

Terms of Reference

Consultant for identification and assessment of the needs of youth in Gevgelija and gaps in community support of children in need of specialized protection services

I. BACKGROUND

One of the key problems faced by young people¹ in the Republic of Macedonia at present is the high rate of youth unemployment, which in 2015 amounted to 48.2% among people between the age of 15 and 24 according to the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia. Youth unemployment is an issue closely associated with financial position and social well-being, and has an impact on many other issues related to quality of life. In respect of education, the period from 2010 to 2014 saw a reduction in the school dropout rate and an increased number of young people completing secondary education, as well as a higher number of people up to the of 34 with completed higher education². However, these numbers for higher education still fall short of what is desired and are lower than the EU average. Another present concern is the high proportion of young people who are not participating either in employment, education or training (NEETs), amounting to almost 30% in 2013³. All these issues have an impact not only on the habits of young people and the opportunities they make use of, but also on important aspects of their attitudes towards health, culture and sports.

In the Republic of Macedonia, the system of community youth work (LYW) is still in the early stages of development. Unfortunately, it is still not defined as one of the key components in the process of upbringing and youth protection and development, and, as such, its application in the education system and the type of youth activities available to young people (sports, trainings, workshops, camps, exchanges, out-of-school activities, volunteering activities, etc.), rely to a great extent upon what is provided by civil society organisations. This raises a number of questions in terms of the untapped potential of youth work for the support and promotion of personal, social and professional development of young people, as well as in terms of the lack of quality control and assurance in its current application. Key challenges for young people in this area are associated with the fact that youth work is not recognized as a key tool for assisting the positive personal and social development of young people. Youth work is not formally regulated, standardized or integrated as part of the system of youth upbringing, education and protection, and it is not equally available to all young people in different parts of the country.

According to the initial community mapping in Gevgelija and the results concerning the youth in the Gevgelija region, there is a need of supportive services for children and youths particularly vulnerable to various risks of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Last research that was done for the “**Attitudes of the youth in the municipality of Gevgelija in relation to youth needs**” was in 2010⁴ after which was created a

¹ The term ‘young people’ (youth) shall refer to any person(s) between the age of 15 and 29. This is a category that holds huge potential as a key resource for social progress, but also a category that is highly vulnerable to social and economic changes in society.

² According to the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia.

³ Labour Market Transitions of Young Women and Men in the Republic of Macedonia – International Labour Organization – July 2013

⁴ Attitudes of the youth in the municipality of Gevgelija in relation to youth needs
<http://www.sega.org.mk/web/images/Istrazuvanja/LMS2010/gevgelija%20analiza.pdf>

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II. PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Open Gate is seeking to offer a contract to national consultancies for the following purpose:

- To identify and assess, the needs of youth in Gevgelija and gaps in community support of children in need of specialized protection services (i.e. victims of violence, neglected, unaccompanied minors, etc.)
- To provide recommendations for strengthening of the existing or development of new community support services for children and youth in Gevgelija

More specifically the assignment will look at:

- **To prepare detailed methodology for the assessment of the needs of youth** in Gevgelija and gaps in community support of children in need of specialized protection services (i.e. children victims of violence, neglected children, unaccompanied minors, etc.). The methodology will clearly describe aim of the assessment and specific tasks to be undertaken accompanied with proposal of use of suitable instruments (questionnaires, focus groups, interview, and desk research).
- **Review of how the existing services for youth with particular focus on youth at risk** are currently set. This should be performed through desk analysis of assessments, reports, and of the legal framework for services in the country. Also, individual meetings with relevant stakeholders should be conducted;
- **Assess the needs of youth** in Gevgelija and gaps in community support of children in need of specialized protection services (i.e. children victims of violence, neglected children, unaccompanied minors, etc.) provided by the state and non-state actors. This should be conducted by review of programmes and reports, and by conducting interviews or focus groups with staff and youth;
- **Identify potential gaps in the service** provision for youth **with particular focus on youth at risk**, based on which **concrete recommendations** should be provided. The recommendations should address both legislative and operational improvements of the existing community support services, and based on the gaps identified, the need for development of new services;
- **Develop models for care arrangements and services** based on the country context and identified needs and recommendations. This may include, but should not be limited to shelters and re/integration programmes for children and youth at risk and other vulnerable⁶ categories.

The methodology, analysis and recommendations produced by the assessment will be rights based, gender sensitive and will take in consideration different ethnic background and place or residence of the families and children at risk and vulnerable categories.

⁵ Local youth strategy of municipality of Gevgelija <http://www.sega.org.mk/web/images/LMSdownload/2010/lms%20gevgelija.pdf>

⁶ Other vulnerable categories means: Children on the street; Children deprived of parental care;; Children from poor households; Refugee and migrant children; Unaccompanied and separated children

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III. DURATION AND LOCATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The starting date for the assignment is planned for 27th of July 2017 and end date for end of September 2017. The consultants are expected to do the assessment in Gevgelija.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree or equivalent in social studies, legal studies, human rights;
- At least three (3) years of professional experience in the social protection sector including experience in the area of provision of protection services to children at risk;
- Experience in working with Macedonian state institutions is considered an asset;
- Experience in working within UNICEF or other international organizations is considered an asset;
- Language proficiency in both written and spoken English and Macedonian.
- Excellent analytical, research and capacity building skills;
- Relevant personal skills like neutrality, ability to communicate and to define and clarify issues;
- Culturally and gender-sensitive;

V. REMUNERATION

Payments shall be made in MKD into the bank account notified by the Consultant to the Contracting organization.

VI. TO APPLY:

- All interested are required to submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae listing relevant qualifications and background and the methodology of the assessment;
- The interested candidates should submit their application to: lastrada@lastrada.org.mk ; by 26 July 2017, 17:00 hrs. CET

VII. RECOURSE

Open Gate reserves the right to withhold all or a portion of payment if performance is unsatisfactory, if work/outputs is incomplete, not delivered or for failure to meet deadlines.