

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXPERT SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF THE POLICY PAPER FOR HEALTH SECTOR DIGITALISATION ISSUES IN KOSOVO

1. Short background

RIINVEST Institute for Development Research (Riinvest) is a part of Consortia led by ZIS (Vienna) for implementing project Policy Answers (Horizon Europe) through Work packages:

WP 1 Policy Dialogue

WP2 Monitoring for Agenda Setting

WP3 Capacity Building and Implementation Support

WP4 Aligning priorities

WP5 Pilot activities

WP6 Dissemination and exploitation

WP7 Project Management

The Policy Answers project's objectives are related to building capacities in WB6 for R&I, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the EU Agenda for WB, advancing their integration within ERA, and significantly contributing in thematic areas related to the Green Agenda, Digitalization, and Healthy Society. The project also aims to contribute with policy recommendations to advance research and innovations, education, culture, and youth related to mentioned EU thematic priorities. The project life is from March 2022- February 2026.

Riinvest Institute is especially in charge as a leader for implementing task 3.3. in work package 3 (WP3), Capacity building and support for implementation in Kosovo, but is participating as well respectively in the implementation of other WPs as well. Inadequate financial management and deficiencies in the healthcare system have resulted in inadequate coverage of citizens' healthcare needs and the exclusion of certain social groups. These issues are significant obstacles to the development of the healthcare sector. The current annual budget allocation is approximately 294 million Euros, accounting for only 9% of the total budget or 3% of GDP. In comparison to other countries in the region and Europe, this allocation is significantly lower. Furthermore, healthcare mismanagement has resulted in the absence of Health Management System (HMS) which is critical for improving efficiency. Implementation of HMS would enable the creation of a central database containing patient health records and the equitable distribution of responsibilities across medical disciplines.

Following this background Policy Answers project aims (1) to advance policies, and funding sources and create capacities for the preparation and implementation of research projects in the Ministry of Health; (2) to build greater resilience in the WB healthcare system industry based on advancing digitalization of health care services and their management.

For this, it is necessary to advance the level of digitalization in the health sector, especially related to the health information system. Riinvest seeks to engage an expert for external services to Draft Policy Paper with policy recommendations, which outlines key health digitalization problems and challenges.

2. Objectives

- To advance policies, funding sources and create capacities for the preparation and implementation of research projects in the Ministry of Health
- To recommend greater resilience healthcare system industry based on advancing digitalization

3. Scope of Work (SoW)

The expert through desk research, analysis, and exploration of various sources will draft a policy paper that will encompass a comprehensive analysis of three key areas: (1) the current state of digitalization in the health sector, (2) obstacles faced in implementing HIS, and (3) practical recommendations to address the identified priority issues to advance digitalization in general with specific focus on University Clinical Center.

In addition, the expert will support the Riinvest team engaged in the PA project for advocating and presenting the Report at governmental and parliamentary bodies as necessary.

The approximate LoE for implementation of this SoW is one (1) person month during the period August - September 2023.

4. Tasks and deliverables

- The expert will produce a detailed report, approximately 10-15 pages long, focusing on the state-of-play of Health Sector Digitalization, with particular emphasis on the University Clinical Center of Kosovo in Pristina.
- The expert will conduct a thorough review of government policies and documents, including those from the Ministry of Health and frameworks related to health sector digitalization in Kosovo, incorporating the findings into the report to provide a comprehensive understanding of the policy landscape.
- The expert will conduct interviews with key actors and stakeholders involved in the health sector digitalization efforts.
- Identify successful strategies, best practices, and lessons learned from similar initiatives implemented elsewhere.

In performing tasks, the Expert will:

- Coordinate closely with the Head of Policy Answers Riinvest Project Team and regularly report to him;
- Participate in invited meetings of the project team as necessary;
- Deliver monthly short report/overview on task implementation progress and provide inputs to the reporting needs according to the Project Deliverable Agenda;

- Propose ideas and short contributions related to his tasks for dissemination and communication of project outcomes and events;
- Provide Monthly evidence of LoE (working days), according to the form provided by project management.

5. Requirements

- The expert should have completed PhD/Masters studies, with minimum 7 years' experience in a field of research and references related to SOW
- Sound evidence and track record in these areas;
- Writing skills in English and Albanian Language.

6. Propriety rights

All materials, presentations and handouts are to be used and published by Policy Answers Project for the purposes of the Project. Third parties and use for commercial purposes is allowed only with consent from Project Consortia and the author.

7. Application

We invite interested experts to send their applications via e-mail at riinvest@riinvestinstitute.org by 8 July, 2023. The application should include (1) a proposal based on this SoW (including comments on SoW if necessary); (2) CV; (3) Evidence of experience and references (Cost).

Further information about the project can be obtained at www.riinevstinstitute.org and at Western Balkans Info Hub <https://wbc-rti.info/>.

8. Other information

These ToR are part of the Contract for Expert Services to be signed between Riinvest and the Expert.