# TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

**Social Safety Net Specialist**

1. **Background**

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia (GOM) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development signed a loan for implementing the Macedonia Social Services Improvement Project (SSIP).

The SSIP development objective is to expand access to and improve the quality of social services, including preschool services, for vulnerable groups.

The [Social Services Improvement Project](http://projects.worldbank.org/P162246?lang=en) will help address the challenges that are particularly associated with social exclusion of vulnerable groups and the low quality and fragmentation of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and social services.

The project will contribute to the GoM’s ultimate objectives of alleviating poverty and enhancing human capital by strengthening the overall social protection delivery system and access to services by existing social assistance recipients and other vulnerable groups. Also the Project shall help alleviating poverty and enhancing human capital by investing in quality early learning for preschool children and their families and by supporting the transition into primary education.

1. **Specific Background**

The aim of the ongoing reform of the Social Protection System is to consolidate social assistance benefits, expand the coverage of the bottom quintile while maintaining good targeting accuracy, through the introduction of a new Guaranteed Minimum Assistance (GMA) program.

1. **Scope of Services**
2. Provide cost modeling/cost estimation of the various reform proposals including cost estimation of Minimum Social Assistance Benefit or Guaranteed Minimum Income, modalities for consolidating social assistance benefits etc;
3. Analyzing the financial requirements for the implementation of different social programs and preparation of the financial projections for these programs to be used in budget preparation process;

In order to carry out the assignment the consultant shall make:

* Literature and document review, including study of the current legislation (laws and rulebooks);
* Analysis of administrative data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy;
* Analysis of recent and available household surveys (either the new waves of the Household Budget Survey or the Survey of Income and Living Conditions);
* Consultations with staff at ministerial and local level and investigative fieldwork and in-depth interviews in some Centers for Social Work;
* Discussions and presentations with Ministry staff and policy makers, and other relevant stakeholders.

In order to perform the assessment of the system, the consultant hired under this assignment will be supported by the MLSP’s staff for collection of data that the State Statistical office poses and that are not officially published.

1. **Qualification requirements:**
* Higher level University degree either in Social sciences (economics, social policy, sociology and similar) with at least ten (10) years of experience in policy related work activities;
* Relevant experience in social transfers policy making will be considered as an advantage;
* Good knowledge in social protection economy and policy;
* Knowledge of the Macedonian public sector and up to date knowledge of the state of the social protection, education and labour market systems and the on going and proposed reforms will be considered as an advantage;
* Proven analytical, problem-solving and quantitative skills, including spread sheet modeling and statistical packages;
* Excellent oral and writing skills in English. Publication track record an advantage.

The selection method is Individual Consultant Selection and the contract shall be Time Based according to the World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing (IPF) Borrowers – Procurement in IPF of Goods, Works, Non‐Consulting and Consulting Services, (Regulations) issued in July 2016, revised November 2017., [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org/).

1. **Reporting obligations**

The Consultant shall regularly debrief the SSIP Project Director and SSIP Project Manager, on the progress in respect to the contract obligations performed.

1. **Duration of the assignment**

The consultant is expected to provide his services for a period of 100 working days during a period of four years, starting February 2019. The consultancy is home based, but the consultant will be expected to travel to Macedonia on at least four occasions during the length of this contract