**Request for Expressions of Interest (EoI)**

**for Independent Experts**

In accordance with the Law on Scientific Research Activities (Official Gazette of Montenegro 80/10, 57/14 and 82/20), the ***Rulebook on conditions for approval and a manner of using funds from the state budget for the national scientific research projects (Official Gazette of Montenegro 42/23)*** and the ***Rulebook amending the Rulebook*** ***on conditions for approval and a manner of using funds from the state budget for the national scientific research projects (Official Gazette of Montenegro 48/23)*** were adopted in 2023.

**1. Subject of the EoI**

The Ministry invites national and international experts to express their interest in assisting with the evaluation of scientific research projects and reports, in the process of devising the List of Experts, in accordance with the Rulebook mentioned above.

In particular, independent experts will assist with the:

* Evaluation of applications for scientific research projects;
* Monitoring of the implementation of the scientific research projects (evaluation of the annual and final reports).

**The Ministry has identified the following main strategic priority areas:**

* Energy;
* Information and communication technologies;
* New materials, products and services;
* Medicine and health;
* Agriculture and food processing;
* Sustainable development and tourism; and
* Science, education and identity.

Moreover, the priority areas of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) 2019-2024 are the following:

* Sustainable agriculture and food value chain;
* Energy and sustainable environment;
* Sustainable and health tourism; and
* Information and communication technologies (horizontal priority).

In the field of scientific research activities, the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro currently provides support through the following research programme lines:

* Co-financing of national scientific research projects;
* Co-financing of centres of excellence;
* Awarding scholarships for PhD students; and
* Financing of bilateral scientific research projects.

**2. Requirements of the Request for EoI**

We are looking for experts who possess a high level of expertise and professional experience in the evaluation of scientific programmes and projects.

**To be appointed as an expert in a specific field, individuals must meet the following criteria:**

1) hold an academic or scientific title;

2) have published at least three research papers as the first author in journals listed in SCI (Science Citation Index), SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded), SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index) or A&HCI (Art and Humanities Citation Index). (*In case the research papers have been published in journals where the order of authors is determined alphabetically, the primacy in authorship should be supported by a written statement from all co-authors)*; and

3) have participated as a project manager or an active researcher in successful projects.

**3. Engagement of the independent experts**

The Ministry will appoint independent experts on a need basis by a contract/decision defining the rights, obligations, terms and conditions, and will be provided with remuneration for the services provided.

A mandatory precondition before any assignment is the submission a no conflict of interest and confidentiality statement.

**4. Submission of the EoI**

Interested candidates must provide the following information indicating that they are qualified to perform the evaluation services:

* CV;
* List of references for similar assignments previously performed, along with experience in similar conditions,
* Indication of their R&I field of expertise;
* Indication of the preferred instrument(s) for research support; and
* Any other relevant information.

The Request for Expressions of Interest is open permanently and should be sent to the following e-mail address: [milica.lakcevic@mntr.gov.me](mailto:milica.lakcevic@mntr.gov.me)

Interested candidates may obtain further information at the same e-mail address.