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**EU4Rivers**

 Austrian  
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# EU4Rivers Project

**ADA Contract Number: 6532-00/2023 SUB 18/2025**

## Terms of Reference

### National Expert for Drinking Water Regulation

- **Objective:** The primary objective of the consultancy is to enhance approximation of national legislation to EU water related Acquis.
- **Commissioner:** EU4Rivers Team Leader
- **Timeframe:** July 2025 – December 2025 (35 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 development of legislation for water protection and management together with improvement of policy strategic actions, to ensure full harmony with the latest European legal developments in the sector.

The Contractor is expected to provide expertise on transposing the latest legal requirements into the national legislation with regards to the latest requirements of the Recast for the EU Drinking Water Directive (DWD)<sup>1</sup>.

The assignment will contribute toward the achievements of project Output 1.

#### 3. Approach and Methodology

The Contractor shall operate under the overall guidance of the EU4Rivers project Team Leader (TL). The work will be performed in cooperation EU4Rivers PMT and key staff from AMBU.

The work shall focus on two main areas, following a phased approach, as described below:

**Task 1,** identify the interlinkages and matching points/aspects between the Recast Directive and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) regarding the safeguarding of the water sources intended for human consumption.

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020L2184>



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**Task 2**, support the improvement of national legislation through transposition of the latest EU legal requirements in the existing legal acts related to drinking water regulation.

The Consultant shall work in close cooperation with the EU4Rivers project team and AMBU staff.

#### **Task 1 – Identify interlinkages between the requirements of the EU WFD and Recast Directive for drinking water**

The Contractor is expected to screen and existing information based on the new requirements of the Recast for this EU Directive and its interlinkages with the EU WFD to better streamline how the two EU Directives relate to one another in particular regarding the characterization process, at waterbody level, and programme of measures to improve the status of water bodies.

#### **Task 2 – Support the legal development process**

The Contractor is expected to perform the following activities:

- Identify the relevant articles in the EU Recast Directive for drinking water to be transposed in the existing legislation (specifically the Decision of Council of Ministers DCM No. 379 dated 25.6.2.16 on “drinking water regulation”);
- Closely work with EU4Rivers project team and AMBU staff to adequately adapt the EU legal requirements;
- Update the draft technical Report (*Relacioni Teknik*) for the existing draft legal act to address the new legal requirements into the national legislation;
- Update the Table of Concordance for the existing draft legal act, to address the new legal requirements and present their level of transposition.

#### **4. Deliverables**

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

	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Submission date</b>
1	Prepare new draft DCM on drinking water regulation, amending the existing DCM No. 379 dated 25.6.2016 ( <i>incl. Relacioni + ToC</i> )	December 2025
2	Summary Report on implementation interlinkages between EU WFD and Recast for drinking water Directive	December 2025

#### **5. Location and Duration of the assignment**

The assignment is planned to commence in July 2025. The duration of the assignment is 35 working days over a period of 6 months.

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.



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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](mailto:eu4rivers@ada.gv.at)

## 8. Requirements for the contractor

### Qualifications and skills

- Master degree in chemistry, 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 in the water sector.
- Good understanding of the Albanian drinking water management system.
- Proven experience in other similar projects.

### Specific professional experience

- Ideally, seven (7) years of significant experience in drinking water infrastructure design and development.
- Proven experience with preparation of legislation and drafting policy papers EU compliant, related to drinking water.
- Proven experience working with chemical monitoring and water quality assessment.

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 <sup>i</sup>	Criterion 2 <sup>i</sup>	Criterion 3 <sup>i</sup>	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.



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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.