

## *Review of the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT)*

### **Background**

UNESCO has established a number of category 2 institutes/centres. These institutes/centres serve in their fields of specialization as international or regional centres and poles of expertise/excellence to provide services and technical assistance to Member States, cooperation partners and also internally to the network of UNESCO field offices. In this context, the category 2 institutes/centres are expected to contribute directly to achieving the Strategic Programme Objectives of the Organization and to implementing the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for the Category 2 Institutes and Centres as contained in UNESCO General Conference Decision 37C/93.

The General Conference at its 34th session (2007), by 34 C/Resolution 50, approved the establishment of the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT) as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (<http://regcict.com/>). The corresponding agreement was signed between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and UNESCO in 2008. The agreement then entered into force for a period of ten years on 28 November 2008.

This review is undertaken in conformity with the Revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93). This review will aim to examine the achievements and challenges of the Centre since its establishment.

The objectives of RCICT is to contribute to the development of the Arab States region by harnessing the power of ICTs for creating capacity in knowledge sharing and acquisition through the establishment of a knowledge hub for the six Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and Yemen by:

- i) Fostering creativity, innovation and practical implementation of ICTS towards capacity building and lifelong professional skills development;
- ii) Enabling design development, effective production, and dissemination of knowledge products for sustainable development
- iii) Promoting the creation and dissemination of Arabic digital content
- iv) Facilitating the consolidation of resources, know-how and private sector contributions towards ICT applications

The functions of RCICT are tailored to contribute to the use of ICTs in knowledge acquisition and sharing for fostering sustainable development. In particular, it will have the following functions:

- i) Laboratory of ideas for developing strategic plans, policies and practices through networking of regional professionals, including the organization of face-to-face meetings and the establishment of a virtual communities or practices in the area of its competence
- ii) Clearing house of theories, experiences and good practices in the area of the application of ICTs for knowledge sharing and acquisition worldwide
- iii) Capacity builder providing education and training for trainers in areas related to capacity building in ICT for knowledge sharing and acquisition including system development, applications development, computer literacy, information literacy, etc.:

- iv) Research centre for developing and coordinating cooperative research on technology solutions for knowledge acquisition and sharing;
- v) Technology hub providing state-of-the art computing infrastructure in order to advance large-scale data processing applications, scientific research and high-performance computing.

### **Scope**

This Review will examine the following points:

- (a) Whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in the Agreement signed with UNESCO;
- (b) The relevance of the Centre's programmes and activities to achieving UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and sectoral or intersectoral programme priorities and themes, as defined in the Agreement;
- (c) The effectiveness of the Centre's programmes and activities to achieving its stated objectives;
- (d) The quality of coordination and interaction with UNESCO, both at Headquarters and in the field (including UNESCO field offices and UNESCO National Commissions), and other thematically-related category 1 and 2 institutes/centres with regard to planning and implementation of programmes;
- (e) The quality of partnerships with government agencies, public/private partners and donors;
- (f) The nature and quality of organizational arrangements, including management, governance and accountability mechanisms;
- (g) The human and financial resource base and the quality of mechanisms and capacities, as well as context-specific opportunities and risks for ensuring sustainable institutional capacity and viability;
- (h) The process of mobilizing extrabudgetary resources and to what extent such extrabudgetary funding is aligned to the strategic programme objectives of UNESCO.

### **Background documents**

The following documents will be made available for this review:

- A copy of the existing agreement between the Member State and UNESCO establishing the institute/centre;
- Annual progress reports and biennial self-assessment reports on the contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- Periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements; ;
- List of staff;
- List of key publications;
- List of donors and project partners;
- Minutes of the Governing Board meetings;
- Support provided to Member States;
- Available audit and review reports;

- Account of networking achievements linked with other thematically related category 2 institutes/centres and UNESCO's programmes.

### Deliverables and Schedule

The draft review report should be written in standard native – level English according to UNESCO's quality requirements. The main body of the draft report **shall not exceed 10 pages**, excluding annexes. The structure of the draft report should include :

- Executive summary (maximum four pages);
- Purpose of the review;
- Scope of the review;
- Methodology;
- Findings;
- Recommendation;
- Annexes (including interview list, data collection instruments, key documents consulted, Terms of Reference).

### Suggested Indicative Time Schedule

Review Launch:	18 May 2019
Data collection analysis and field mission	19 May to 30 May 2019
Draft review report :	15 June 2019
Final review report :	25 June 2019

### Required qualifications:

The consultant should possess the following mandatory qualifications and experience:

- University degree at Masters level or equivalent in education, social sciences, political sciences, economics, or any related field;
- At least 10 years of working experience acquired at the international level or in an international setting;
- Senior experience of at least 10 years in project and/or programme review;
- Knowledge of and experience in applying qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques and RBM principles;
- Senior professional experience relevant to the field of Education and Information and Communication Technologies
- Understanding and knowledge of the UN mandates and its programming in relation to the Sustainable Development Agenda;
- Excellent analytical and demonstrated drafting skills in English;
- Good to excellent knowledge of Arabic ;
- No previous involvement in the implementation of the activities under review.

Detailed knowledge of the role of UNESCO and its programmes is also highly desirable

### How to apply:

UNESCO is inviting written proposals from Individual Consultants to send a proposal for the assignment in the Terms of Reference of this Call for Expressions of Interest by 10 May 2019 in English by email to Ms Zeynep Varoglu (z.varoglu@unesco.org) with Ms Martina Rathner on copy (m.rathner@unesco.org). Your written proposal should comprise of:

(a) A Technical Proposal consisting of

- A curriculum vitae and information on the conformity your profile with the required criteria outlined above (CV of maximum 3 pages, with Annexes as necessary).
  
- The methodology proposed for the assignment including a workplan (indicating an estimated number of working days and tasks foreseen) and comments on the Terms of Reference, if any (in brief)

(b) A financial proposal of the amount to be charged for the assignment (including costs of 5 day mission), which should be quoted in US dollars only. Please show any travel costs separately.

UNESCO places great emphasis on ensuring that the objectives of the work assignment, as described in the Terms of Reference, are met. Accordingly, in evaluating the proposals for the assignment, attention will focus first and foremost on the technical elements. From those proposals deemed suitable in terms of the criteria in the Terms of Reference, UNESCO shall select the proposal that offers the Organization best value for money.

Your proposal should be submitted by e-mail no later than close of business (18:00) on 10 May 2019; e-mail proposals should not exceed 5MB.