



Co-funded by
the European

With funding from

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

EU4Rivers

 Austrian
Development
Agency

EU4Rivers Project

ADA Contract Number: 6532-00/2023 SUB 22/2025

Terms of Reference

National Expert on River Basin Economic Assessment

- **Objective:** The primary objective of the consultancy is to support the environmental economic assessment at the river basin and national level.
- **Commissioner:** EU4Rivers Team Leader
- **Timeframe:** November 2025 – September 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.
- **Output 4:** The strategic and institutional framework for the implementation of the MSFD is established.

2. Objective and description of the assignment

This assignment's objective is to support the implementation of EU WFD and water Acquis through an economic assessment supporting the development of river basin management plans and the evaluation of the programme of measures in four selected river basins. The Contractor is expected to support the key international expert on economic assessment and river basin management in preparation of economic assessment report(s) at the RB and national levels, including cost-recovery and cost-effectiveness analysis.

The assignment will contribute to the achievements of project Output 2.



Co-funded by
the European

With funding from



3. Approach and Methodology

The Contractor shall operate under the overall guidance of the EU4Rivers project Team Leader (TL) and the international environmental economist, and in close cooperation with the international expert for river basin management.

The work shall commence in parallel for four selected river basins (RB): (i) Drin-Buna, (ii) Seman, (iii) Shkumbin and (iv) Vjosa RBs.

The Contractor shall be fully involved in undertaking the economic analysis of water use and services at the basin level, including baseline and scenario development;

All the existing frameworks and methodologies applied in the recently adopted RBMPs for Mat, Ishem, and Erzen RBs, related to economic assessment/baseline scenario, and programme of measures at the RB level, shall serve as the basis for the work. Additional documentation prepared under previous actions shall also be taken into consideration as necessary.

Task 1 – Support the economic analysis/baseline scenario at the river basin level

The Contractor **shall work in close cooperation with the key international expert for economic assessment to perform an economic analysis of water use and prepare a baseline scenario at the RB level.** According to specifications in EU WFD (Annex III), the economic analysis report(s) shall contain information regarding:

- a. Volumes, prices, costs, and tariff structures;
- b. Forecasts of investment needs;
- c. Financial, environmental, and resource cost assessments.

In conducting the socio-economic analysis process, the Contractor shall be engaged in:

- Assessing the trends of socio-economic factors/drivers that are likely to affect pressures (demography, climate, sector policies, e.g. common agricultural policy, technological development...);
- Forecasting economic and physical drivers and proposed water-related measures;
- Assessing cost recovery and the role of pricing in achieving environmental goals.
- Providing economic input for the preparation of the Program of Measures for the River Basin Management Plan.
- Conducting a sensitivity analysis on the baseline scenario and identifying optimistic and pessimistic scenarios.
- Estimating costs of water services, including financial, environmental and resource costs;
- Estimating the price/tariff currently paid by the users;
- Assessing the extent of cost recovery by water service and sector;
- Assessing the contribution to cost recovery from key water uses;
- Estimating financial costs (broken down in operating, maintenance and capital costs);
- Evaluating tax transfers, administrative costs and any other costs;
- Evaluating environmental and resource costs as required;

Individual economic analysis Reports shall be prepared and delivered for each river basin (as annexes to the respective river basin management plan). The reports shall also feed/supply the baseline scenario and economic analysis of the updated national Strategy for IWRM of Albania.



Co-funded by
the European

With funding from

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

EU4Rivers

 Austrian
Development
Agency

Task 2 – Support the development of the programme of measures

The Contractor is expected to work **in close cooperation with the key international expert for economic assessment and the international expert for river basin management to provide economic input for the measures and propose preliminary costs for each of them (for the 4 PoMs of RBs)**. An individual programme of measures shall be annexed to each of the 4 RBMPs under development through the EU4Rivers project support.

4. Deliverables

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

	Deliverable	Submission (tentative) date
1	Overview baseline scenario Report integrating individual economic analysis for each of 4 RBs	February 2026
2	Estimation of the costs for the Programme of Measures Report for Drin-Buna RB	March 2026
3	Estimation of the costs for the Programme of Measures Report for Seman RB	March 2026
4	Estimation of the costs for the Programme of Measures Report for Shkumbin RB	August 2026
5	Estimation of the costs for the Programme of Measures Report for Vjosa RB	August 2026

5. Location and Duration of the assignment

The assignment is planned to commence in November 2025, and the expert will be based in Tirana. The duration of the assignment is 60 working days over a period of 10 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**.



Co-funded by
the European

With funding from

 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

EU4Rivers

 Austrian
Development
Agency

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.
- Good knowledge and understanding of the governance policy and strategy framework regulating the water sector in Albania.
- Experience in similar projects.

Specific professional experience

- Proven experience in performing economic analysis of environmental elements and environmental economic assessment compliant with EU WFD principles;
- Proven experience with financial assessment and evaluation for the preparation of RIA reports for water legislation in relation to the implementation of EU WFD principles.
- Proven experience with developing policy/strategic and river basin management documents/reports in compliance with EU WFD principles.
- Proven experience with environmental costs assessment and cost recovery initiatives.

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.



Co-funded by
the European

With funding from



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 the 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.