



Policy and Legal Advice Centre (PLAC IV)

Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Short-Term assignment

No. 61

Technical assistance requested:	1 (one) Senior Non-Key Expert in the area of Negotiating Ch. 28, Consumer and Health Protection; Law on Water in Original Packaging
Project Title:	Policy and Legal Advice Centre (PLAC IV)
Ref:	NEAR/BEG/2023/EA-RP/0175
Service Contract No:	(CRIS) 2024/454-315
Main project beneficiary:	Ministry of European Integration (MEI)
Direct beneficiary of the assignment:	Ministry of Health
Content of the assignment:	Technical assistance is required to further harmonise national legislation on water in original packaging with the EU acquis.
Budget Line/Expert category	Senior Non-Key Expert
Duration of the assignment	20 working days (WD)

1. Background information in relation to the PLAC IV project

The overall objective of PLAC IV is for the Serbian administration to conduct accession negotiations effectively and manage EU integration and pre-accession assistance toward EU membership.

The purpose of the project is: "to achieve a high level of effective alignment of national legislation with the Union acquis and its implementation".

PLAC IV should achieve 2 results:

- R1: Enhanced compatibility of national legislation with EU legislation and its effective implementation.
- R2: Enhanced capacities of relevant national structures for the successful carrying out of accession negotiations

This type of support is of great importance to the Ministry of Health (the competent authority in the field of water in original packaging). It includes assistance in drafting the Law on Water in Original Packaging, as well as regulating other relevant issues related to the placing of these products on the market.



The planned assistance aims to align national legislation with the relevant acquis of the European Union, in particular with Directive 2009/54/EC on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters, Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, and Commission Directive 2003/40/EC laying down the list, limits, and labelling requirements for the constituents of natural mineral waters. This activity covers matters of quality, health, safety, product safety, and the conditions for placing such products on the market.

There is no overlap between this project and any ongoing and/or planned support projects related to activities covered by these Terms of Reference (ToR).

2. Description of the assignment

a. Specific objectives

The specific objective of this assignment is to provide support to the Ministry of Health, the competent authority for water in original packaging, to ensure compliance with health, safety, and quality criteria for water, as well as to address other issues related to placing water in original packaging on the market.

The support provided by relevant experts includes assistance in drafting the Law on Water in Original Packaging, as well as regulating other market-related issues, including:

- requirements for product quality and health safety;
- obligations regarding labelling and the provision of consumer information;
- monitoring and control of water quality in accordance with relevant EU standards;
- measures for the protection of water sources and sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

The objective of the support is to align national legislation with the relevant European Union acquis, in particular:

- Directive 2009/54/EC – on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters;
- Directive (EU) 2020/2184 – on the quality of water intended for human consumption;
- Commission Directive 2003/40/EC – establishing the list, maximum limits, and labelling requirements for constituents of natural mineral waters.

Through training organised with PLAC 4 support, the capacity of the competent authority for water in original packaging will be further strengthened, to ensure more effective implementation of laws and EU best practices in the areas of water quality, safety, and labelling on the market.

b. Requested services

The requested Senior Non-Key Expert (Senior NKE) is expected to provide the following services:

a) Support in the drafting of the Law and secondary legislation:

- Analysis of national legislation on water in original packaging and relevant secondary legislation in relation to the EU acquis (Directive 2009/54/EC, Directive (EU) 2020/2184, Commission Directive 2003/40/EC);
- Drafting of Rulebooks and other secondary legislative acts to ensure compliance with health, safety, and quality criteria for water;
- Preparation of compliance tables demonstrating the alignment of national laws and secondary legislation with the relevant EU directives;
- Consolidated analysis of the Law and secondary legislation to identify gaps and provide recommendations for alignment.



b) Design and implementation of training for relevant institutions:

- Exchange of good practices and application of regulations concerning health, safety, and quality criteria for water in original packaging;
- Addressing other relevant issues related to placing water in original packaging on the market;
- Supporting institutions in the implementation of new Rulebooks and practices in line with EU standards.

c. Expected results - Outputs

The outputs delivered by the **Senior NKE** shall be as follows:

- Comprehensive analysis of the Law and secondary legislation with recommendations for further harmonisation prepared;
- Law on Water in Original Packaging drafted in line with EU directives;
- Secondary legislation (Rulebooks) specifying criteria for water quality, health safety, and labelling drafted;
- Compliance tables documenting the alignment of national legislation with EU directives;
- Workshop delivered with a PowerPoint presentation on the results, aimed at relevant institutions, to present the draft Law and accompanying secondary legislation, as well as the results of analyses and compliance tables, including recommendations for implementation and harmonisation with EU directives.

d. Reporting

The NKE shall provide the following reports by using the templates of the Project:

- Brief Mission Report with description of activities and outputs provided, at the end of each month, in which tasks under this assignment have been carried out, if required by the Project Team Leader;
- Final Mission Report, no later than one week after completion of tasks under this assignment. This report will include a description of all activities and outputs provided by the NKE in the context of this assignment.

Submission of reports:

- All reports prepared in the relevant quality shall be submitted to the Project Team Leader for review, comments and final approval. The reports shall be signed by the NKE and the Team Leader, who is responsible for endorsing the reports.
- The reports and all prepared documents shall be submitted in hard copy and electronic version to the Team Leader of the project.

e. Specifics

The experts shall collaborate with the Project Technical Assistance Team throughout the assignment. The NKEs' activities and outputs mentioned above may be adjusted by the Team Leader at any stage of Project implementation, based on the Project's evolving needs and the main beneficiary.



The NKEs shall ensure that the implementation of activities is aligned with the Beneficiary. The experts shall closely coordinate activities with the assigned representatives of the institutions and others, as relevant, to ensure that aspects related to the implications of EU integration for Serbia are incorporated into all Project activities.

3. Expert's input

Total working days	20 working days (WDs)
Period of the assignment	April 2026 – June 2026
Starting day	It is expected that the work will be performed from April 2026 onwards. However, the exact starting date will be agreed upon at a later stage.
Location/place of assignment	The base of operation will be in Belgrade, Serbia and office facilities will be provided by the Project.
Working language	English

4. Expert's profile

Senior NKE	
Qualification and skills (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant university degree, preferably in fields related to law, health, or similar • Computer literacy • Be proficient in report drafting • Excellent communication and analytical skills • Proficiency in the English language • Be independent and free from conflicts of interest in the responsibilities they take on
General professional experience (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 8 (eight) years of relevant professional experience in harmonising legislation with EU acquis or policy creation in the field of quality of water. • Professional experience related to the Union acquis, gained in an EU Member State or in a candidate or potential candidate country.
Specific professional experience (50 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in the required area of water in original packaging – researching, analysing, drafting, and/or implementing legislation related to water in original packaging.



5. Applications

Applications (EU format CV in English using this format: www.ibf.be/public/events/17822/TEMPLATE_CV_EN_for_online_applications.docx) need to be submitted by e-mail to domi@ibf.dev with a copy to bortolameazzi@ibf.dev by **17:00 hrs, 21 April 2026**, titled: “Application for the position – Senior Non-Key Expert in the area of Ch. 28 – Law on Water in Original Packaging”.

References must be available on request. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

The Project is an equal opportunity employer that encourages applications from women and minorities. All applications will be considered strictly confidential.

The advertised post is not available to civil servants or other public administration officials in the beneficiary country, Serbia.

For more information, please contact the Project Director at IBF: bortolameazzi@ibf.dev.