

PUBLIC CALL FOR AN ALBANIAN RESEARCHER TO AUTHOR A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SECTOR (SSRS) AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Cooperation between the private sector and the social science research sector in Albania so far has been on a very low level, mainly due to lack of interest of both parties in establishing such a cooperation. Private sector companies have little interest in social science research results, as they are seen as insufficiently applicable and too removed. On the other hand, there is a widespread opinion in academic circles that scientific research primarily means scientific work within the academic realm without it being necessarily driven towards problem solving.

However, given the important role that the private sector plays in societal development and growth, PERFORM wants to explore the potentials for collaboration between the private sector and social science research (SSR) sector in Albania.

In this framework, PERFORM is seeking to contract **a local experienced researcher** to undertake a comprehensive study, assessing this potential for collaboration.

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to identify thematic areas within the private sector, and specific subsector(s) and/or companies, representative of those areas in Albania that would benefit from and are interested to cooperate with the SSRS. This will be done within the framework of a field and desk study.

Results of the study will serve to identify some of the main areas for immediate intervention, where collaborative projects between social science research and private sector enterprises can be designed.

Expected results

1. SECTOR ASSESSMENT

The study must provide a thorough analysis of the theoretical principles and the practical dynamics of the cooperation between the private sector and social science research, and the infusion of the latter in the decision making and operational practices of the private sector. The development of this background knowledge will serve as the baseline against which to assess the current situation between private sector and SSR cooperation in Albania. In so doing, the consultant must take into consideration and provide insight on the following:

Theoretical component

- What are the most common thematic areas in which there is a natural inclination of cooperation between the private sector and SSR?
 - o What are the main research needs of the private sector?
 - o What can SSR potentially offer to the private sector?
- How is this cooperation undertaken?

- An analysis of the collaboration between private sector and social science research: potentials, impediments, good practices;
- Identify the channels of communication used between the private sector and the SSR, how and to what extent the former appropriates/builds on existing, non-commissioned research results.
- Outline at least three successful cases of private sector and SSR collaboration (with at least one being from the region).

Practical component

The practical assessment of the study shall focus on the existing dynamics between the private sector and SSR in Albania. Where relevant in this section, the consultant is expected to answer/illustrate the above questions in the specific context of Albania. The consultant shall, nevertheless, consider and determine the following:

- Identify cases of collaboration between PSC and SSRS in Albania: What have been the reasons / factors of previous success(es) and failure(s)?
- What needs to change to make collaboration more successful?
- Identify resources, capacities, skills, methodological innovations and changes needed to take place within the SSR sector in order to be able to provide research services to private sector companies;
- Identify resources, capacities, skills and structural changes needed to take place within the private sector to facilitate appropriation and use of research results.

2. THEMATIC AREAS AND COMPANIES IN ALBANIA WITH THE HIGHEST POTENTIALS FOR COLLABORATION WITH SSRS ARE IDENTIFIED

Building on the background review, the study shall identify thematic areas of the private sector and companies that would benefit from and have the highest potentials for cooperating with Social Science Research in Albania. This shall be assessed based on such components as:

- Internal capacities of the given company (human and material resources);
- Stability of the company in the market;
- Current research capacities in the company;
- Previous products of research development in the company;
- Existing capacity of SSR to meet the potential demand

Requirements for applicants

Local Researcher

- Postgraduate degree in the field of economics or at least 7 years of relevant professional experience in the sector;
- Proven track record in research and/or analysis in the field of economics, strategic development, market analysis, etc.;
- Good understanding of the setting and operations of the private sector in Albania;
- Good understanding of the breadth of the social science research sector;
- Good understanding of strategic sectors of development;

- Experience in working with the private sector;
- Experience with internationally funded research projects;
- Excellent analytical and writing skills;
- Proven team worker;
- Full professional fluency in English.

Financial offer

This assignment will cover the period of 6 November 2017 – 31 January 2018.
The local researcher will work for a maximum of 40 working days.

Applicants should submit a financial offer specifying the gross remuneration fee per day, and total amount. Expenses incurred for regional and wider travel shall not be included in the financial offer. These costs will be paid by PERFORM directly.

Application process

1. Cover letter/Expression of interest;
2. Full professional curriculum vitae, including full list of (academic) publications;
3. Outline of research design and methodology (including an outline of the structure of the document);
4. Financial offer (including a detailed breakdown of the use of time in the different phases of the research).

Evaluation grid

Award criteria	Weighting
Quality proposed research design & methodology	30%
Financial offer	30%
Qualifications of researcher	40%
Total	100%

Please submit your application in English to the following email address:

PERFORM-Albania@helvetas.org

The deadline for submission is 25 October 2017