**The project “EU for Economic Growth (EU4EG)” implemented by GIZ announces**

**Call for Expression of Interest (EoI) for provision of business support services**
**by Business Support Organisations (BSOs)**

**CALL REF: EU4EG\_BSO\_3**
**Deadline: 18 March 2024, 12:00 h**

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

The project “EU for Economic Growth (EU4EG)” is looking for BSOs from the 4 target areas in North Macedonia (North-East, Polog, and South-West planning regions and Prespa area (Municipality of Resen)) to provide business support services to the end beneficiaries Micro, Small and Medium size Enterprises (MSMEs) with growth potential. Namely, the EU4EG project intends to announce a Call for business support services for MSMEs (CALL REF: EU4EG\_MSMEs\_4), to be published tentatively in the Q2 of 2024.

The project EU4EG aims at increasing the local economic activity and competitiveness in four a.m. target areas by improving access of start-ups and MSMEs to financing and high value-added services. The duration of the project is four years until 01/2025.

The EU4EG project is co-funded by the European Union Delegation to North Macedonia and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). The project is implemented by GIZ in partnership with Area Science Park (ASP) from Trieste, Italy and supported by the BMWK and the Central European Initiative (CEI) as Associates.

**Tasks of the BSOs include to:**

* Deliver business support services to the end users MSMEs from the Catalogue of advanced BSSs published by the EU4EG project at the EU4EG Academy.

Location: 4 target regions in North Macedonia (North-East, Polog, and South-West planning regions and Prespa area (Municipality of Resen))
Type: Short-term engagement of BSOs by end beneficiaries MSMEs in the frame of the Call for business support services for MSMEs (CALL REF: EU4EG\_MSMEs\_4)
Expected start date: April/May 2024 – October/November 2024
Expected workload (GIZ contribution): up to 100 expert days per each of the 4 target areas (in total 400 expert days).
Expected workload (MSMEs contribution): up to 100 expert days per each of the 4 target areas (in total 400 expert days).

**How to apply:**

All BSOs registered as legal entities in one of the 4 target regions in North Macedonia (North-East, Polog, and South-West planning regions and Prespa area (Municipality of Resen)) interested in applying and who fulfill the requirements, should send a filled-in Application Form and accompanying annexes in English language by e-mail latest by**18.03.2024, 12:00 h** to **EU4EG@giz.de**.

**The subject of the e-mail should be “EU4EG\_BSO\_3** - **Expression of interest of BSO - Name of the Applicant”.**

The Application of the BSO expressing its interest must be submitted in signed PDF. It must contain the filled-in the Application Form and Self-Declaration. The eligibility criteria for selection of the Applicants are:

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| **#** | **Eligibility Criteria** | **Information to be provided by the Applicant** |
| 1 | The Applicant is registered legal entity in one of the 4 target regions in North Macedonia (North-East, Polog, and South-West planning regions and Prespa area (Municipality of Resen)). | Current status of the registration in the Central Registry of the Republic of North Macedonia (not older than 6 months) |
| 2 | The Applicant is not in any of the situations excluding them from participating in donors funded contracts. | Self-declaration of the Applicant |
| 3 | Participation at the EU4EG Academy. | Section 3 of the Application Form |
| 4 | Business Support Services from the EU4EG Catalogue provided by BSO to MSMEs with growth potential (of which at least 1 reference from the EU4EG Catalogue). | Section 4 of the Application Form and its Annex 1. References for provided BSSs to MSMEs with growth potential |

Applicants will be short-listed based on their Application, and ONLY short-listed candidates will be eligible to be engaged by the MSMEs in the a.m. Call for business support services for MSMEs. Namely a short-list with qualified BSOs will be established and it will be part of the documents of the Call. MSMEs will be able to select BSOs ONLY from the BSOs which are on that list. It is expected that BSOs will sign separate contracts for the specified experts with the MSMEs and GIZ for their respective part under the a.m. Call for business support services for MSMEs (CALL REF: EU4EG\_MSMEs\_4).

BSOs who have not been contacted should consider that there will be no follow-up to their application.

**Services that will be offered to the interested BSO - Applicants to achieve the eligibility criteria until the deadline**

* Information sessions in the 4 target regions
* Support from EU4EG Regional Advisers
* Access to recorded modules already available at the EU4EG Academy
* Repetition of some modules (refreshers) at the EU4EG Academy in the period 26.02.2024 – 15.03.2024
* One-to-one advisory by ASP experts based only on provided filled-in templates (only for selected tools/methodologies)
* On-line help desk of the EU4EG Academy.

Please note that all correspondence and dealing with the GIZ must be in English or German.

Information sessions for BSOs for this Call will be organized as follows:

* Resen, Prespa region – In-person event - 6th February 2024 – 12.00 – 13.30 h
* Ohrid, South-West region - In-person event - 7th February 2024 - 11.00 - 12.30 h
* All regions – Online event – 8th February 2024 – 11.00 – 12.30 h, [LINK](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_M2I1NjM1NjItZWU2YS00OTg0LWE1NzAtMmZhNjUxMDJlNjZj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%225bbab28c-def3-4604-8822-5e707da8dba8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%223277ff1a-0adb-45d0-a8ee-58aa0998824a%22%7d)
* Tetovo or Gostivar, Polog region - In-person event – 14th February 2024 – 14:00 – 15:30 h
* Kumanovo, North-East region - In-person event - 15th February 2024 – 11.00 – 12.30 h

Locations will be communicated in due time.

For more information please check the following LINKS:

[EU4EG web site: https://eu4eg.mk/open-calls/](https://eu4eg.mk/open-calls/) and

EU4EG Academy: [LINK](https://areasciencepark.sharepoint.com/sites/EU4EG_Academy/SitePages/Call-for-Expression-of-Interest-%28EoI%29-for-provision-of-business-support-services-by-Business-Support-Organisat.aspx) (only for registered users)

**Повик за изјавување на интерес за доставување на услуги: Проектот „ЕУ за Економски Раст (ЕУ4ЕГ)“ кој се спроведува од страна на Германското друштво за интернационална соработка (ГИЗ), Канцеларија Скопје, објавува постапка за Изјавување на интерес за обезбедување услуги од страна на локални Организации за Поддршка на Бизнисите од 4-те целни области во Република Северна Македонија (Североисточен, Полошки и Југозападен плански регион и регионот на Преспа – Општина Ресен) на повикот што дополнително ќе биде објавен за крајните корисници Микро, Мали и Средни Претпријатија (ММСП) од целните региони.**