



Policy and Legal Advice Centre (PLAC IV)

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

No. 62

Technical assistance requested:	1 (one) Senior and 1 (one) Junior Non-Key Expert in the area of Negotiating Ch. 28, Consumer and Health Protection; Law on Drinking Water
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 support further harmonisation of the Law on Drinking Water with the EU acquis, in particular with Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, to strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework, improve monitoring and control mechanisms, and ensure full alignment with EU standards for the safety and quality of drinking water.
Budget Line/Expert category	One Senior and one Junior Non-Key Expert
Duration of the assignment	25 working days (WD), (15 WD SNKE and 10 WD JNKE)

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 two 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 (MH), the competent authority in the field of drinking water. It includes assistance in finalising the drafting of the Law on Drinking Water, as well as consideration of other relevant issues related to ensuring the safety, quality, monitoring, and supply of water intended for human consumption.

The PLAC III project supported the Ministry of Health in drafting the Law on Drinking Water in 2019. In the meantime, on 23 December 2020, Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast) was adopted. EU Member States were obliged to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023.

The proposed assistance aims to align national legislation with the new EU acquis on drinking water, particularly Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption. Through this activity, legal norms related to drinking water quality standards, risk-based approaches to water safety, monitoring and control systems, consumer information, and the protection of human health will be prepared to align with Directive 2020/2184 (recast).

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

- Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption

Expert support is required to ensure compliance with health, safety, and quality criteria for water intended for human consumption, as well as to address other issues related to the monitoring, control, and management of drinking water.

The support provided by relevant experts includes assistance in completing the drafting of the Law on Drinking Water, as well as drafting rulebooks to address other regulatory and technical issues, including:

- requirements related to drinking water quality and health safety;
- the establishment and implementation of monitoring and control systems for drinking water in accordance with relevant EU standards;
- the application of a risk-based approach in drinking water supply systems, including risk assessment and risk management measures;
- measures aimed at protecting drinking water sources and ensuring a sustainable water supply.

Besides, through training organised with PLAC 4 support, the MH's capacity as the responsible authority for drinking water will be further strengthened to ensure more effective implementation of legislation and to gain knowledge of EU best practices in drinking water quality, safety, monitoring, and consumer protection.

b. Requested services

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

a) Support in drafting the Law on Drinking Water and secondary legislation

- Comprehensive analysis of national legislation on drinking water and relevant secondary legislation in relation to the European Union acquis - Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality



of water intended for human consumption (recast), to identify gaps and provide recommendations for alignment with EU acquis;

• Drafting specific provisions in the Law on Drinking Water regarding monitoring and laboratories, including:

- standards and methods for water testing;
- accreditation and quality control of laboratories;
- responsibilities of service providers and competent authorities in water quality monitoring.

• Drafting of Rulebooks and other secondary legislative acts to ensure compliance with health, safety, and quality criteria for drinking water, including:

- Rulebook on Drinking Water Quality;
- Rulebook on Risk Assessment and Risk Management Measures;
- Rulebook on Water Safety Plans (WSP);

b) Design and implementation of training for relevant institutions:

- Exchange of good practices and application of regulations concerning health, safety, and quality criteria for drinking water;
- Addressing other relevant issues related to the management, monitoring, and control of drinking water;
- Supporting competent institutions in the implementation of new Rulebooks and practices in line with EU standards, including the implementation of Water Safety Plans (WSP) and risk assessment procedures.

The requested **Junior NKE** is expected to provide the following services:

a) Analyse regulations and best practices related to drinking water in selected EU countries, with a focus on providing technical assistance in the preparation of draft proposals for the following documents:

- Rulebook on Drinking Water Quality;
- Rulebook on Risk Assessment and Risk Management Measures;
- Rulebook on Water Safety Plans (WSP).

b) Prepare the following supplementary documents:

- Table of Compliance for the Draft Law on Drinking Water;
- Tables of Compliance for the above-mentioned rulebooks;

c) Present the results of the analysis to the beneficiary.

c. Expected results - Outputs

The outputs delivered by the **Senior Non-Key Expert** (Senior NKE) shall be as follows:

- Comprehensive analysis of the Law and secondary legislation with recommendations for further harmonisation with EU standards and best practices prepared;



- Drafted and prepared Law on Drinking Water in line with EU directives, i.e. provisions on monitoring, laboratories, Water Safety Plans (WSP), and risk assessment;
- 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, monitoring, and harmonisation with EU directives.

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

- Comparative analysis of legislation and best practices of the selected EU countries related to drinking water quality, control and monitoring of supply;
- Compliance tables documenting the alignment of the Law on Drinking Water and secondary legislation with EU directives, demonstrating conformity with Directive (EU) 2020/2184 and other relevant EU acquis;
- Workshop held with a prepared PowerPoint presentation for relevant institutions to present examples of best practices in the regulation of the drinking water sector and their implementation in EU Member States.

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	25 working days (WD), (15 WD SNKE and 10 WD JNKE)
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 water quality. • 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"> • At least 5 (five) years of experience in the required area of Drinking Water legislation



Junior 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 5 (five) years of relevant professional experience in harmonising legislation with EU acquis or policy creation in the field of water quality • 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)	Experience in the required area of drinking water – researching, analysing, drafting, and/or implementing legislation related to drinking water.

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 / Junior Expert in the area of Ch. 28 – Law on Drinking Water.” Candidates are requested to specify whether they are applying for Senior or Junior positions.

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.