

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
Donje Svetice 38, Zagreb 10000, Croatia

DIGITAL INNOVATION AND GREEN TECHNOLOGY (DIGIT)
9558-HR

Call for Expression of Interest

Evaluators Database

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CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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1. Introduction

The World Bank (WB) is providing support to the Government of Croatia to implement the “Digital, Innovation, and Green Technology Project” (DIGIT). The project will facilitate the digital transformation and the green transition of the economy, increase resources for applied research and experimental development, and support the efforts of the Croatian government to strengthen its institutional capacity to deliver research and innovation policies. Digital transformation helps with the integration of digital technologies to increase productivity and economic efficiency. The green transition promotes and boosts the application of solutions to help the country transition towards an economy with neutral effects on the climate and the environment.

DIGIT project activities will finance, through various grant schemes, digital and green research and innovation, and will complement and enhance the effectiveness of investments and build the capacities of institutions to deliver on this agenda. The project will also support reforms envisaged in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), and activities important for the country’s accession to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE).

The Project aims to fill gaps in institutional and other enabling conditions, as well as to support financing for research and innovation. The interventions will build the capacities of institutions to deliver on the digital and green research and innovation agenda, complement and enhance the effectiveness of EU-funded investments and finance digital and green research and innovation.

The Government of Croatia and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) have signed the Loan Agreement (Loan No. 9558-HR) for the Digital Innovation and Green Technology Project (DIGIT) in the amount of EUR 106 million.

2. Background, objectives and scope

This **call for expression of interest (CEoI)** is for the Ministry of Science and Education Evaluators Database.

To ensure openness, fairness and impartiality in project proposal evaluation and selection, DIGIT will utilize the assistance of external experts in evaluating project proposals. This document summarizes the process and conditions applicable for becoming a DIGIT external expert.

If you are contacted for a task assignment, you will need to sign an **Expert Contract (Annex I)**.

By replying to this call and signing the contract, you agree to perform the assignments to the **highest professional standards** and in compliance with the:

- a. **conditions set out in this call**
- b. **Expert Terms of Reference (ToR) (Annex II)**

3. Deadline for submission of CEoI

This **CEoI** is permanently open for the entire duration of the DIGIT project (until December 2028).

4. Eligible profiles

Expert evaluators should satisfy following educational and professional requirements:

- completed at least university graduate study in scientific and artistic fields; according to common regulations on scientific and artistic areas, fields and branches;
- at least three (3) years of general work experience;
- experience in evaluation or/and management of projects financed from public sources at the national level (state and local budget) and/or EU level and/or international level, which include: strategic planning, development of new models, creation study or analysis, making recommendations, consultations and other similar activities related to public investments and public policies in science and higher education;
- very good language skills (in English) are mandatory.

5. Exclusion

Experts will be refused in case:

- they are in a conflict of interest;
- they are in one of the exclusion situations as stated in Annex II;
- during the contract award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information.

Applicants are obliged to submit a signed Declaration of honor on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest (Annex III).

6. Procedure

To work as an expert assisting in the evaluation of DIGIT applications, you must declare your interest by registering through the application form on the following [link](#). All applicants satisfying the minimum requirements will be accepted to DIGIT evaluators database. Once we have received project proposals, we will assign evaluations to available evaluators based on the best match of expertise.

Selection of experts will be made (when needed) from the database of registered experts, on the basis of selection criteria such as professional expertise and experience in the field of science and education and specifics stated in paragraph 4. The procedure will be objective and follow the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment.

Potential evaluator will be provided with an offer to sign a contract with the assignment details (e.g., tasks and working arrangements, remuneration and payment arrangements). By replying to this call and signing the contract, you agree to perform the assignments to the highest professional standards and in compliance with the conditions set out in the contract.

7. Data protection

Personal data of experts will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the contracting authority. If personal data is processed by the expert, this must be done in accordance with the written instructions of the data controller.