

**Ministry of Education & Higher Education**  
**Education to Work Transition Project- Additional Financing (E2WTP-AF)**

**Quality Improvement Fund-QIF**

**Terms of Reference for External Reviewers- C4**  
**Partnership between Tertiary Education Institutions and Private Sector**

**Introduction**

The Palestine Liberation Organization for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority has received a financing in the amount of US\$ 5 million from the World Bank toward the cost of the Education to Work Transition Project- Additional Financing. The project seeks to improve the quality of higher education outcomes to enhance the employability of young Palestinians attending participating Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) and their education to work transition through: (i) fostering partnerships between TEIs and employers in order to make TEIs' study programs more relevant to the needs of the labor market; and (ii) enhancing the capacity of the MoEHE and TEIs to collect, analyze and disseminate data collected through the TEIs' graduate tracking system to monitor the outcomes of TEIs' study programs, and to inform education policy formulation and implementation.

As part of the project, a new grant financing in the amount of US\$ 3.9 million is being allocated to the Quality Improvement Fund (QIF). Specifically, it will fund an additional call/s for proposals through QIF to provide incentives to Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) to develop and implement employment-oriented education programs in partnership with the private sector. TEIs will partner with private sector employers in designing curricula, updating teaching practices, and providing practical training to students. It is expected that the Education to Work Transition Project (E2WTP) will (i) increase the productive linkages between TEIs and businesses; (ii) promote social responsibility among the business community; and (iii) better prepare graduates to find and keep gainful employment.

On January 2018, QIF Board launched the fourth call for preliminary proposals (4/2018). During the Preliminary Proposals Phase, the QIF Board evaluated the submitted preliminary proposals based mainly on their themes and ideas, and nominated 19 out of 41 to enter the next phase "Submitting Full Proposals Phase". In this phase, the submitted full proposals will be distributed to external reviewers (evaluators) to evaluate them using QIF operational manual criteria and scoring sheet and provide recommendations for award/rejection. In addition, the external reviewers should take into his/her consideration the comments made by the QIF board on preliminary proposals.

The Ministry of Education & Higher Education intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for consultants' services to be procured under this project by inviting eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing services related to the

consultancy mentioned below. Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified and willing to perform the services (letter of interest and CV including description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, academic and professional background, etc.).

### **Assignment**

Review the proposals submitted by respective Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) in different fields including

Information Technology, Visual Arts, jewelry Design Culinary Arts, Media, Multimedia and Digital Media, Health and Nursing and Midwifery, Business Administration, Tourism Related Programs, Smart Cities Engineering, Medical Devices Engineering, Art and Languages.

Partnership between Tertiary Education Institutions and Private Sector in curriculum development through applying one or more of the following learning models: On-job Training/Placement, Problem-Based Learning, Project-Based Learning, Internship, Applied Research-Oriented Learning, CO-OP model, Dual Learning model and any other emerging partnership models.

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

The external reviewer shall be expected to perform the following tasks:

- (a) Review the full proposal submitted by the tertiary education institution (TEI) in his/her field of specialty and expertise and make QIF aware of any limitations or conflict of interest that may impair his/her candid evaluation.
- (b) Review corresponding preliminary proposal evaluation comments made by QIF Board during the Preliminary Proposal Phase to ensure that the respective TEI has addressed all concerns and requirements identified by QIF Board.
- (c) Review and verify the information and analyses presented in the proposals;
- (d) Review other supporting documents and relevant sources including MoUs between the partners, letters of intent, partners profile;
- (e) Review proposed project implementation plan including but not limited to: list of activities, their sequences, and timeline for implementation, schedule management plan, scope management plan, quality management plan, monitoring and evaluation plan, risks management plan, list of equipment and purchase, etc.
- (f) Review and analyze the proposed budget and evaluate its realistic, effectiveness, and efficiency.
- (g) Evaluate the submitted proposal using the QIF manual scoring sheet based on QIF processes, content, component priorities and objectives outlined in QIF Manual and the Concept Notes;
- (h) Provide feedback to QIF Board on the effectiveness of the scoring sheet and evaluation criteria and recommend improvements where relevant;
- (i) Submit an evaluation report to the QIF Board showing all above evaluation results including but not limited to: strengths, weaknesses, limitations, risks, and rationale

- of the proposal and provide recommendations for each proposal section in addition to overall general recommendations for award/rejection.
- (j) Submit recommendations and lessons learnt to be considered in similar future assignments.

### **Minimum Required Qualifications**

- Master or Ph.D degree in the relevant fields.
- At least 10 years of work experience in either academia or the private sector.
- Preferably previous experience in conducting similar assignments.
- Proficiency in English and Arabic languages.

### **Deliverables**

The consultant shall submit to the QIF Board –through the **QIF Senior Grant Coordinator** - an evaluation report, which includes the scoring sheet, strengths and weaknesses sheet, rationale of the submitted proposal/s, recommendations for each proposal section, and over all general recommendations for award/rejection. In addition to feedback on the scoring sheet and evaluation criteria and recommendations/lesson learnt for similar future assignments.

### **Duration**

The assignment shall be completed in 20 days from signing the contract during the period June 5, 2018 – July 24, 2018

### **Contract Type: Lump Sum Contract**