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 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

EU4Rivers

 Austrian
Development
Agency

EU4Rivers Project

ADA Contract Number: 6532-00/2023 SUB 19/2025

Terms of Reference

National Expert for Wastewater Regulation

- **Objective:** The primary objective of the consultancy is to support the revision and update of Directive Specific Implementation Plan for the urban wastewater treatment.
- **Commissioner:** EU4Rivers Team Leader
- **Timeframe:** July 2025 – December 2025 (50 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 and also updating the existing Directive Specific Implementation Plan (DSIP) with the latest requirements of the Recast for that specific EU Directive.

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 with EU4Rivers PMT and key staff from AMBU.



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

Task 1 (tentative timeline July – September 2025).

The Consultant shall work in close cooperation with project team and AMBU dedicated staff for the transposition of the Recast Directive requirements into the existing and/or available draft legislation for urban wastewater treatment Directive (Recast of 2024¹). Similarly, in the same draft legal act, the relevant articles of the EU Water Reuse Regulation² shall be transposed and incorporated accordingly. A draft Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) has been prepared through IPA II (previous EUSIWM project) which needs to be updated and adapted to the newest EU legal developments.

The Contractor shall work closely with EU4Rivers project team and AMBU staff to adequately adapt the EU legal requirements.

Task 2 (tentative timeline September – December 2025)

The Consultant shall work in close cooperation with a group on national and international experts under EU4Rivers project to harmonize the information available in the sector to update the existing Directive Specific Implementation Plan, as prepared previously through SIDA support (NIPS Project) for the sector, in 2023 for the government of Albania.

Task 1 – Support the legal development process

The Contractor is expected to perform the following activities:

- Identify the relevant articles in the EU Recast for Urban wastewater Treatment Directive and Reuse Regulation to be transposed in the available draft legal acts;
- Update the existing draft technical Report (*Relacioni Teknik*) by adapting the content and provisions of the new EU Recast Directive for urban wastewater treatment;
- Update the existing draft Table of Concordance by incorporating the articles from the new EU Recast Directive for urban wastewater treatment;

If necessary, the Contractor shall support the discussions of the inter-institutional legal working group, chaired by AMBU, to finalise the updated draft Decision of Council of Ministers transposing the EU requirements from the updated legislation as mentioned above in the methodology section.

Task 2 – Support to update the existing DSIP Report for wastewater treatment

This task shall be performed in close cooperation with AMBU staff and relevant authorities involved in the preparation of the existing DSIP report for the original EU Directive. The Contractor shall provide an update of the existing draft DSIP report for the urban wastewater treatment Directive. In cooperation and communication with AMBU staff, the Contractor shall screen existing and current developments in order to identify the articles which require transitional period for implementation and elaborate on the means for their implementation in the coming years by Albania.

Updating of the existing DSIP report shall include, at least the following mentioned chapters/sections of the existing Report:

- Overall review of the existing situation (technical, legal and infrastructure in the sector);
- Gap analysis and implementation measures;
- Implementation timeframe and transitional period;
- Investment cost estimate.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02024L3019-20241212>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0741&from=EN>



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4. Deliverables

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

	Deliverable	Submission date
1	Revised/updated draft DCM on urban wastewater treatment and water reuse (<i>incl. Relacioni + ToC</i>)	September 2025
2	Updated DSIP Report for the EU Recast Directive for UWWT	December 2025

5. Location and Duration of the assignment

The assignment is planned to commence in July 2025. The duration of the assignment is 50 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.

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 water engineering, , 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.



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General Professional Experience

- Ideally, seven (7) years of general professional experience in the water sector in preparation of policy and strategic action documents, compliant with EU legislation.
- Good understanding of the Albanian wastewater treatment and management system.

Specific professional experience

- Proven experience in working with water infrastructure design and development.
- Proven experience working with wastewater infrastructure (including system design, collection, treatment and reuse).
- Proven experience with preparation of DSIP reports.

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%), 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



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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.