

PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations should carefully review both this addendum AND the worldwide full announcement, which can be found at <http://idea.usaid.gov/gp/aps>. Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in this Serbia-specific addendum.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCE PROPOSALS IN SERBIA

USAID Serbia SOL-169-13-000002

UNDER EXISTING ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT

APS No.: APS-OAA-13-00003

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This program is authorized in accordance with Part 1 of the Foreign Assistance act of 1961 as amended.

Through this Addendum to the FY2013 Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement APS-OAA-13-000003 (the GDA APS), USAID/Serbia is making a special call for the submission of Concept Papers for specific activities related to workforce development (WFD) in Serbia. USAID/Serbia is interested in addressing workforce development challenges in ways that advance the respective interests and objectives of both USAID/Serbia and the private sector.

Unless otherwise specifically stated herein, all terms and conditions of the worldwide FY2013 GDA APS apply (<http://idea.usaid.gov/gp/aps>). As stated in APS No. APS-OAA-13- 000003, proposed alliances must mobilize private sector contributions and resources on **at least a 1:1 basis**; that is, for every dollar of US Government (USG) funding invested in an alliance, the array of contributions and resources provided by the private sector partners must have a value equal to - and will preferably have a value significantly greater than - the funding provided by the USG. USAID refers to this private sector resource mobilization as leverage. Generally, a minimum of 25% of the private sector contributions and resources should be in the form of cash. Proposals that do not meet the 1:1 leverage requirement will not be considered under this announcement. The worldwide FY2013 GDA APS announcement contains a description of and the criteria for what may be considered as leverage.

INTRODUCTION

As a development agency established to address poverty, economic growth and governance concerns, USAID strives to maximize the development impact of all its programs. In order to address emerging concerns regarding economic growth in Serbia, USAID/Serbia seeks to engage private sector partners in

joint activities intended to accelerate the transition of the Serbian economy and support the EU integration process, in addition to related activities already being implemented in Serbia. In particular, USAID would like to identify ways in which collaboration with the private sector can improve workforce development in Serbia and provide the country with the mix of human capital needed to promote broad-based economic growth, accelerate the transition of the Serbian economy and support the EU integration process.

We are soliciting concept papers from for-profit private companies, qualified locally-registered Serbian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), non-profit or voluntary organizations, academic institutions, and consulting firms. Prospective applicants should be willing and able to devote financial and in-kind resources to identify and suggest ways we can work together to address key workforce development challenges in Serbia.

SOLICITATION

Serbia has been buffeted by the global economic and financial crisis. Relative to other Balkan countries, Serbia lags the furthest behind in regaining its 1989 GDP level, a common litmus test for economic performance throughout the region. While some positive signs exist - such as the regional free trade agreement, trade preferences granted by the Russian Federation and Turkey that have expanded the market for Serbian goods, and Serbia's preparations to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) - structural problems persist.

Serbia's continued constraints to growth include an unacceptably high rate of long-term unemployment; a substantial share of the economy under state ownership; a large current account deficit; poor growth in output from the manufacturing sector; and, a high level of foreign debt among private companies and households. There is an evident gap in workforce skills that contributes to unemployment in Serbia. Overall unemployment has grown to 25 percent. For youth, the numbers are far worse, reaching nearly 50 percent nationwide on average, with many communities noting levels far higher than this.

Through this solicitation, USAID/Serbia is looking for proposals that describe and develop approaches that encourage innovative, substantial, and sustainable improvements in the quality and relevance of skills in the workforce. Currently, there is a mismatch between private sector needs and the capacity of the existing workforce, which continues to contribute to the high unemployment rate, especially among youth. Therefore, USAID/Serbia has identified workforce development as a means to address the broader problem of unemployment. Proposals may address the wide range of skills needed by the private sector, including technical skills in sectors with export potential. USAID/Serbia encourages a comprehensive approach to this economic growth challenge, not only through the development of human capital but also by addressing institutional capacity development. Proposals should propose interventions that advance institutions and systems that advance quality WFD in Serbia. Integration of elements that contribute to export promotion would be an asset to proposals.

The result(s) that the alliance will support must be explicitly stated in the submitted Concept Paper. USAID will prioritize innovative, cost-effective, private-sector driven concepts which may include the illustrative types of interventions and activities outlined below. These interventions are illustrative only and are not meant to limit applicant creativity--however, any proposed intervention or activity must have an explicit and direct link to the achievement of USAID/Serbia's programmatic objectives as stated in this addendum.

Illustrative Results

- ☒ Technical skills in sectors with export potential improved;
- ☒ Increased job placement, and / or creation of full time jobs;
- ☒ Improved educational practices;
- ☒ Improved production through adoption of the best EU and international practices;
- ☒ Introduction of new technologies of productions;
- ☒ Introduction of new instructional technologies;
- ☒ Introduction of internationally-recognized quality standards;
- ☒ Supported sustainable PP framework for continuous skill improvement.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Concept Papers will be evaluated based on the general criteria set forth in the GDA APS. (Please see the FY2013 GDA APS for Concept Paper Evaluation Criteria).

Proposed alliances should be consistent with USAID legal and policy restrictions, including those set forth in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) and in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

INSTRUCTIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS

For information regarding guidelines and procedures to submit a Concept Paper, please refer to the GDA APS, which can be found at the following website:

<http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program>.

The estimated dollar range of requested USAID funding cannot exceed 300,000 USD. Proposed alliances proposals must mobilize private sector contributions and resources on **at least a 1:1 basis and preferably at a significantly greater level**.

Concept Papers must be consistent with USAID legal and policy restrictions, including those set forth in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) and in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Please note that Concept Papers must be in English, use standard margins, 12pt Times New Roman font, and not exceed 5 pages. Concept papers must be submitted electronically via email to the following

address adjureinovic@usaid.gov and arexhepi@usaid.gov with copy to gda@usaid.gov, before **June 17, 2013, 4pm (Belgrade local time)**.

USAID will review submitted concept papers based on the criteria in the 2013 GDA APS and the considerations set forth in this addendum. USAID will contact applicants on whether or not to submit a full application. Those invited to prepare full applications will receive additional instructions from USAID. Do not submit a full application unless requested by USAID.

Questions regarding this addendum may be directed to Aleksandar Djureinovic at adjureinovic@usaid.gov.

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Questions regarding the terms of the 2013 GDA APS may be directed to Ken Lee at kenlee@usaid.gov.