

UNOPS helps its partners in the United Nations system meet the world's needs for building peace, recovering from disaster, and creating sustainable development. UNOPS is known for its ability to implement complex projects in all types of environments around the globe. In an effort to promote organizational excellence, UNOPS seeks highly qualified individuals for the following position:

Vacancy Details

Vacancy code: VA/2014/B5109/6018
Post Title: Junior Agribusiness Analyst
Post Level: L-ICA 8
Org Unit: AEMO/RSPC/European PROGRES
Duty Station (DS): Home based with expected travel to South East and South West Serbia
Duration: Up to maximum of 35 working days in period from 24 November 2014 to 25 February 2015
Closing Date: 5 November 2014

1. Project(s) Background

European PROGRES is a multi-donor Programme, financed by the European Union (EU), the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia, designed to support sustainable development in the South East and South West Serbia. The Programme has been conceptualised jointly with the European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SEIO), which has responsibility for monitoring implementation and providing assistance and facilitation. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been granted with an initial budget of 17.46 million Euros and has the overall responsibility for the Programme implementation.

Through a multi-sector approach this Programme will contribute to sustainable development of underdeveloped areas and creation of more favourable environment for infrastructure and business growth by strengthening local governance, improving vertical coordination, planning and management capacities, improving business environment and development, as well as enhancing implementation of social inclusion and employment policies.

The Programme works towards achieving four main results, while good governance principles are interwoven as a cross cutting aspect of the entire intervention:

1. Strengthened local governance, planning and management capacities through introduction of new, or improvement/elimination of existing procedures and processes in line with the principles of good governance
2. Increased competitiveness of local economy through improved business environment and management/organizational capacities of small and medium enterprises/agricultural cooperatives
3. Improved access to employment, offering equal opportunities to both men and women, and social inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups through development and implementation of local policies resulting in reduced migration from South East and South West Serbia
4. Effects of Serbia's European accession communicated to general public.

The final beneficiaries, but also the key stakeholders and financial contributors of this Programme are 34 municipalities from the third and fourth group of development level , which have responsibility of taking ownership of activities implemented in their territory:

- Novi Pazar, Ivanjica, Nova Varoš, Priboj, Prijepolje, Raška, Sjenica and Tutin, in the South West Serbia
- Prokuplje, Blace, Žitорађа, Kuršumlja in the Toplica District
- Leskovac, Bojnik, Vlasotince, Lebane, Medveđa and Crna Trava in the Jablanica District
- Vranje, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Preševo, Surdulica and Trgovište in the Pčinja District
- Brus in the Rasinska District
- Aleksinac, Gadžin Han, Doljevac, Merošina and Svrlijig in the Niški District
- Babušnica, Bela Palanka in the Pirotski District
- Knjaževac in the Zaječarski District.

Other beneficiaries include municipality-founded institutions and public utility companies, civil society organisations (CSO) and media in the participating municipalities. It is the inhabitants of the South East and South West Serbia who will feel the biggest benefits of the Programme.

Duties and Responsibilities

2. Purpose and Scope of Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to obtain inputs for Programme's interventions targeting agricultural producers from early 2015 until mid-2017. The objective of the intervention is to provide access for agricultural producers to common markets, introduce new production techniques, and introduce international standards on food safety and protection of geographic origin for traditional agricultural products.

Under the direct supervision of the Sector Manager for Competitiveness and the Business Development Programme Associate, the Junior Agribusiness Analyst will conduct assessment of existing agricultural cooperatives, associations, and informal farmer groups showing potential to form agriculture producer groups in value chains and subsectors where they are absent. The assessment will be focused but not limited to following sub-sectors: animal husbandry, fruits and vegetables production, dairy, medicinal herbs, mushrooms and forest fruits.

The Junior Agribusiness Analyst will also assess the possibilities for certification of traditional products which have already obtained the protection of geographic origin. In particular, the analyst will assess seven products from the Programme area of responsibility which have obtained certification of origin: leskovački ajvar, leskovačko roštilj meso, zlatarski sir, sjenički ovči sir, sjenička jagnjetina, svrljiški belmuž and svrljiško jagnje. In addition, the analyst will assess other potential traditional agricultural products which could be supported for protection of geographic origin.

More specifically, the Junior Agribusiness Analyst will conduct the following activities

- Collect and analyse available secondary data and create an inventory of existing agriculture producer groups (cooperatives and associations) in the 34 Programme municipalities in South East and South West Serbia
- Identify agriculture producer groups (cooperatives, associations, as well as informal farmer groups) to be assessed in more detail, through field visits and consultations with national and local stakeholders: primarily Agriculture advisory services, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, municipal departments for agriculture and Regional Development Agencies
- Conduct in depth assessment of selected agriculture producer groups through field visits, interviews and/or survey with cooperative directors and key farmers. The assessment should cover but not be limited to four main areas: a) basics of the agriculture producer group (strategy,

management and finance, cooperative challenges and governance) b) service provision (needs of members and service provided) c) supply of farm inputs (procurement inputs, storage and stock management) d) cooperative marketing (marketing service, selling and certification), in line with the Annex II. The analyst will define potential short and long term interventions for selected agriculture producer groups and formulate practical recommendations for each of the assessed groups

- Conduct assessment of informal farmer groups through field visits, interviews and/or survey with farmers. Apart from socio-economic assessment, the analyst shall assess factors such as motivation of agricultural producers with common problems, alternative to cooperative self-help, understanding advantages of membership opposed to the duties of membership, legal or political restrictions, and possible government support, as well as identify leaders of the groups.
- Where relevant, the analyst will assess the need for forming Local Action Groups as engines of socio-economic change in rural areas
- Conduct field visits to seven organizations that have obtained the origin for traditional agriculture products and assess potentials for certification of those products. The assessment should contain information related to cost and time line for certification, as well as the number of farmers directly benefited from usage of geographic protection label and food safety preconditions in accordance with the legal requirements. The assessment should be focused on assessing market potentials in compliance with available potential for production of a specific project, as well as identification of small scale market intervention which will increase the value of geographic origin mark.
- During field visits, the analyst will also assess potential for protection of geographic origin for other traditional agriculture products. This part of the assessment should cover basic information about product and geographic area as well as geographical concentration of farmers, their current sales volume and market potential.

Outputs

The Junior Agribusiness Analyst is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- Inception Report
- Final Assessment Report
- Presentation of the Assessment

Time framework

- Preparatory activities/Inception Report - up to 10 working days until 15 December 2014
- Conducting of assessment - up to 16 working days until 10 February 2015
- Summary and interpretation of assessment results/Final Assessment Report - up to 8 working days until 20 February 2015
- Presentation of assessment results - 25 February 2015

Required Selection Criteria

a. Education

- Master Degree in agricultural engineering or economics
- Bachelor's degree with 2 years of additional experience may be accepted in lieu of the Masters

b. Work Experience

- Minimum 2 years of relevant experience in Agribusiness or related field
- Experience in assessing or providing support in agriculture cooperative capacity development and protection/certification of geographic origin is essential
- Experience in organization of capacity development activities for agricultural producers
- Relevant experience preferably with the UN or EU, or other international organisation is an asset

c. Key Competencies

- Serbian as native language, fluency in English
- Excellent analytic, organizational and inter-personal skills
- Public speaking clear and focused, with ability to effectively communicate complex ideas to a non-specialist audience
- Accountability for management of time, establishing clear performance goals, standards, and responsibilities
- Able to perform a variety of standard tasks related to results management, including screening and collecting of programme/project documentation, projects data entering, preparation of revisions, provision of information
- Drivers licence essential and ability to travel independently

Submission of Applications

Qualified candidates may apply for this position through the UNOPS Global Personnel Recruitment System (GPRS) at the following link:

<https://gprs.unops.org/pages/viewvacancy/VADetails.aspx?id=6018>

Please note that this is a local post and is open to all nationals of the country of the duty station and to individuals who have a valid work permit.

Additional Considerations

- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.
- Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNOPS reserves the right to appoint a candidate at a level below the advertised level of the post.
- The incumbent is responsible to abide by security policies, administrative instructions, plans and procedures of the UN Security Management System and that of UNOPS.

It is the policy of UNOPS to conduct background checks on all potential recruits/interns. Recruitment/internship in UNOPS is contingent on the results of such checks.

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