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EU4Rivers

 Austrian
Development
Agency

EU4Rivers Project

ADA Contract Number: 6532-00/2023 SUB 04/2025

Terms of Reference

National Expert on Environmental Economic Assessment

- **Objective:** The primary objective of the consultancy is to support the environmental economic assessment at river basin and national level.
- **Commissioner:** EU4Rivers Team Leader
- **Timeframe:** April 2025 – January 2026 (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 implementation of EU WFD and water Acquis through development of economic assessment at RB and national level. The Contractor is expected to support the key international expert on economic assessment in preparation of economic assessment report(s) at RB and national level.

The assignment will contribute toward the achievements of project Output(s) 1 and 2.

3. Approach and Methodology

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

The work will be performed in coordination and close cooperation with EU4Rivers PMT and key staff from relevant monitoring institutions. The existing framework/methodology applied in the recently adopted RBMPs for Mat, Ishem and Erzen RBs related to economic assessment



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at the RB level shall serve as the basis for the work. Other existing documents / reports / assessments conducted under previous projects in the sector shall all be taken into consideration as necessary.

The number of specific RIA Report(s) expected to be prepared under task 2 shall be defined and agreed upon with AMBU staff and EU4Rivers PMT.

Task 1 – Support the preparation of an economic analysis of water use

The Contractor **shall support the EU4Rivers PMT and the key international expert for economic assessment to perform an economic analysis of water use at the RB/ national level.**

The Contractor shall be directly involved and engaged in the following activities:

- Continuously processing data and information as acquired/available;
- Screening the current financial projections in the sector with regard to water resources management (*including national Mid-Term Budget projections from water-related institutions*);
- Assembling the data required to carry out the cost recovery activity;
- Estimating the financial costs, including environmental and resource costs, as part of the programme of measures;
- Support the definition and preparation of programme of measures for the selected river basins;
- Assessment of economic data for the analysis in line with WFD requirements;
- Identifying the existing financial gap with regards to the indicative costs needed vs. institutional available budget;

A financial assessment report will be prepared which shall feed the development of a baseline scenario for the new Strategy on IWRM and implementation plans for specific EU Directives.

Task 2 – Support the economic evaluation of the new secondary legislation

The Contractor is expected to review the impact assessment report(s) available that have been prepared for the new proposed secondary legislation on water protection/management, which is EU compliant. The set of draft Decisions of the Council of Ministers (DCM) were initially developed through IPA II support and are under finalisation through EU4Rivers project support. The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process has been initiated for specific draft DCMs that are available and under finalisation. The Contractor shall be directly engaged in supporting the AMBU staff to define the financial costs and future projections for their implementation.

4. Deliverables

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

	Deliverable	Submission date
1	RIA financial Report(s)	May - December 2025
2	Financial Assessment Report	February 2026

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 10 months.



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

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
e-mail: eu4rivers@ada.gv.at

8. Requirements for the contractor

Qualifications and skills

- Master degree in Economy/Finance, Environmental Sciences 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 working with central and local authorities, professional bodies and associations, CSOs in the water sector under the EU WFD principles.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the governance policy and legal framework regulating environment and water sector in Albania.
- Experience in similar projects.

Specific professional experience

- Ideally, seven (7) years of significant experience in performing economic analysis of environmental elements and environmental economic assessment compliant to EU WFD principles;



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- Proven experience with financial assessment and evaluation for the preparation of RIA reports for environmental legislation.

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
<i>Qualifications and Skills</i>	<i>General Professional experience</i>	<i>Specific Professional experience</i>	<i>Methodology and approach</i>	<i>Offered Price</i>
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%), Criterion 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.



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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.