

National Coordinator for Measurement of Development and Early Learning (MODEL), MK-MLSP-135386-CS-INDV-2.2.13

Loan Number: 8902-MK

Project ID No. P162246

Project name: Social Services Improvement Project (SSIP)

Description of Assignment: National Coordinator for Measurement of Development and Early Learning (MODEL)

Method of Selection: Selection of Individual Consultants

I. OVERVIEW

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia has received Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for implementing the Macedonia Social Services Improvement Project (SSIP).

The SSIP development objective is to expand access to and improve the quality of social services, including preschool services, for vulnerable groups.

The Social Services Improvement Project will help address the challenges that are particularly associated with social exclusion of vulnerable groups and the low quality and fragmentation of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and social services.

By supporting strengthening the overall social protection delivery system for improved service provision and access to services by existing social assistance recipients and by vulnerable groups and by support of quality early learning for preschool children and their families and strengthen the transition into primary education with focus on inclusive education and learning, the project will contribute to the GoNM's ultimate objectives of alleviating poverty and enhancing human capital by supporting the strengthening of the effectiveness and efficiency of the GoNM's social safety net and thereby reducing the inter-generational transmission of poverty over the long run.

II. BACKGROUND

The Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes (MELQO) initiative generates globally comparable and locally-relevant data on children's learning and development at the start of school, and the quality of pre-primary learning environments.¹The MELQO tools are designed to inform governments on national ECD policy and programming to help improve quality. Through a consultative process, designed to draw on the best experiences in measuring ECD to date, MELQO has developed two survey modules for country adaptation:

- Measurement of Development and Early Learning (MODEL), which assesses children's cognitive and socioemotional development. This can be administered via direct assessment of children, and/or through parent/caregiver/teacher reporting.
- Measuring Early Learning Environments (MELE), which assesses the quality of preschool settings.

¹ MELQO was launched in 2014 by the World Bank, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution.

MODEL contains items indexing early literacy, mathematics, and executive function, and for the teacher/caregiver report it includes items on socio-emotional development. MODEL includes both a direct assessment module, which requires trained direct observers to assess the children; and a teacher/caregiver report module based on surveys with teachers and/or caregivers. The modules are designed to work together: the direct assessment module provides information on children's early learning, while the teacher/caregiver modules provide insight into children's behavior in school and at home. The caregiver modules provide insight into children's family backgrounds and home learning environments. MODEL measures cognitive, language, and executive function skills, as well as socio-emotional development.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) shall hire Principal Investigator that shall lead the process of adaptation of the MELQO tools in the country