

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) hereby invites qualified companies/individuals to express their interest to prepare a **feasibility study report on a proposed Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.**

The time schedule for the assignment is planned between April - May 2019. Interested candidates who meet the qualifications specified in section D of the Terms of Reference below should contact Ms Patricia Safi (p.safi@unesco.org) to express their interest along with curriculum vitae no later than **22 April 2019 at 23:59 hours (CET).**

Terms of Reference for an external consultant to prepare a feasibility study report on a proposed Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO

A. Within the overall framework of the proposal by the Government of Iceland to create a Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO (hereafter the “proposed Center”) in Reykjavik (Island) in relation to their following 4 national Programmes :

- The **Geothermal Training Programme (GTP)**, launched in 1979 and hosted by the National Energy Authority of Iceland (Orkustofnun, OS), (<http://www.unugtp.is/>);
- The **Fisheries Training Programme (FTP)**, launched in 1997 and hosted by the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI), (<http://www.unufp.is>);
- The **Land Restoration Training Programme (LRT)**, piloted in 2007; launched in 2010; and hosted by the Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI) and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland (<http://www.unulrt.is/en/home>); and,
- The **Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GEST)**, piloted in 2009, launched in 2013 and hosted by the University of Iceland (<https://gest.unu.edu/>).

and in application of the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for category 2 Institutes and Centers under the auspices of UNESCO, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93), the **Contractor shall conduct a feasibility study and write a report (maximum 15 pages), that includes a full assessment, a recommendation, as well as any elements that could serve to inform the Executive Board Document and/or as operational paragraphs of a possible agreement between the proposed Centre and UNESCO.** To do this, the Contractor will focus his/her work on the following points:

- i. Contribution to UNESCO's Strategic Objectives and sectoral/intersectoral programmes priorities and themes;
- ii. Programmatic linkage between the Centre's activities and UNESCO's Programmes mainly in the fields of education, natural and social and human sciences, and gender, including the two global priorities of UNESCO (gender equality and Africa);
- iii. The type, scope and nature of the Centre's activities (knowledge production, capacity development, technical support, information sharing); the global, regional, subregional or interregional relevance and impact (actual or potential) of the proposed Centre, in particular the complementarities and interactions between it and other existing Institutes or Centers with similar focus;
- iv. Independence and sustainability (legal status, financial sustainability, governance, human resources, location and premises);
- v. Cooperation and Partnerships (cooperation with other UNESCO entities, the role and contribution to be provided by UNESCO);
- vi. Assist in building the profile of the Centre through the four above-mentioned Programmes to a multidisciplinary capacity-building institution.

The report should contain a recommendation on whether or not the proposed Center should be created as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

The report should also provide elements that could serve to inform the Executive Board document and any draft agreement that may be devised, and that must be based on the model annexed to

document 37 C/Resolution 93. The report should summarize the findings and recommendations, including possible deviations from the model agreement.

The above-mentioned programmes draw on Iceland's expertise within four programmatic areas to build capacity in developing countries or conflict/post-conflict countries. The core activity of the programmes is providing five or six-month training programmes in Iceland. The Programmes are aiming at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- B. The feasibility study of the proposed Center will include:
- i. A desk study of relevant documents, including those provided by the Icelandic Authorities and UNESCO Secretariat;
 - ii. A visit to Reykjavik, Iceland, for interviews and information gathering;
 - iii. Interviews (in person, by telephone, online and/or via e-mail) with the stakeholders, and collaborators as well as UNESCO staff concerned;
- C. The schedule for the review is as follows:
- i. A mission to Reykjavik, Iceland in April 2019 (3 days), where the Centre will be located;
 - ii. Submission to UNESCO of the draft review report no later than **15 May 2019** (+1 month after the feasibility study);
 - iii. Submission to UNESCO of the final review report **no later than 10 June 2019**.

The assignment is estimated to require approximately 40 professional working days in total for one or more experts (20 days per each consultant), including 3-day mission to Reykjavik.

- D. The assignment requires one or two experts with the following key qualifications :
- 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 evaluation;
 - Knowledge of and experience in applying qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques;
 - Senior professional experience relevant to one or more fields linked to the proposed training programmes, namely education, natural and/or social and human sciences, and gender;
 - Professional work experience in developing countries or in a national/regional/global development context;
 - Understanding and knowledge of the UN mandates and its programming in the framework of the Sustainable Development Agenda;
 - Excellent analytical and demonstrated excellent drafting skills in English;
 - Working knowledge of English (reading and speaking);
 - No previous involvement in the implementation of the activities under review.

Verification of these qualifications will be based on the provided curriculum vitae.

- E. Key Reference documents to guide the desk study are below:
- i. [INTEGRATED COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO](#)
 - ii. [39 C/5](#)
 - iii. [37 C/4](#)
 - iv. The MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and subsequent Lima Action plan
 - v. The UNESCO intersectoral mission to Reykjavik (January 2019)
 - vi. 2017 External evaluation of the 4 Icelandic Programmes

Other additional documents may be provided at the beginning of the study.