

Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP – Med)
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MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – MIO
ECSDE

ANNOUNCES THE PRESENT CALL 69/2025/Drin II FOR OFFERS
For the

Technical Consultancy for Planning, Design, and Monitoring of Nature-Based Wastewater Treatment Systems for a Rural Settlement in the Drin Basin, Albania

SUBMISSION OF OFFERS BY 12th December 2025, at 17:00h CET

MAX AVAILABLE BUDGET: USD 80.000,00 including VAT.

This amount includes all other costs, income taxes, VAT and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service, including travel-related costs.

AWARD CRITERION: The most economically advantageous offer based on the best price/quality ratio.

Description of the Assignment

GWP-Med is announcing the present Call for Offers for the Technical Consultancy for Planning, Design, and Monitoring of Nature-Based Wastewater Treatment Systems for a Rural Settlement in the Drin Basin, Albania (69/2025/Drin II) in the framework of the GEF Project “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to strengthen transboundary cooperation and enable integrated natural resources management”.

The objective of the project is to provide support until 2029 for the implementation of priority actions under the Drin Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

The aim of the Assignment under the Call is to support the planning and implementation of a sustainable, cost-effective, and context-appropriate nature-based wastewater treatment solution in an environmentally sensitive rural settlement of the Drin Basin, in Albania.

For a detailed description of the Assignment, please refer to the respective ToR.

Procurement

The procurement will proceed having regard to:

- ✓ General principles of EU law on procurements.
- ✓ Internal Rules and Regulations of MIO-ECSDE/GWP-MED which can be found at <https://mio-ecsde.org/about-us/our-accountability> and at <https://www.gwp.org/en/About/who/Governance-Funding/>.
- ✓ The present CALL FOR OFFERS and its supporting documents.

Offer Submission

Interested participants should submit an their offer electronically including the following:

Folder A containing the:

1. Solemn Self Declaration (available in Annex 1)
2. Technical form (Annex 2)

Folder B (password protected) containing:

Financial offer

Please read carefully the section “How to submit an offer” of the present call, on how exactly you are required to submit your offer

Offers must be submitted for the entire Assignment.

Offers for part of the Assignment will not be accepted.

The Participants shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their offer.

The Contracting Authority will in no case be responsible or liable for such costs, whatever the conduct or outcome of the procedure.

The Contracting Authority will neither be responsible for, nor cover, any expenses or losses incurred by the participants for any site visits and inspections or any other aspect of their offer.

The Contracting Authority may ask Participants to submit supporting documents concerning their offer (references, certificates, publications etc.)

The language of this procedure, the tender documents and the offers is English. Any documentation (certificates, etc) submitted in any other language should be accompanied by a translation in English, certified by a lawyer or public authority **otherwise the application will be rejected.**

Deadline for submission of offers

The **deadline** for submission of offers is set to be **12th December 2025, at 17:00h CET.**

The successful participant will be informed within 10 working days following the submission deadline.

The results of the present call for offers will be published at the GWP-Med Website <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/>

Clarifications

1. Clarifications on the published Call for Offers

Requests for clarifications should be submitted by email, the latest, seven (7) days before the closing date of this call for offers.

The answers / additional information will be published on the website of GWP-Med four (4) days before the closing date of this call for offers.

2. Clarifications during the (technical and financial) evaluation of offers

The Contracting Authority may, during the evaluation of offers, ask the Participants to provide clarifications on the documents submitted with their offers, within reasonable time.

Any clarifications and/or additional documents submitted by the Participants not in the context of a request for clarifications posed by the Contracting Authority are not taken into account for the evaluation of offers.

During the evaluation of offers the Contracting Authority, by applying the principles of equal treatment and of transparency, may request from participants, when the information or the documentation they are obliged to submit are or appear incomplete or wrong, including those in the Solemn self-declaration, to submit, to complement or to clarify the relevant information or documentation, within a time-frame of at least 10 calendar days, with a maximum of 20 calendar days from the date the participants receive the relevant request from the Contracting Authority.

Eligibility Conditions – Participation Requirements

Participation in the present call for offers is open, on equal terms, to any natural or legal person or entity who meet the legal, financial and technical conditions laid down in this Call where they possess adequate professional experience and capacity.

Grounds for exclusion – disqualification (ON/OFF)

Participants should verify by submitting a **solemn declaration** (annexed to the present Call) that they are not bankrupt or subject of proceeding for a declaration of bankruptcy, that they are in good standing, operate under no legal restrictions, are not under any liquidation procedure or the subject of proceedings for declaration of liquidation or any similar situation and that they have not been convicted for any one of the following legal offences: participation in a criminal organization, corruption, bribery, fraud, money laundering, terrorist, child labour and human trafficking.

Please refer to the **Solemn Self-Declaration Statement in Annex 1 which should be filled in and signed as indicated. Failure to comply with the requirements included in the Self Declaration is considered ground for exclusion.**

Selection Criteria (Pass/Fail)

Successful participants (Natural or Legal Person or Entity) must:

- Have average annual turnover for the last three financial years, at least equivalent to the maximum amount of this call. As supporting documentation, the applicant must provide their official Financial Statements, stamped, and signed by the legal representative of the company.
- Be enrolled in one of the official professional or trade registries at the country of registration.
- Be licensed to perform works in Albania.
- Be classified as Environmental Consulting or Engineering Company, or equivalent (e.g. water or wastewater resources management, green infrastructure, etc.).
- Provide a statement of availability of resources (e.g. financial, tools, equipment, personnel) to perform the requested tasks (either own resources or through collaboration).
- Provide a signed statement of understanding the requested objective, services, and deliverables.

Failure to comply with the above pass / fail requirements and provide relevant proof with the application is considered ground for exclusion.

Qualification and Experience

The required and desired qualifications (for the company or/and the lead expert) are presented below. **Failure to provide the minimum required qualifications is considered ground for disqualification.**

Participants in the call are required to have solid experience in developing and managing complex projects in the field related to the tasks described in the ToR.

This needs to be demonstrated in the Technical Offer to be submitted as part of the application. A template for the Technical Offer form is available in the Call for Offers.

The Technical Offer Form consists of the following sections:

- Section 1: Expertise and work experience
- Section 2: Approach and Methodology

Regarding Section 1: Expertise and work experience:

Participants in this call are required to have solid experience in planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating wastewater treatment projects, including direct experience in nature-based systems. They must demonstrate involvement in a minimum of two wastewater treatment designs or feasibility studies -on constructed wetlands- showing strong technical and documentation skills.

The participant to this call should have experience in environmental and social assessments and/or applying UNDP or EU safeguards, knowledge of tendering and procurement under Albanian law, experience with internationally funded projects (e.g., GEF, UNDP, EU, World Bank), and familiarity with EU Water and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directives and alignment processes.

The scope of work requires an interdisciplinary team of skilled experts, including an Environmental and Social Expert, with previous experience in activities similar to those that this assignment entails. The required qualifications for the Lead Expert and the Environmental and Social Expert to be engaged in this assignment are presented below.

The inclusion of experts so as the team responds to every area of expertise defined in the table below is mandatory.

If the qualifications of an expert cover the requirements of more than one area of expertise, that expert can be also proposed for these other areas.

Qualifications additional to the minimum requested per category will receive additional score under the evaluation process as described in the section Evaluation Process and Awarding Criterion.

In addition, the Participant may propose -as they deem appropriate- additional experts covering other specific areas of expertise.

Failure to provide the minimum required qualifications is considered ground for disqualification.

Required qualifications for the Lead Expert

1. A minimum of a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in Environmental Engineering, Civil Engineering, Water Resources Management, or related field. (Required – ON/OFF)
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English. (Required – ON/OFF)
3. Minimum 10 years of experience in planning, designing, implementing and evaluating wastewater treatment projects, including nature-based systems. (Required – Evaluated)
4. Experience in at least two (2) wastewater-treatment designs or feasibility studies, on nature-based solutions (constructed wetlands), demonstrating capacity to deliver high-quality technical documentation (Required – Evaluated)

5. Knowledge of EU Water Framework Directive and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, demonstrated through involvement in relevant assignments. (Required – Evaluated)

Required qualifications for the Environmental and Social Expert

1. A minimum of a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in Environmental Sciences/Engineering, Environmental Management, or related field. (Required – ON/OFF)
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English. (Required – ON/OFF)
3. Demonstrated experience in conducting at least two (2) environmental and social assessments applying EU safeguards (e.g., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment/ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESIA/ESMP) screening, preparation, review). (Required – Evaluated)
4. Demonstrated experience applying UNDP environmental and social safeguards in at least one (1) development project. (Desired – Evaluated)
5. Experience in at least one (1) climate-risk screening or climate-proofing assessment. (Desired – Evaluated)

Regarding Section 2: Approach and Methodology:

As described in the Technical Offer, the applicant needs to:

- Provide a detailed description of the methodology for how the Participant will achieve all objectives and tasks and deliver all outputs as described in the Terms of Reference, keeping in mind the appropriateness to local conditions.
- Provide a description of the potential risks for the implementation of this assignment that may impact achievement and timely completion of expected results, and describe measures that will be put in place to mitigate these risks.

Awarding Criterion and Evaluation process

AWARD CRITERION: The most economically advantageous offer based on the best price/quality ratio.

Offers shall be evaluated as follows:

Offers qualified in terms of exclusion grounds and selection criteria will be further evaluated on the basis of the requirements presented under section “Qualification and Experience”, as follows:

(1) Criterion	(2) weighting (w)	(3) points of criterion (c),	(4) Score = (2) x (3)
Section 1	85% of total		
Expertise and work experience.	60%		
Provide proof of at least 10 years of professional experience in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of wastewater treatment projects, including direct experience with nature-based systems. (Required – Evaluated)	20%		
Provide record in developing or supervising at least two (2) wastewater treatment designs or	20%		

feasibility studies constructed wetlands, demonstrating hands-on technical proficiency and capacity to deliver high-quality technical documentation. (Required – Evaluated)			
Demonstrate experience in environmental and social assessment or the application of UNDP or EU environmental safeguards in infrastructure or water management projects, evidenced by involvement in at least two (2) assessment. (Required – Evaluated)	7%		
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the related tendering and procurement processes under Albanian Law, evidenced by involvement in at least one (1) relevant assignment. (Required - Evaluated)	5%		
Provide proof of experience in working with internationally funded projects (e.g. GEF, UNDP, EU, World Bank, or similar demonstrated by involvement in at least two (2) relevant assignments. (Required - Evaluated)	5%		
Provide proof of knowledge of EU Water and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directives and alignment processes, demonstrated, by involvement in at least 2 assignments requiring application or alignment of these directives. (Required – Evaluated)	3%		
Lead Expert	20%		
A minimum of a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in Environmental Engineering, Civil Engineering, Water Resources Management, or related field. (Required – ON/OFF)	On /Off		
Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.	On /Off		
Minimum 10 years of experience in planning, designing, implementing and evaluating wastewater treatment projects, including nature-based systems. (Required – Evaluated)	10%		
Experience in at least two (2) wastewater-treatment designs or feasibility studies, on nature-based solutions (constructed wetlands), demonstrating capacity to deliver high-quality technical documentation (Required – Evaluated)	7%		
Knowledge of EU Water Framework Directive and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, demonstrated through involvement in relevant assignments. (Required – Evaluated)	3%		
Environmental and Social Expert	5%		

A minimum of a Master's degree (MSc or equivalent) in Environmental Sciences/Engineering, Environmental Management, or related field. (Required – ON/OFF)	On /Off		
Excellent oral and written communication skills in English. (Required – ON/OFF)	On /Off		
Demonstrated experience in conducting at least two (2) environmental and social assessments applying EU safeguards (e.g., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment/ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESIA/ESMP) screening, preparation, review). (Required – Evaluated)	3%		
Demonstrated experience applying UNDP environmental and social safeguards in at least one (1) development project. (Desired – Evaluated)	1%		
Experience in at least one (1) climate-risk screening or climate-proofing assessment. (Desired – Evaluated)	1%		
Section 2:	15% of total		
Approach and Methodology: The approach to the requested Assignment will include a detailed description of the methodology to achieve all objectives and tasks, deliver all outputs as described in the Terms of Reference, and consider the appropriateness to local conditions. (Required).	10%		
Risks and Mitigation Measures: description of the potential risks associated with the implementation of the Assignment, which have the potential to hinder the successful achievement and timely completion of anticipated outcomes, as well as compromise their quality. This will also entail a description of the counteractive measures that will be implemented to mitigate these risks. (Required).	5%		

Failure to provide the minimum requirements in any of the above is considered ground for disqualification

Scoring for each evaluated section will be made as following:

Scoring for each evaluation criteria starts from 100 points (when minimum requirements are met) up until maximum 150 points (100p Base +10p for extra criteria over base up to 50 additional points).

Section 1 – Expertise and work experience: score starts at 100 points (when minimum requirements are met) and can reach 150 points depending on the description of the participant and the number of projects implemented in excess of those required as a minimum. (100p Base +10p for extra criteria over base up to 50 additional points)

Section 2 – Approach and Methodology: score starts at 100 points and can reach 150 points depending on the length, detail, depth, and structure of the information provided.

Each Section/evaluation criterion is evaluated autonomously. The final scoring of each evaluation criterion is the outcome of its scoring multiplied by the corresponding weighting factor. The overall score of the technical offer is the sum of the final scoring of all the Sections/evaluation criteria. The overall score of the technical offer is calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$B_i = w_1 \times c_1 + w_2 \times c_2 + \dots$$

For the overall score which will determine the ranking of offers, technical evaluation will be weighted with 80%, and the financial offer with 20%.

The final listing of the most advantageous offers will be made on the basis of the following formula:

$$\Lambda_i = 0,8 * (B_i/B_{max}) + 0,2 * (K_{min}/K_i).$$

Where:

B_{max}: the max score received by the best of the technical offers received

B_i: the score of the technical offer

K_{min}: The cost of the financial offer with the minimum price offered.

K_i: The cost of the financial offer

The most advantageous offers is the one with the greater value of Λ .

In case of equality of overall scores, the retained proposal is the one whose corresponding technical proposal received the highest rating.

Duration of the Contract

The overall duration of the contract will be maximum 20 months after contract signature.

Contract Price, Deliverables and Schedule of Payment

The maximum fee for this assignment is 80.000,00 USD. This amount includes all other costs, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service, including VAT.

This amount includes all other costs, income taxes, VAT and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service, including travel-related costs.

For a detailed description of Tasks, please refer to the ToR. Deadlines to be possibly adapted based on the actual dates that the workshops will take place.

Schedule of payments:

Tasks	Deliverables	Proposed Deadline (after contract signature)	Payment Schedule - percentage of the total value of the contract
Inception phase	Workplan	Week 2	10%
	Inception report	Month 2	
Task 1	Site Selection Report	Month 5	

Task 2	Feasibility Study Report Environmental Impact Assessment as per national legislation and UNDP SES.	Month 7	50%
Task 3	Detailed Design Package & Documentation and permits for the construction of the wastewater treatment plan	Month 10	
Task 4	Construction Monitoring and Assessment Report	Month 18	40%
Task 5	Final Lessons Learned and Policy Recommendations Report	Month 20	

GWP-Med may order additional services from the successful candidate to complement the task described in the ToR if specific needs arise that cannot be anticipated at this moment. In any case the value of any additional service requested cannot exceed 50% of the amount of the present call.

The successful consultant must Provide before contract signature.

- 1) **Certification of payment of Taxes,**
- 2) **Certification of payment of Social Insurance contributions.**

Termination / cancelation / repetition / reformulation of the procurement procedure

Termination of a procurement procedure, partial cancellation and repetition of a procedure, reformulation of procedure results.

1. GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE may, by a reasoned decision, and after the opinion of the competent body, cancel the procurement procedure by annulling the respective Call, either due to failure to submit a tender or the rejection of all tenders or the exclusion of all Participants in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Call.

2. Cancellation of the procurement procedure may take place by a reasoned decision of the GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE, in the following cases:

- i. due to the irregularity of the procurement procedure
- ii. if the financial and technical parameters related to the award process have changed substantially and the execution of the contractual object is no longer of interest to GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE
- iii. if due to force majeure, the contract cannot be properly executed
- iv. if the tender selected is deemed not economically advantageous
- v. in case of expiry of the bids
- vi. in case the needs of GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE and / or of the beneficiary (-ies) of the project have changed
- vii. in case the circumstances have changed resulting in the inability to deliver the contract / project (eg local community reactions, inability to fund, etc.).
- viii. in case of other imperative reasons of public interest such as for purposes of public health or environmental protection.

3. If errors or omissions are found at any stage of the award procedure, the GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE may, after the opinion of the competent body, either cancel the proceedings partially or reshape the outcome accordingly or decide to repeat the procedure from the point where the error occurred. or omission.

4. GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE also reserves the right, after the opinion of the competent body, to decide, in addition to the cancellation of the procurement procedure or the annulment of the Call, the repetition of any phase of the concluding procedure, as well, with or without modifying its terms or recourse to the negotiation process, provided it is in conformity with the Internal Rules and Regulations of GWP-MED /MIO-ECSDE.

5. Under no circumstances shall GWP-MED /MIO-ECSDE be obliged to pay to Participants any compensation for expenses or other positive or consequential damages that may have been incurred by their participation in the proceedings.

Objections

Objections against any act of the Contracting Authority can be submitted within five (5) days from the notification of the Contracting Authority's act.

An objection to the call for offers can be submitted within a period that extends up to half the period from the publication of the call in the Contracting Authority's website and the final date of submission of offers. For the calculation of this period's deadline, the dates of the publication of the call and the submission of the offers are considered. Objections are submitted in written, by courier, by fax or by email.

Objections are submitted to the Contracting Authority, which shall decide within ten (10) days from the notification of the objection. In the event of an objection to the call for offers, the Contracting Authority shall decide in any case before the closing date for the submission of offers. In case the Contracting Authority has not answered within the above deadline, the rejection of the objection is presumed.

How to submit an Offer

The submission of offers can will be done electronically via e-mail.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to prepare and send an email to procurement@gwpmed.org writing in the email subject line: 69/2025/Drin II, before the above-mentioned closing date for submission of offers the following two folders:

1. A compressed folder (**Folder A**) (.zip or .rar) containing the technical offer, the Solemn Declaration and any other supporting documents
2. **A password-protected compressed folder(Folder B) (.zip or .rar)** containing only your financial offer. The password for opening the password protected folder with your financial offer should be sent to the same email address ONLY at the request of the contracting Authority which will send a follow up email to all participants that their technical offer has passed the technical evaluation.

In case the password is sent together with the offer file, the offer will be rejected.

In case the financial offer is not password protected, the offer will be rejected.

Offers submitted after the specified date and time shall not be taken into consideration.

The Contracting Authority bears no liability whatsoever for any late delivery of offers or for the contents of its accompanying folders.

For any clarifications on the present call for offers please contact: Ms. Shkipe Deda at shkipe.deda@gwpmed.org

The present call for offers is posted on the website of GWP-Med (www.gwp-med.org).

The Chairman of GWP-Med/MIO-ECSDE

Prof. Michael J. Scoullas