



Consultancy on Participatory Action Research on Free Economic Zones in Uzbekistan

Name of Project:	Development Strategy Center
Location:	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Application deadline:	09.07.2018
Language requirements:	Russian and English

The PeaceNexus Foundation is seeking applications from qualified experts for the following consultancy. We invite applications from both independent experts who feel they have the qualifications to undertake this task, as well as from small teams with the combined expertise.

Background

Several public and state organizations have initiated the establishment of the "Development Strategy Center (DSC)", intended to coordinate the implementation of the *Strategy on Five Priority Directions of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021*.¹ The Presidential Decree, adopted in February 2017, approved the establishment of the Centre.

PN and DSC will conduct a joint study of free economic zones (FEZs) in Uzbekistan and their effects on the socio-economic development of the country and regions as well as on the environment. The rationale behind this study is to understand the overall impact of Uzbekistan's FEZs on the economy of the country as well as on communities and the environment.

Consultancy request

The PeaceNexus Foundation are inviting applications for expert technical assistance to support the DSC to plan and conduct participatory action research on FEZs in Uzbekistan and draw lessons from this research to inform policy and practice on FEZ development and management. The aim of this consultancy is to increase the DSC's capacity to conduct research and to incorporate research findings into the policy-making process. This Terms of Reference has been jointly developed and defined by representatives of the DSC and PN.

Responsibilities and Tasks

¹ To read more about the strategy, please follow the link <http://tashkenttimes.uz/national/541-uzbekistan-s-development-strategy-for-2017-2021-has-been-adopted-following->

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This international consultant(s) will work with the team of national consultants and assigned staff members under the DSC and provide a learning opportunity on qualitative research methodology; to help them to develop a tailored participatory qualitative research methodology and apply this to two FEZs in Uzbekistan – Navoi and Agren FEZs.

The international consultant(s) will be responsible for the following specific tasks:

1. To conduct a training on qualitative research methodology tailored to FEZs with a greater focus on the social and environmental aspects drawing on international best-practice;
2. To help develop a tailored qualitative research methodology (semi-structured interviews and focus-group discussions) to be conducted in two pilot FEZs with relevant national level stakeholders;
3. To mentor the DSC research teams during the field research;
4. To provide technical support to the research teams to analyse the results;
5. To accompany the team to identify and articulate the key findings and lessons from the analysis;
6. To design a process through which policy recommendations can be developed to address the key lessons learned;
7. To support the presentation and verification of the policy recommendations in a 1-day national workshop.

Timeline

These tasks are to be undertaken in August-September 2018 with a combination of distance support and time in Uzbekistan.

Reporting lines

The consultant will report jointly to a representative of the DSC and the PeaceNexus Regional Advisor for the purposes of this Terms of Reference.

In addition to the process support and written products outlined above, the consultant will regularly provide PeaceNexus with e-mail or verbal updates of progress and time spent on work done.

As part of PeaceNexus' internal M&E process, the consultant agrees to be interviewed at the end of the project.

Requirements

1. Demonstrated experience of working with Participatory Action Research, particularly in training on this methodology, design and implementation;

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2. Demonstrated experience of working on or researching Free Economic Zones, and their impact;
3. Knowledge of Uzbekistan and / or Central Asia would be an advantage;
4. Demonstrated experience in policy development;
5. Fluent in Russian

Application procedures

Applicants are invited to submit:

1. A Concept note (maximum 2 pages), which outlines the proposed approach to this consultancy, including the proposed approach to the PAR, and the approach to the development of the policy recommendations.
2. A budget for the consultancy including expert fees, travel and accommodation
3. CV(s) for the expert(s)

Please send applications to chinara.esengul@peacenexus.org by 9 July 2018 with the **subject line: Consultancy on Participatory Action Research *First Name Last Name***.