Policy Proposal Document: Measure(s) for diaspora and returnees

TERM OF REFERENCE

March 2021
Introduction

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). With over 25 years’ experience of supporting democracy around the world, WFD’s strategic plan elaborates our expertise and approach to supporting political parties, parliaments, civil society, and electoral processes.

WFD is currently implementing a three-year CSSF funded programme in the Western Balkans entitled Western Balkans Democracy Initiative [www.wfd.org/wbdi](http://www.wfd.org/wbdi). WFD field offices and staff in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia are implementing a regional programme aimed to:

- Encourage political parties to be more policy-focused and orientated towards voters’ needs and desires;
- Develop more effective parliamentary practice which leads to higher quality legislation, closer scrutiny of the executive branch and a greater focus on service delivery in line with voters’ interests;
- Enhance democratic culture with greater interaction between state and non-state actors on challenges effecting citizens’ lives.

In Serbia, as well as in the rest of the Western Balkans region, emigration trends are undoubtedly worrying and public discourse on youth emigration is often oversimplified. Youth emigration is one of the most urgent issues to be tackled in the coming period. Some of the world’s fastest shrinking and ageing countries are in South-East Europe. According to UNFPA, nine of the world’s ten fastest-shrinking countries are in Eastern Europe and governments are concerned about negative consequences for the economy, social systems, and society in general.

WFD’s programme in Serbia has made significant efforts to engage various state and non-state actors in tackling the issue of youth emigration. We have supported in-depth research on the topic of "Cost of Youth Emigration" and research on the systematic overview of all existing governmental initiatives, bodies, agencies, and other instances which deal with this issue.

WFD coordinated and supported meetings of “The Agents for Change – Network”, which gathers representatives of government, academia, business, civil society, Serbian diaspora, the international community – agreed to act in four directions: research, policy, outreach, and activity.

Given the importance of the issue, WFD plans to further engage in the process of understanding and supporting specific needs of the diaspora and returnees, especially in the context of the ongoing pandemic and (post)COVID-19 policy measures. In line with WFD’s previous assessment and policy development work on circular migrations, WFD is launching this call for a policy proposal document related to policy measure(s) for diaspora and returnees.
2. Objectives

COVID-19 pandemic brought into light the increased interest of the diaspora to return to Serbia. This was reflected in the readiness of the government to enact and implement a series of measures relating to residence and taxation that were specifically aimed at returnees. Directive on criteria for categorizing foreigners and temporary residence permits\(^1\) allows highly qualified foreigners to recognize their academic degree before the Agency for Qualifications and ask for temporary residence of up to one year.

WFD wishes to follow up on this specific issue, and further support and improve the ongoing processes related to the status of foreigners of Serbian origin (those who due to their origin can and would apply for Serbian citizenship).

The selected consultant is expected to provide a policy proposal document with concrete measure(s) which will improve and/or (partially) solve the current problem.

The consultant/s shall:

1. **Give a general overview of a current problem** that foreigners of Serbian origin (those who due to their origin can and would apply for Serbian citizenship) face challenges regarding the procedures for temporary and permanent residence, indicating the potential for a policy shift.

2. **Provide a policy proposal** (including a cost-benefit analysis, list of relevant stakeholders and a plan of potential activities) on achieving the shift in the context of fast-track permanent residence for foreigners of Serbian origin and the context of promoting circular migration.

3. **Participate in meetings** with selected key stakeholders on this issue (including, but not limited to – Parliamentary committee on diaspora and Serbs in the region, Prime Minister’s cabinet, relevant CSOs, think tanks, etc.) and present key findings from the proposal.

The document should be consisted of:

- Introductory part on the general situation regarding the procedures for temporary and permanent residence and the challenges foreigners of Serbian origin (those who due to their origin can and would apply for Serbian citizenship) are facing;
- A comparative analysis of potential solutions to the problem that other countries have faced, the effects of the measures for a local economy and migratory trends and how these solutions can be applied in the local context;

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\(^1\) Please note that linked document is in Serbian: Uredba o kriterijumima za određivanje kategorija stranaca i kategorijama stranaca kojima se privremeni boravak u Republici Srbiji može odobriti nezavisno od osnova zaodobrenje privremenog boravka: 13/2020-30 (pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs)
• Clearly defined policy proposal with a cost-benefit analysis and potential activity with respect to engaging relevant stakeholders, partners and individuals in the process;
• Recommendations for further steps that should be undertaken with respect to the potential policy shift.

Output 1: Final policy proposal document in Serbian
Output 2: Executive summary documents in both Serbian and English

3. Timeline

Deadlines listed in the table below assume contracting is completed by March 31st, 2021. Work on the project should commence on April 1st, 2021. If contracting with the consultant/s is concluded after this date, the deadlines will be adjusted accordingly but the final output still needs to be delivered and presented at the latest by June 30th, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final draft of policy proposal document</td>
<td>Final draft document sent to WFD staff for additional input if needed</td>
<td>June 7th, 2021, Document sent to <a href="mailto:bojana.mikovic@wfd.org">bojana.mikovic@wfd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFD responds to comments and provides feedback on draft research</td>
<td>WFD will respond and provide comments to the draft research papers between June 14th and June 18th, 2021.</td>
<td>June 11th, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Policy proposal document</td>
<td>Final version of the policy proposal document in Serbian sent to WFD staff</td>
<td>June 14th, 2021, Document sent to <a href="mailto:bojana.mikovic@wfd.org">bojana.mikovic@wfd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Executive Summary documents</td>
<td>Final versions of the Executive Summary documents (in Serbian and English) sent to WFD staff</td>
<td>June 14th, 2021, Document sent to <a href="mailto:bojana.mikovic@wfd.org">bojana.mikovic@wfd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and presentation of policy research papers to stakeholders</td>
<td>Researcher/s will present policy proposal to stakeholders at meetings organized by WFD. All meetings will be conducted between June 15th and June 30th, 2021.</td>
<td>June 30th, 2021</td>
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4. Key Deliverables

- The consultants are expected to deliver Final policy proposal document in Serbian;
- The consultants are expected to deliver Executive Summary documents in Serbian and English;
- The consultants are expected to attend meetings with key stakeholders, organised by WFD staff.

5. Budget

- The budget for providing a policy proposal is max. 4,000 GBP (inclusive of all taxes)
- In addition, all costs related to meetings organised by WFD (travel expenses, accommodation, and meal allowance) will be provided separately and paid by WFD.

6. Eligibility

- Eligible consultants for this call are all interested individuals and organizations from Serbia (such as think-tanks, CSOs, faculties and institutes) with relevant experience in emigration and/or circular migrations programmes, implementing policy youth and immigration measures, and have a track record on emigration matters, and migrations research and policy development in Serbia.

7. Application details

Interested consultants applying for this call should provide:

1. **One-page CV** – with listed relevant experience and contact details
2. **One-pager** – with an outline proposal (containing the proposed volume of data and evidence to be collected), and budget proposal for consultancy service.

All documents should be sent to the WFD Serbia office at bojana.mikovic@wfd.org at the latest by March 30th, 2021 (CoB).

For additional questions, please contact Bojana Miković, WFD Programme Manager at bojana.mikovic@wfd.org.