



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title:	International Consultant on Solid Biomass Regulatory Framework and Policy Development
Duty station:	Chisinau and home based
Reference to the	Moldova Energy and Biomass Project (MEBP)
Contract type:	Individual Contract (IC)
Contract Duration:	19 October 2015 – 08 December 2015 (25 days of consultancy)

I. Background:

The first phase (2011-2014) of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project (MEBP) with a budget of 14.56 million EUR project, funded by the European Union and UNDP and implemented by UNDP, contributed to a more secure, competitive and sustainable energy production in the Republic of Moldova through targeted support to the most viable and readily available local source of renewable energy, which is biomass from agricultural wastes.

In 2015 the Project entered its second phase in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation (EaPIC) programme, based on its continued high relevance and the clearly identified need to further support the consolidation of the emerging biomass market in the country. The extension timeframe spans until the end of 2017 with additional EU-funding of 9.41million EUR.

One of the centerpieces of MEBP activities is to support developing the local legal and policy framework that would be prone to establishing a competitive basis for biomass market. Moldova is a net importer of energy products and a predominantly agricultural country where solid biomass potential could have an immediate application if proper policies and frames exist. Supporting local biomass production through legal, financial and institutional instruments is one of the priorities of Government of Moldova (GOM) has set in its 2030 National Energy Development Strategy.

The first efforts to create systematic supply and demand started in early 2011 when MEBP 1 was launched. GOM through Ministry of Economy (MOE) established Energy Efficiency Department to develop policies and Agency for Energy Efficiency (AEE) to implement those policies through coordination and attraction of donor assistance, managing that assistance, coordinating and synergizing various sectors, players and value chains oriented to produce competitive and reliable renewable products and systems.

Various efforts have been undertaken during the last years in order to:

- Align Moldovan legislation with EU *acquis communautaire*,
- Promote various renewable initiatives in the country,
- commit to ambitious renewable targets within National Energy Sector Development Strategy, etc.

Despite some progress, biomass potential isn't fully explored and remains vulnerable to market variations and non-functioning systems like legal support, subsidies, competitive and affordable

finances, associative representation and lobbying, access to technical assistance, know-how and technology, etc.

In an effort to cover the legislative and policy gap, MEBP launches gap analysis activities through international expertise in order to identify existing constraints as well as to determine the mid- and long-term initiatives that would ensure sector development.

II. Scope of Work, key activities and expected outputs

The overall objective of the assignment is to analyze the existing legislation and policies and to determine the gaps and the interventions necessary to boost solid biomass sector development. In close liaison with AEE, MOE and MAFI (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry) the consultant will look to identify current gaps and to understand the perspectives of solid biomass market development. Upon carrying out the assessment, the consultant will come up with recommendations for suggested interventions and initiatives that are necessary to sustain the existing and future development needs.

Another focus of the assessment will be to carry out a legislative and policy analysis on the Transnistria region. Transnistria is a breakaway region of Moldova that has its unrecognized government, monetary and fiscal systems. As integration and poverty fighting efforts, international donor community launches various country-wide programs that include Transnistria. Transnistrian biomass market is in its incipient stages and faces severe competition from politically controlled and subsidized natural gas market. Local government and business community realize that the long-term sustainability of current gas supply will not last and significant actions are necessary to initiate the development of biomass market. Several governmental and private business initiatives have sprung lately to launch renewable projects but the legislative framework severely lags behind the current trends especially when offset to Western and even Moldovan levels. Current consulting effort will cover gap and development needs of the breakaway region too.

The consultant will also look closely into the sector by meeting various sector players and participants: farmers, briquette and pellet producers, farmers' associations, financial institutions and donors with energy development portfolios, etc. to understand the status of current development and sector trends.

Legislative and policy gap analysis should reveal all missing parts necessary to address in order to ensure immediate and long-lasting development in the solid biomass sector.

A part of the assignment will be dedicated to carrying out Transnistrian legislative and policy analysis for the solid biomass market. The consultant will look into the present status of Transnistrian legislation and economic opportunities and will come up with an assessment of existing gaps and development needs of the emerging solid biomass market.

More specifically the International Consultant on Solid Biomass Regulatory Framework and Policy Development will be required to perform the following tasks:

- Review existing biomass and renewable legislation and policies to determine EU compliance
- Identify areas that require interventions stemming from the local environment and needs
- Recommend areas and possible instruments for future intervention and support
- Assess various existing subsidy mechanisms and come up with new development scenarios (if necessary)
- Assess associative representation of the sector and identify legal instruments to promote cooperation and sector lobbying
- Assess existing dialog platforms between the private sector and GOM and recommend how the interaction and communication could be improved

- Determine a list of priority actions for GOM for further consolidation and development of solid biomass market for the next 24 months.

Expected outputs:

- A report analyzing the current biomass market status with recommendations for biomass market development stimulation and priority list of actions for Moldova;
- A report analyzing the current biomass market status with recommendations for biomass market development stimulation and priority list of actions for Transnistria;

III. Timeframes, Schedules and Deliverables

The following timeframes and deliverables are expected from the Consultant's service provision:

Item no.	Deliverable	Estimated workload	Deadline
1.	Activity Plan for the assignment submitted and coordinated with MEBP	1 day	22 October 2015
2.	Pre-assignment preparations and desk research to review the existing legislation and policies. Identify other country practices	2 days	31 October 2015
3.	Analyze the current status of Moldovan and Transnistrian biomass markets and conduct consultations with local stakeholders	10 days	13 November 2015
4.	Determine areas and mechanisms of interventions for Moldova and Transnistria. Presentation of draft report with recommendations and priority lists of actions	8 days	27 November 2015
5.	Presentation of recommendations and priority list of actions for biomass market stimulation in the next 24 months	2 days	03 December 2015
6.	Fine-tuning final report based on received feedback. Final report and priority list of actions approved	2 days	08 December 2015

Note: the consultant is expected to undertake 2 missions to Moldova (tentative schedule: first mission in the period of 01-14 November 2015; second mission in the period 01-04 December 2015). Final dates and schedules will be determined and agreed upon the selection of the candidate. Main timeframes for the start and the completion of activities between October 19 - December 8, 2015. A detailed itinerary for activities in Moldova will be developed and coordinated with National counterparts prior to arrival.

IV. Organizational setting

The Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Business Development Officer and overall supervision of MEBP Project Manager. MEBP will put at the contractor's disposal all available materials and necessary information for the achievement of tasks and will facilitate the meetings, as needed.

The payment for services provided by the Consultant under the MEBP will be made on a lump-sum basis upon the service delivery and acceptance by MEBP and National counterparts.

V. Qualifications and skills required:

- Master degree in the field of Energy Engineering, Economy, Business or Public Administration or related-fields;
- At least 7 years of experience in energy/environment policy development;
- Minimum 3 years of international consulting experience in the field of renewable energy;
- Demonstrated knowledge of EU biomass market regulatory field;

- Hands-on experience in solid biomass projects;
- Extensive research and analytical skills;
- Good knowledge of and experience in the region, in particular in CIS countries is an advantage;
- Excellent command of written and spoken English is required. Knowledge of Romanian or Russian is an advantage;
- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.