

TERMS OF REFERENCE Junior Professional Officers (JPO)

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I. General Information:

Title:

Economic Policy Analyst (JPO)

Sector of Assignment:

Poverty and economy

Country:

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Location (city):

Sarajevo

Agency:

UNDP

II. Supervision:

Title of Supervisor:

Senior Portfolio Manager

Content and methodology of supervision:

Under the overall supervision of the DRR, and under the direct supervision of the Senior Project Manager.

III. Duties, Responsibilities and Output Expectations:

Please include percentages for each duty:

Under the overall supervision of the DRR, and under the direct supervision of the Senior Project Manager the post holder would fulfill two functions:

- First, act in a supportive role as an adviser to the Country Office and partners, on economics related topics, providing analyses and inputs;
- Second, work as a direct support to UNDP projects at national and field level, on a variety economic issues (ranging from LED to macroeconomics).

The specific duties are enumerated in more detailed below:

Strategic Advice:

- Assist the Senior Policy Advisor in providing analyses and policy inputs to UNDP County Office strategic plans.
 - Advise, inform and offer training to the corporate staff body on emerging economic policy issues.
- Act as champion for progressive economic policymaking in line with UNDP's core mandate.

Project Duties and Support:

- Directly undertake with other members of staff, project activities within the policy sub-portfolio, specifically:
 - the Statistical Systems Project (Household Budget Survey),
 - the National Human Development Report (economic context, assisting with calculation of Human Development Indices)
 - MDG Monitoring and Reporting (calculation of economic and poverty indicators, and preparation of other analyses)
- Act as a permanent adviser to the following Projects
 - Growing Sustainable Business Initiative
 - Early Warning System Periodic Reports
 - Upper Drina Regional Development Project
 - Municipal Public-Private Partnerships Project
- Carryout any other relevant tasks and duties required by the Senior Portfolio Manager or Deputy Resident Representative.

IV. Qualifications and Experience:

Education (only Master's degree or equivalent):

- University degree in economics, preferably with a strong development component

Work Experience (at least 1 to 2 years relevant work experience):

- An awareness of transitional economies
- Experience in economic, statistical or financial analysis

Key Competencies of the assignment:

- Excellent written and oral command of English
- Excellent communication and editing skills
- An ability to work harmoniously with staff members from different cultural backgrounds
- Sound judgment, maturity, sense of initiative, ability to organize work efficiently and to deal with heavy workloads
- Advanced computer skills (word processing/spreadsheets)

V. Learning Expectations:

Upon completion of the assignment, the JPO will have / be able to...

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VI. Background Information:

UNDP has a large presence in BiH and a diversified programme of interventions which has been built up over a number of years. Poverty reduction, equity and human security serve as unifying themes of the agency's work. But its activities are increasingly being recast in terms of securing social inclusion, with the objective of marrying the UN's human development and rights-based agenda to that of the European Union. The Country Office has also instituted a major overhaul to ensure that programmed activities are more effectively targeted on needs and more strategic in character. These efforts have been led by the Deputy Resident Representative assisted by senior staff.

Forward planning indicates that demands of this nature will increase in the coming years and that greater organizational value can be secured through the provision of an enhanced policy development function. A commitment has therefore been made to appoint two policy analysts. It is envisaged that these would be a Senior Analyst with a specific focus on social inclusion, and this post, dealing with economic issues, which is to be filled Junior Professional Officer (JPO) placement. The two posts would complement each other, while also holding some distinct project responsibilities. There would be no formal line management relationship, but the Senior Analyst would act as a mentor to the JPO.

Context

BiH has made enormous strides since the end of the conflict in 1996. Distinct, but bounded, political and social progress has been accompanied by more concrete economic stability. Growth is steady at round 5% per annum, inflation remains in check and confidence in the national currency is high. In turn, BiH has seen reductions in the headline poverty rate (from 19.6% to 17.8%), and strengthened human development outcomes. These processes are actively targeted within the Government's Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) which serves as the national PRSP. Moreover, in spite of periodic political difficulties, BiH has also made very clear progress towards EU accession, and both Government and the Commission are positive about the outlook.

Yet equally, many difficult issues remain, and questions can be raised about the quality and strength of these positive dynamics. Economic performance, although respectable is far from exceptional. GDP per capita remains doggedly below its pre-war level, and unemployment and capacity underutilization remain defining features of BiH's transition. Equally, growth in income has been accompanied by worsening inequality. This has driven both the relatively weak level of poverty reduction and the emergence of particularly challenged groups. Vulnerability to poverty also remains high with approximately 30% of the population subsisting just above the poverty line.

BiH's complex fragmented political geography and ethnic fault lines complicate this pattern still further. Policy responses are constrained, while the problems that characterize and drive disadvantage, are made more difficult to resolve. However, the progressive dismantling of international supervision and the progress of pre-accession reforms has signalled the potential for considerable change. Indeed, the prospect of EU accession provides the primary frame through which a progressive development agenda can be pursued in BiH. UNDP will seek to seize this opportunity by focussing on Social inclusion as a unifying theme for its activities and the crafting of

national economic and social policy. This process was initiated in late 2005, through the assignment of the topic of the next National Human Development Report and efforts to unite and reshape existing poverty reduction efforts.