

## Terms of Reference - External Consultant for

### **Erasmus+ “Promoting internationalization of research through establishment and operationalization of Cycle 3 Quality Assurance System in line with the European Integration” project (C3QA) to develop EQA and IQA framework for Doctoral Studies in a post-socialist context**

#### **Project Description: brief**

C3QA project is specifically aimed at development and operationalization of External Quality Assurance (EQA) and Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) systems to promote establishment of a knowledge-based society in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Ukraine through the launching and operationalization of a robust quality assurance system for internationalization of Cycle 3 programs. To align with the European integration agenda, ENQA Standards in Quality Assurance and, most importantly, Salzburg Principles will be applied.

The project methodology relies on the following three phases which roughly correspond to the respective project years:

Phase I – the first project year will be largely dedicated to building institutional capacities of Partner Countries HEIs through development and operationalization of EQA and IQA systems in respective countries and PCs in line with the contextual needs. This phase will entail maximal engagement of university stakeholders, both internal (administrative staff, teaching staff, management and students) and external (Ministries of Education and Science and EQA agencies).

Phase II – starting from the second half of the first year the project will mostly focus on the conceptualization, formulation and piloting of EQA and IQA policies and procedures for Cycle 3 programs.

Phase III – the final project year will be devoted to “piloting” the previously developed policies, procedures and structures through the preparation and external evaluation of the selected Cycle 3 programs.

The project has track recorded major achievements with phase 1 in terms of capacity building of the key stakeholders. Currently, arrangements are made to develop the EQA and IQA framework for doctoral studies with the consideration of the specific contexts.

#### **The Specific Assignments to be outsourced to the external expert**

The specific assignments to be outsourced to the external expert evolve around the following:

- Present the global developments and trends on Quality Assurance of Cycle 3 (doctoral studies) in Europe and worldwide. An in-depth benchmarking study is expected with consideration of the specific contexts where the new model will be planted in.

- A model approach/framework to EQA and IQA of the doctoral studies, considering the peculiarities of the four partner countries - Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Ukraine. Analysis of risks and benefits;
- An implementation plan broken down into phases and milestones. Long term plans could also fall beyond the project life-time, however, within the project lifetime the models have to be piloted and adopted by the respective bodies.

### **Qualifications required**

- Expertise in the Quality Assurance of HEIs with a special focus on quality assurance of doctoral studies. Experience of operations within the European research area is preferable.

### **Deliverables**

- Benchmarking report;
- Draft framework for EQA and IQA of doctoral studies;
- Implementation plan.

### **Location and duration**

The Assignment is home-based. Starting period of the Assignment is ASAP with an overall duration of 2 months.

### **Remuneration**

The external expert will be paid for 10 full days equivalent (FDE) of contribution.

### **Deadline for submission of candidacy**

The letter of interest accompanied by CV in English should be submitted to the following e-mail address: [c3qa@ufar.am](mailto:c3qa@ufar.am) by 25 April, 2018, 14:00 (Yerevan local time).

### **Contact for more information:**

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