

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Working Group Slovak Experts within the project:
GaMoCon – Gagauzian Modernization convention
Grant Contract – External Actions of the EU – 2016/378-360

1. General information/Context

Within the project *GaMoCon – Gagauzian Modernization convention* supported under the Grant Contract – External Actions of the EU – 2016/378-360 (and potential projects related to activities), the leading partner intended the institutionalized thematically structured discussion platform for communication of ATU Gagauzia and non-governmental actors (non-profit organizations, businesses, academia, interest institutions etc) under the title “TOWARDS A MODERN GAGAUZIA”.

The overall goal of this platform is to provide the space for those who are responsible for implementing individual policies/strategies/action plans (ATU Gagauzia) with those who are not indifferent to the development of Gagauzia, have different (well-reasoned and constructive) opinion as well as the distance from the practical implementation of policy/politics (with all the direct and indirect influences involved) and might, during the discussion, bring a certain added value to the problem solving (i. e. experts from civil society, businesses and academia). The intent of the platform is to mitigate the competition for the most politically beautiful solutions, and pursue instead expert answers to current issues and problems.

The thematically structured part indicates the model of the work of the platform. Leading partner suggests this model of creation of interest communities (Working Groups) based on the long term experience with the similar projects in Ukraine, Moldova, Western Balkans countries and Slovakia).¹

Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, together with its partner in Gagauzia, suggested the following thematic groups, as these seemed to be the most crucial in terms of finding the expert solutions:

- WG 1: Regional Development
- WG 2: Social Infrastructure
- WG3: Education and Culture
- WG 4: Youth and Sport

¹ For example: The expert on agriculture is less interesting in communicating the issues of social infrastructure and vice versa.

Working Groups are structured to work in sessions. Within this project we plan 4 sessions for each group – 16 in total of project duration period. The thematic focus of the group will be created during the very specific sessions. The first session will serve to “self-definition” of the Working Group focus, model of work and topic for the next session. The next session topic might be changes based on the current legislative, political development. The session of the Working Group will be open for all that are interested. Experts will discuss different important topics related to reforms and modernization of Gagauzian region in the fields.

The work during the sessions of Working Groups will be chaired and facilitated by the two co-chairs, one from public (ATU) sector (the one, that is responsible for implementing the very policy/issue being discussed) and one from civil society. Special role within the work of GaMCon Working Groups is dedicated to local experts from Gagauzia. Along with foreign experts², local experts have a special role in explanatory introduction at the beginning of each session dedicated to present situation in Gagauzia in the topic that will be discussed. Local expert will be expected to prepare a short overview of the current status quo on the subject of the topic that will serve as a policy brief on the subject of discussion and will suggest the solution. The solutions will be then most crucial part of the debate. The engagement of foreign expert will be mostly focus on presenting the existing model in Slovakia – its advantages and disadvantages. Every session must end with preparation of recommendations for ATU. The form of recommendations will depend on the topic and focus of the Working Group.

2. Subject of the request

Toward a modern Gagauzia platform works not only as the platform for exchange of experience locally, but provides also space for inputs from abroad. The experts from abroad will be tasked to take part in the session in Gagauzia, present his views and opinions (prepared in cooperation with the local expert – no longer than 30 minutes) and take active part in discussion and consult the recommendations (or any other final product of the WG) Based on the outcome, prepare the short expert report that will be published on the project website: www.gamcon.org

3. Tasks to be performed

Task 1: Prepare the presentation based on the own research, data on situation in the Slovak Republic (or the country of origin) on the topic that will be defined beforehand and will be written in the market research document. The presentation shall be prepared in cooperation with the local expert (who will define the concrete aspects, the presentation

² We will focus mostly on experts being able to share experience of a country transforming through series of reform and modernization efforts. The EU accession process brought out also the issue of inevitable legislation and consequently the systemic changes, and implementation of the new policies, standards and norms. The position is however open to experts from the all EU member states.

should focus on). The presentation shall be published at the official website of the project: www.gamcon.org

Task 2: Presentation at the session in Gagauzia.

Presentation can be prepared in ppt. format, or in the form of policy brief and should cover basic information about the development of the problem, its solution as well as problems, connected with the implementation. Presentation will be held either in English or Russian language.

Task 3. Preparation of the concise report from the event

The structure of the report will be agreed with the project manager after the session and assessment/feedback provided by the expert. The report shall be published on the website of the project: www.gamcon.org

Note: The expert shall be selected for the specific session to perform the tasks mentioned above, i.e. 1 expert for 1 session (altogether 16 experts, 4 for each Working Group). For each session, thus we will organize the market research among three experts who will be required to submit their offer, based on the topic of the session. The market research request will be published online as well. The RC SFPA will select the expert with the lowest price offer. The team will also organize the research of experts on specific topics required by the partners in Moldova.

Provided that the

- a. expert community in Gagauzia as well as project management will be satisfied with the work/service provided by the selected expert
- b. there will be thematic continuation at work of the Working Group during the following session and
- c. there will be interest on further cooperation in working within the respective Working Group in Gagauzia on the side of the expert

RC SFPA will enter into negotiation procedure with the selected expert on cooperation contract for further sessions. i.e. further services. During the negotiations, the expert will be asked to submit all relevant documents and RC SFPA also deserves the right to request at least 3 references from other organizations expert cooperated with based on their CV. Same tasks will be requested in remaining sessions.

4. Estimated expertise requirement

The experts in the field, however, must be able to prove:

1. Relevant higher education degree
2. 5 years' professional experience in the field³
3. Fluency in English or Russian (Russian is preferred)

³ For the group Youth and Sport, the fact that expert was active member of appropriate youth organizations for more than 3 years will be considered.

The experience and degree must be supported with their CV. The selected experts might be asked to submit the copy of the diploma/certificate of the relevant higher education degree and or at least 3 references from other organizations they cooperated with based on their CV. RC SFPA reserves the right to contact institutions mentioned in the CV to vet the expert. The information on search of expert will be published on RC SFPA website together with the record from market research and the contract with the expert.

5. Deliverables

Input by the RC SFPA

The RC SFPA will provide the contractor with the full support to implement his tasks. RC SFPA will also cover the cost for international support and provide the expert with per diems for local transportation, accommodation and incidentals.

Outputs and deliverables

During the preparation and organization of each session, the expert shall keep the project manager updated on their activities, logistics and feedback.

The following deliverables shall be submitted to project manager:

- Preparation of the presentation on the situation in Slovakia (and/or any other EU country expert might be from) on the selected topic (based on the communication with project manager and local expert) in ppt form or as the policy brief
- Presentation at the session in Gagauzia
- Active participation in discussion and commenting the final product of the WG session
- Concise report from the event

All deliverables will be published at the official website of the project: www.gamcon.org. Expert thus agrees that their document will be used throughout the project

6. Estimated timetable

The duration of the project is from October 13, 2016 to February 12, 2019. The particular activities will be organized within years 2017 – 8 session and 2018 – 8 session. Individual approximate dates will be decided with selected experts.

We estimate that the time required for delivering the activities, i.e. preparation, presentation and preparation of the report per one session, should not exceed 55 working hours.