CONSULTANCY

Review of Green Finance and related policy instruments in the European Union

Terms of reference

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

SDSN is a core partner in the Food and Land use Coalition (FOLU) to provide the practical connections, evidence base for action and vision for change to drive a food and land use system transformation. Under FOLU, SDSN and IIASA are coordinating the Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy Pathways (FABLE) Consortium, a global network of leading knowledge institutions in G20 and other major economies. FABLE’s work is complemented by the development of the FELD Action Tracker as a strategic FOLU initiative to analyze national policies related to food, environment, land and development, and assess their alignment with global targets under the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs.

In mid-2020, the FELD team was asked by the German development agency GIZ to coordinate the implementation of a short-term project on “Catalysing country action on green finance”. The project, among other things, involves focused analysis and two case studies of relevant financial instruments to increase the availability of green finance and to enhance the consistency of finance with objectives of the Paris Climate agreement.

Scope of Work

SDSN is seeking a qualified consultant company or individual consultant expert to assist the FELD team in its work on a focused case study related to existing Green Finance instruments in the European Union. Specifically, the consultant(s) will conduct a focused analysis of existing fiscal and financial instruments, regulations and other incentives that are meant, or have the potential, to catalyze the shift from grey to green finance. The consultant will lead this analysis alongside related work and consultations with key actors, in close coordination with the SDSN project lead and relevant counterpart experts of the two involved implementing partners.

This work entails producing a focused overview report on relevant finance instruments in the European Union and illustrate the main existing policy tools and incentives with examples (including from national level across EU Member States) as they impact the finance flows into the national forestry and agriculture sectors.

Responsibilities

Under the overall project and case study, lead the analysis of existing financial flows and policy instruments in the European Union as they are related to green finance in the context of the Paris Climate Agreement, including by

- Conducting an over-arching policy review of the European Union, including the identification of illustrations and examples from Member States;
- Identifying existing policy and finance mechanisms, instruments and tools that are consistent with the climate goals, and those that might undermine them; the project will provide a framework of relevant policy instruments as a basis for the analysis;
Consulting with key stakeholders on policy recommendations and conclusions, in coordination with the SDSN project lead and the Ips through the Project Implementation Team;

- On the basis of this analysis, generating recommendations for the re-design of existing policy tools to be (more) consistent with climate goals, including potential trade-offs and spillover effects;
- Participating in project team discussions, including to present preliminary findings and draft versions of the case study;
- Other aspects related to ensure the timely completion of the case study.

**Required qualifications**

The consultant, or in the case of a consulting company all involved personnel, applying for this assignment need to demonstrate in their CVs a track record of professional high-quality work in a related area. For this particular assignment, the following criteria are expected and require documentation:

- Advanced degree in economics, agriculture, public policy, or other relevant discipline;
- Minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in analysing policies and their institutional contexts;
- Solid research background, evidenced by a track record of relevant assignments and publications in related fields;
- Deep understanding of the European Union, its institutions, policy instruments, regulations and processes;
- Experience in the application of economic models of advantage;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills (English);

All draft and final reports must be written in English. A sample text or recent publication will be requested as part of the selection process.

**Duration**

The work is expected to be carried out during a 4-8-week period, from early November to December 21, 2020. There is possibility of a project extension beyond December, subject to developments and flexibility of the donor. The work is expected to be carried out at the contractor’s location and no travels are expected.

**Compensation**

Determined based on submitted bids.

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**Application process**

All interested consulting experts and organizations are asked to provide the following documentation by November 10, 2020:

- A cover letter with a relevant information on the applying consultant or consulting company;
- Detailed CVs of the key personnel to be working on the assignment, indicating their qualifications and experience relevant for the task;
- A short overview of previous assignments and projects in relevant fields, including a writing sample of the personnel to be involved (where he/she acted as main/primary author);
- Documentation of the consultant(s) and/or organization’s registration, including of its main personnel as relevant for the application;
- Bid with hourly rate and amount of time expected to be required for the work.