded by income status. Compared to other countries in the Danube region, the share of population with access to basic water and sanitation services in Moldova is low. The gap between urban and rural remains one of the largest in Europe and is one of the key water security issues the country is facing. Based on JMP-data<sup>2</sup>, gains were made in rural water supply access to drinking water

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<sup>1</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34809>

<sup>2</sup> Joint Monitoring Program data is derived based on linear extrapolations using national survey data and JMP population estimates;

services from piped networks, from 33 percent in 2000 to an estimate 40 percent in 2017, while urban piped service remained almost stable at 85 percent.

Household Budget Survey (HBS) (2018) data provides the picture on national access to a public piped water supply being 70 percent, with urban access at 92.4 percent and rural access at 52.2 percent. However, the water quality of rural piped system is often compromised and below drinking water quality standard. Those not served by public centralized systems rely on so-called self-supply, through private shallow wells. Around one in three people rely on self-supply for their drinking water with 80 percent of wells not compliant with drinking water norms (e.g. nitrates, e-coli). The poorest quintile of the rural population faces the largest obstacles to get connected to a public system and is least able to invest in private piped supply by wells (9 percent), with 42.2 percent of the poorest households collecting water with buckets or carts. In 2018, out of a total of 1,220 centralized water systems, 1,168 were functional, although performance data is not systematically available.

In response to these challenges, the Project Development Objective (PDO) of the MWSSP is **to increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery**. Strengthening institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery refers to both national level planning and sector development capacities, as well as to improved operational efficiency and delivery at utility level.

The Project will have four components:

**Component 1: Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns** This component will develop new and rehabilitate existing WSS infrastructure and WASH facilities in rural areas and towns, thus expanding access and quality of services for households, businesses, and public institutions and supporting resilience. Component 1 supports climate adaption through (a) providing reliable centralized water supply protecting vulnerable households from drought and poor water quality; (b) improving wastewater systems, sanitation, and WASH facilities, reducing environmental exposure to pathogens exacerbated by flooding, particularly in towns facing frequent flooding; and (c) ensuring climate-resilient design of all infrastructure for robust functioning under extreme weather events. It consists of two subcomponents:

**Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services.** This subcomponent will finance climate-resilient investments in towns and rural areas. This includes the following:

(a) **Water supply investments:** Expansion and rehabilitation of the regional water systems for water supply production and distribution, and service connections for LPAs in selected districts, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to water supply infrastructure in two preliminarily identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia and a regional water supply system with a surface water treatment plant in Riscani District. Many LPAs, particularly in the south (Cahul) as well as in the northern part along the Prut (Riscani),

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discrepancies between nationally reported data can be found due to differences in estimation methods and definitions. See also: <https://washdata.org/data>

face shortages of water in the summer, with shallow wells/springs posing a challenge such as in the Prut cluster villages, in the Vulcanesti town, and other villages in Cahul District.

(b) **Wastewater investments:** Expansion and rehabilitation of wastewater systems in selected towns, including the construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and service connections, and the construction of new wastewater treatment plants, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to two preliminarily identified subprojects in Soroca and Comrat towns. There are areas in the Comrat town that face frequent flooding, and the Soroca town is also vulnerable directly on the right bank of the Dniester. The project will support the assessment of flood risk and impact at the household level and, in addition to ensuring resilient design of infrastructure, provide measures to reduce the impact of floods where possible.

(c) **Pilot for on-site household sanitation:** selected rural or peri-urban villages, will benefit from the improvement of on-site household sanitation following a demand-led approach through the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of information campaigns, and the carrying out of civil works. The pilot will be co-financed through the ADA grant. This pilot will demonstrate the use of climate-resilient low-cost technologies for rural sanitation.

**Subcomponent 1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions.** This subcomponent will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services and training/workshops to realize climate-resilient WASH facilities in HCFs and education institutions and implement hygiene education and behavior change communication program.

**Component 2: Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery.** This component focusses on institutional capacities of national and subnational entities and WSS operators for management, planning, regulation and reform implementation, and performance improvement of service providers for green, resilience, and inclusive service delivery. At the national level, development of plans, policies, and regulatory documents will support climate adaptation through climate-resilient planning, and at the local level, performance improvements will deliver climate benefits through reduction of NRW and improvement of energy efficiency. It consists of two subcomponents:

**Subcomponent 2.1: Building national institutional capacity for WSS.** This subcomponent aims to strengthen critical functions of facilitating and implementing WSS sector reform, investment planning and monitoring, and sector modernization and build capacities to this end of the assigned lead unit/entity within MIRD's structure. It finances goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and training/workshops for activities that strengthen institutional capacities for planning, financing, economic regulation, performance monitoring, professional development, and the revision and development of new policies and normative documents.

**Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers.** Subcomponent 2.2 will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, and training to support the implementation of a prioritized rolling multiyear PIP of selected WSS operators involved under Subcomponent 1.1. WSS operators will carry out annual assessments on PIP implementation and KPIs, including publication of results and feedback rounds with customers. The financing for selected

WSS operators will be allocated based on results. Investments and TA activities identified in the PIPs are based on utility diagnostics and include, but are not limited to, the following: improving technical and commercial operations, improving financial management (FM), HR management, and organization and strategy aspects, including improving asset management systems and inventories, energy efficiency, NRW reduction programs, water metering practices and equipment to improve climate resilience, water safety, and business continuity, and enhancing responsiveness to customers.

**Component 3: Project management and coordination.** This component will finance operational costs, consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, and training to finance the overall project management cost, including the project team at the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), implementation support consultants at the regional level within MIRD's RDAs for environmental and social standards implementation, and, at the national level, MIRD as the project implementing entity (PIE). It will finance training costs, including for capacity building in procurement, environmental, and social standards, specialized short-term implementation support consultants, financial audits, project communication and citizen consultations, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

**Component 4: Contingent emergency response component (CERC).** A provisional zero-amount component is included, which will allow for rapid reallocation of credit/loan proceeds from other components during an emergency under streamlined procurement and disbursement procedures. This component allows the Government to request the World Bank to recategorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

## II. On-site sanitation: the current situation

The sewerage systems and wastewater treatment infrastructure are underdeveloped in the Republic of Moldova. According to national statistics, over 90% of localities lack public sewerage systems, and over 96% - lack wastewater treatment systems. Thus, the state institutions of the Republic of Moldova have developed a set of normative acts that regulate the construction of centralized sewerage systems, including the compulsory provisions regarding the main quality parameters - maximum admissible concentrations of substances that characterize the wastewater discharged into the public sewerage systems / wastewater treatment plants, as well as the discharge into the receiving water bodies.

Currently, the construction of external sewerage networks and installations is regulated by the *Construction Normative of Moldova G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations", and Construction Normative of Moldova NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks Small municipal wastewater treatment plants”*. These two standards mostly contain the same provisions and technical solutions as the former Soviet Union documents - СНиП 2.04.03-85 “Канализация. Наружные сети и сооружения” and ГОСТ (National standards).

EU standards (EN) as well as international standards (ISO) are built upon modern technologies and best construction practices. This fact lowers the construction and O&M costs given the required quality standards. The Republic of Moldova's norms regulating the construction of the sewerage infrastructure are not adjusted neither to EN nor to ISO standards and accordingly the cost for constructions and O&M are high.

Under given circumstances one consider important to:

- Assess the need to adjust / up-date the existing Moldovan Normatives to EU / ISO, best international practice;
- Draw-up relevant recommendations / proposals sustained by due argumentation in order to:
  - a. decide the need to develop new Moldovan Normative in Construction for external sewerage network and installations in localities of:
    - up to 10,000 inhabitants;
    - over 10,000 inhabitants.

It is to be mentioned that these "10,000 threshold" aspect being specially mentioned in the Project Appraisal Document of the „Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project”.

### III. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this assignment is to support the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) in assessment of the need to update/adjust the *Moldovan Construction Normative G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations"*, and *Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks. Small municipal wastewater treatment plants”* Draw-up relevant recommendations / proposals sustained by due argumentation in order to decide the need to develop new Moldovan Normative in Construction for external sewerage network and installations in localities of: (i) up to 10,000 inhabitants and (ii) over 10,000 inhabitants.

### IV. SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the assignment is to develop the Report on the assessment of the need to update/adjust the following existing norms:

- Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations",
- Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks. Small municipal wastewater treatment plants”;

Also, the purpose of the assignment is to develop separately the following:

- New Moldovan Construction Normative "*Sewerage networks and outdoor installations*" for localities with up to 10,000 inhabitants and for localities with more than 10,000 inhabitants

All above mentioned Norms shall be updated / developed according to the legislation and best practices of the European Union countries.

The Norms shall comply with laws, standards, detailed design guidelines as well as other existing regulations and take into account the reference documents specified as follows:

Directive 91/271/CEE on urban wastewater.

Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.

Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

Water Law No 272 dated 23.12.2011.

Law on water supply and wastewater public services No 303 dated December 13, 2013.

Regulations on requirements for wastewater collection, treatment and discharge into the sewage system and/or in water receiving bodies for urban and rural areas, approved by Government Decision No 950 dated 25.11.2013.

Regulations on conditions for wastewater discharge into water receiving bodies, approved by Government Decision No 802 dated 09.10.2013.

The Consultant shall examine which other EU (or particular EU country) norms and regulations could be transposed into adjusted Moldovan legislation.

The transposed EU (or particular EU country) norms should reflect provisions specific for Republic of Moldova and / or of the neighbouring EU countries (Romania, Bulgaria, et al.), taking into consideration the current situation of the country and the developments forecasted in the coming years in the field of water supply and sanitation. The norms shall also refer to the technological processes and equipment determined by the technical progress and the evolution of the knowledge in this field.

The Consultant shall provide the due argumentation of the proposals before the Technical Committee for Standardisation in Construction TC-C 09 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks” created within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

## V. DELIVERABLES

**Table. 1** Details of key deliverables and time lines

Deliverable	Deadline	Phase completion
<p>Draft Report on the assessment of the need to update/adjust the <i>Moldovan Construction Normative G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations"</i>, and <i>Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks. Small municipal wastewater treatment plants"</i>, according to the legislation and experience of the European Union countries, including the need for separate development of the new Moldovan Construction Normative "Sewerage networks and outdoor installations" for localities with up to 10,000 inhabitants and for localities with more than 10,000 inhabitants and elaboration of proposals for updating. The Draft Report shall contain, inter alia, review of existing relevant EU norms and requirements; and justified cost estimates of the proposed measures.</p>	<p>30 calendar days from the date of signing the contract</p>	<p>Consultative workshops will be held with the PIU team and other relevant stakeholders. The results will be incorporated into the Draft Report</p> <p>Approval of the draft Report by the PIU team</p>
<p>Draft Power Point Presentation to be discussed in the meeting of the Technical Committee for Standardisation in Construction TC-C 09 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks”, set up within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development.</p>	<p>30 calendar days from the date of signing the contract</p>	<p>Participation in - and presentation of the Draft Report in the meeting of the Technical Committee for Standardisation in Construction TC-C 09 „Water supply and</p>

		sewerage installations and networks”
Final Version of the Report on the assessment of the need to update/adjust the <i>Moldovan Construction Normative G.03.02:2015 "External sewerage networks and installations", and Moldovan Construction Normative NCM G.03.01:2017 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks. Small municipal wastewater treatment plants”,</i> according to the legislation and experience of the European Union countries, including the need for separate development of the new Moldovan Construction Normative "Sewerage networks and outdoor installations" for localities with up to 10,000 inhabitants and for localities with more than 10,000 inhabitants and elaboration of proposals for updating. The Final Report shall contain, inter alia, review of existing relevant EU norms and requirements; and justified cost estimates of the proposed measures.	15 calendar days from the date of the meeting of the Technical Committee for Standardisation in Construction TC-C 09 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks”	Participation in - and presentation of the Final Report in the meeting of the Technical Committee for Standardisation in Construction TC-C 09 „Water supply and sewerage installations and networks”.  Approval of the Final Report (Version II) in the Technical Committee’s meeting

All the documents should be presented in English language.

## VI. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

The assignment is for an International Individual Consultant specialized in wastewater world standards, laws and regulations. The Consultant should have extensive experience in elaboration of regulatory frameworks and be familiar with best practices for institutional arrangements for water resource management and the economic regulation of potable water supply and wastewater infrastructure.

### (i) General experience – 30 points:

- Consultant should have master’s degree in water supply and sanitation, civil engineering or another relevant field.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the processes related to the elaboration of the new Construction Normative in the water supply and sanitation sector.

### (ii) Specific experience – 50 points:

- Minimum 12 years of experience in Water supply and (industrial) wastewater treatment (planning, technical designs, construction supervision, operation and maintenance support);
- Minimum 10 years of experience in Non-Conventional sanitation concepts (planning methodology, system and technology development, planning, technical designs, construction and operation).
- Experience in implementation of international projects related to the proposed tasks.

- Participation in elaboration of minimum 2 European regulations/norms in water supply and sanitation sector.
- Participation in adjustment/updating of minimum 2 European regulations/norms in water supply and sanitation sector.
- Knowledge of the Romanian construction norms/standards for water and sanitation infrastructure is an asset.

**(iii) Language and Relevant Experience - 20 points:**

- Proficiency in English and Romanian languages;
- Computer skills (MS Office and familiarity with project management software, such as MS Project).

**VII. TIMING**

The implementation of the present assignment is planned for 20 expert days, during a period of 2 months.

**VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Consultant's activity will be carried out in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the delegated persons from the Department of Policies and Regulations in the field of Constructions and Housing, of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and also in close cooperation with the WSS Project Implementation Unit.

**NOTE:**

**Qualified women, with relevant skills for this activity, are strongly encouraged to apply.**