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 Austrian
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EU4Rivers

 Austrian
Development
Agency

EU4Rivers Project

ADA Contract Number: 6532-00/2023 SUB 05/2025

Terms of Reference

National Expert for River Morphology Assessment

- **Objective:** The primary objective of the consultancy is to support the development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) through evaluation of morphological conditions in selected river basins.
- **Commissioner:** EU4Rivers Team Leader
- **Timeframe:** April 2025 – December 2025 (60 days)
- **Location:** Albania, Tirana

1. Background

Austrian Development Agency (ADA), as the Operational Unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), has been delegated by the European Union (EU) to implement the "EU4Rivers" project in Albania from October 2023 to September 2028. The lead Beneficiary is the Albanian Water Resources Management Agency (AMBU).

The general objective is to enhance the implementation of the National Water Reform and Albania progress towards meeting EU water legislation requirements, resulting in increased capacities for managing the sector in line with EU policies. The specific objective is to increase Albania's approximation with the EU water acquis.

The project Outputs are:

- **Output 1:** The overarching Integrated Water Management legal and institutional framework is substantially enhanced in accordance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other water-related directives.
- **Output 2:** The Implementation of River Basin Management (RBM) is increased in all river basins in line with the requirements of the WFD.
- **Output 3:** Water monitoring, reporting and enforcement are sustainably enhanced in line with the requirements of water-related EU Directives.

2. Objective and description of the assignment

This assignment's objective is to support the development of RBMPs which are required under the implementation of EU WFD. The Contractor is expected to provide expertise on the characterization process and perform evaluation of morphological conditions in selected river basins. The assignment will contribute toward the achievements of project Output 2.

3. Approach and Methodology

The Contractor shall operate under the overall guidance of the EU4Rivers project Team Leader (TL).

This assignment shall focus on morphology and sediment parameters. The activities shall be performed in cooperation and close consultation with a group of international and national experts contracted by EU4Rivers on this matter.

The work will be implemented through a phased approach:



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- **Phase I**, Drin-Buna and Seman RB, tentatively during April – September 2025;
- **Phase II**, Shkumbin and Vjosa RB, tentatively during September – December 2025.

The activities foreseen under this assignment shall be performed and implemented as far as data are available and the nature conditions in the above mentioned river basins allow. The field visits for data acquisition shall be planned and organized in cooperation with the EU4Rivers PMT and relevant experts under EU4Rivers.

The existing documents / reports / assessments prepared through previous projects shall all be taken into consideration as necessary.

The work will be performed in close cooperation and direct communication with the EU4Rivers PMT and the group of international/national experts engaged in the RBM planning process.

Task 1 – Assessment of the river morphology parameter

The Contractor shall be responsible for the:

- Identification of a few key areas of importance regarding the river morphology assessment at the river basin level;
- Performing specific field visits in areas of concern to be used also as a showcase demonstration for sampling/river survey. The survey shall include measurements of the channel size at the cross-section and longitudinal section, such as the width, depth and slope, etc.
- Providing a general description of the river morphology covering channel classification, instream features, bank and riparian zone and floodplain parameters.

Task 2 – Assessment of the Sediment carrying capacity parameter

The Contractor shall be responsible for the:

- Identification of key areas where evidence indicates potential issues with sediments;
- Performing specific field visits in areas of concern for the collection of materials as necessary in the identified/proposed critical areas;
- Provide a general description of the sediment load, sediment production, sediment transfer, and sediment deposition as far as conditions/information allow.

4. Deliverables

The Contractor shall provide the respective deliverables as per the timelines given below:

	Deliverable	Submission date
1	Morphology assessment Report for Drin-Buna RB	July 2025
2	Morphology assessment Report for Seman RB	September 2025
3	Morphology assessment Report for Shkumbin and Vjosa RB	December 2025

5. Location and Duration of the assignment

The assignment is planned to commence in April 2025. The duration of the assignment is 60 working days over a period of 9 months.

A detailed draft of the work plan for the assignment shall be prepared.



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In case of changes in the overall project implementation and changes to the work plan in line with project needs/requested by the TL, this will not affect the total number of working days for the assignment.

6. Reporting

A draft work plan shall be submitted for approval to the TL within two weeks of the contract's entry into force. The work plan describes the tasks, activities, meetings/workshops, reports/deliverables, and any other inputs to be performed during the assignment. All the tasks shall be discussed and agreed upon in advance with the TL.

Progress Report(s) will be prepared monthly and submitted to the TL, which describe the accomplished work, and the progress achieved towards the agreed tasks/outputs, and any risks that may compromise project implementation. Each report should also include the number of working days performed in the preceding month.

A Final report shall be submitted at the latest two weeks after the end date of implementation of the services as defined in the Service Contract. The report includes a description of the delivered outputs, all tasks carried out as well as recommendations / observations made related to the project implementation.

All reports and any other documentation to be produced as part of this assignment shall be submitted in **English**.

7. Contacts

EU4Rivers Project - Contacts:
Rr. Pjeter Budi, P. Klasik. Shk. 1, Ap 11, Tirana
Phone: +355 (0) 4 450 3200
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8. Requirements for the contractor

Qualifications and skills

- Master degree in hydrogeology / hydrology / water engineering or equivalent or five (5) years above the General Professional Experience required.
- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Excellent problem-solving, negotiation, and influencing skills.

General Professional Experience

- Ideally, seven (7) years of general professional experience in water engineering and hydrology/hydrogeological assessments.
- Good understanding of the EU environmental acquis and its provisions.
- Proven experience in similar projects.

Specific professional experience

- Ideally, seven (7) years of experience working with analysis of river morphology, sediment evaluations/descriptions;
- Proven experience in characterisation and pressure-impact analysis at RB level;
- Proven experience with data and information assessment, which are linked to environmental assessments.



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The Contractor must be independent and free from conflicts of interest in the responsibilities defined by the Terms of Reference.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Every eligible offer submission will be evaluated according to the following award criteria and the associated weights.

Criterion 1 ⁱ	Criterion 2 ⁱ	Criterion 3 ⁱ	Criterion 4	Criterion 5
Qualifications and Skills	General Professional experience	Specific Professional experience	Methodology and approach	Offered Price
10%	20%	35%	15%	20%

i) Wherever years of experience are requested, the bidder with the preferred experience will receive the full points under this sub criterion, all other bidders scores will be scaled accordingly.

Criteria 1-4 are applied to the technical proposal (total weight 80%), Criteria 5 is applied to the financial proposal (total weight 20%). Evaluation of offers will be made in accordance with the best bidder principle. The quality related award criteria will be applied by an Evaluation Commission consisting of 3 members. For each quality criterion a maximum score of 10 points can be achieved.

Criteria 1-5: offers are scored in a manner that the offer with the highest score in the criterion obtains the maximum number of points (100 points multiplied with the respective weight) and each next offer the proportionally lower number of points according to the following formula:

Points Criterion 1/2/3/4 = (Individual score of the offer/ score of the offer with the highest score) x maximum points

Points Criterion 5: offers are scored depending on their price (offered total price) in the manner that the offer with the lowest total price obtains the maximum number of points (20 points) and each next offer the proportionally lower number of points according to the following formula:

Points Criterion 5 = (Lowest total price/ total price of offer) x maximum points

Calculation of total points:

Total points = Points Criterion 1 + Points Criterion 2 + Points Criterion 3 + Points Criterion 4 + Points Criterion 5

The best offer is the offer with the highest number of total points. If the number of total points is the same for more than one bidder, the offer with the lowest total price (amongst these bidders) shall be the most favourable offer.

10. Representation

Any kind of representation of ADA / the EU4Rivers Project and EU Delegation by the Contractor is excluded from this agreement.

11. Publication

The Contractor agrees that the following information will be made public as required by the General Conditions to the European Community Delegation Agreement: title and type of the contract, name, address and nationality of the contractor, and amount of the contract.