



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXPERT SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF THE REPORT AND POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING FINANCING SOURCES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN KOSOVO

1. Short background

RiINVEST Institute for Development Research (Riinvest) is a part of Consortia led by ZIS (Vienna) for implementing project Policy Answers (Horizon Europe) through Work packages:

WP 1 Policy Dialogue

WP2 Monitoring for Agenda Setting

WP3 Capacity Building and Implementation Support

WP4 Aligning priorities

WP5 Pilot activities

WP6 Dissemination and exploitation

WP7 Project Management

The Policy Answers project's objectives are related to building capacities in WB6 for R&I, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the EU Agenda for WB, advancing their integration within ERA, and especially contributing in thematic areas related to the Green Agenda, Digitalisation and Healthy Society. The project also aims to contributing with policy recommendations to advance research and innovations, education, culture and youth related to mentioned EU thematic priorities. Project life is from Mart 2022- February 2026.

Riinvest Institute is especially in charge as a leader for implementing task 3.3. in work package 3 (WP3), Capacity building and support for implementation in Kosovo, but is participating as well respectively in the implementation of other WPs as well.

Deficiencies in coordination, poor support and funding and low absorptive capacity are considered to be key problems in advancing R&I in a Country and in its integration to ERA. The current annual budget allocation is about 2.5 million Euros (0.1% of the total budget) instead of the obligation of 17.5 million Euros (0.7% of the total budget that must be allocated by the Law and NRP constraints the overall development and focus of R&I. However, due to ineffective coordination and low absorptive capacities, only less than half of the (modest) budget allocation is disbursed. Universities and faculties are not focussed on research. There are no incentives for university staff to dedicate their time to research but almost exclusively to teaching. Research is not counted in their workload. Institutes and research units at universities are underdeveloped and mainly inactive. The Law on Public Finance and regulations at universities create obstacles for direct links regarding the cooperation of faculties, research units and public universities with industry and the business sector and also in EU and other international funding sources. The current legal frame and regulation in financing R&I especially at universities and faculties is one of the key obstacles to advancing research activities at HE institutions.

Following this background Policy Answers project aims (1) to contribute to improving legal and administrative conditions for the integration of teaching and research activities at universities and faculties; (2) to support incentives for increasing funding sources at faculties and research institutes through cooperation at the international and local level and also with the private sector and the industry. For this, it is necessary to advance the legal framework for R&I, especially related to legal and administrative conditions for integrating teaching and research activities at universities and faculties. Riinvest seeks to engage an expert for external services to Draft Policy Paper with policy recommendations, which outlines incentives for increasing public and private funding sources at faculties and research institutes.

2. Objectives

- To improve legal and other conditions for increasing public and private financial sources for R&I to ensure faster integration into ERA;
- Propose solutions for integration of the teaching and research activities at the faculties and universities.

3. Scope of Work (SoW)

The expert will explore through desk research and analyses legal and other aspects to clearly identify obstacles regarding poor financing and low level of development of R&I activities at faculties and universities and other research organisations. Following that, he/she will draft a policy paper which provides a short analysis of the state of play and provides policy recommendations for: (1) increasing public and other funding for R&I; (2) how effectively integrating R&I and teaching at universities and faculties; (3) how to increase incentives for academic staff and other researchers for more productive engagements in R&I.

In addition, the expert will support the Riinvest team engaged in the PA project for advocating and presenting the Report at governmental and parliamentary bodies as necessary.

The approximate LoE for implementation of this SoW is one (1) person month during the period January - February - March 2023.

4. Tasks and deliverables

- Conduct desk research and organise meetings with relevant stakeholders to analyse the "state of play" in funding R&I and integration research and teaching activities at the faculties and universities;
- Draft the Policy paper and share it with the Riinvest team for feedback and comments (D1);
- Address comments and suggestions; draft the final version of the policy paper;
- Prepare a presentation of the policy paper for advocacy activities at relevant institutions;
- Present policy paper at the meeting of the Stakeholders Forum of the Policy Answers Project (D2).

In performing tasks, the Expert will:

- Coordinate closely with the Head of Policy Answers Riinvest Project Team and regularly report to him;
- Participate in invited meetings of the project team as necessary;
- Deliver monthly short report/overview on task implementation progress and provide inputs to the reporting needs according to the Project Deliverable Agenda;
- Propose ideas and short contributions related to his tasks for dissemination and communication of project outcomes and events;
- Provide Monthly evidence of LoE (working days), according to the form provided by project management.

5. Requirements

- The expert should have completed PhD/Masters studies, with minimum 10 years' experience in a field of research and teaching;
- Sound evidence and track record in these areas;
- Writing skills in English and Albanian Language.

6. Propriety rights

All materials, presentations and handouts are to be used and published by Policy Answers Project for the purposes of the Project. Third parties and use for commercial purposes is allowed only with consent from Project Consortia and the author.

7. Application

We invite interested experts to send their applications via e-mail at riinvest@riinvestinstitute.org by 15 February 2023. The application should include (1) a proposal based on this SoW (including comments on SoW if necessary); (2) CV; (3) Evidence of experience and references.

Further information about the project can be obtained at www.riinvestinstitute.org and at Western Balkans Info Hub <https://wbc-rti.info/>.

8. Other information

These ToR are part of the Contract for Expert Services to be signed between Riinvest and the Expert.