United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID North Macedonia
Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE)

Program/Project/Activity Data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Project Name:</th>
<th>CDCS Coordination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance Objective:</td>
<td>North Macedonia is a Prosperous, Self-Reliant and Inclusive Democratic Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Area:</td>
<td>Program Design and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country(ies) and/or Operating Unit:</td>
<td>USAID North Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Originating Office:</td>
<td>Program Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD Level RCE:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCE/IEE Amendment:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental RCE:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If Yes, Purpose of Amendment:

DCN(s) of Related EA/IEE/RCE/ER(s):

Implementation Start/End: LOP: 06/2019 – 01/2020

Funding Amount: LOP Amount: $90,000

Contract/Award Number (if known): TBD

Recommended Determination: Categorical Exclusion

Additional Elements:

Government to Government: Local Procurement: Donor Co-Funded:

1. Project and Activity Description

1.1 Purpose and Scope of RCE: USAID/North Macedonia requires the services of a contractor to assist with the coordination and drafting of its new CDCS for the period 2020-2025. This will include facilitating processes for analyses and decision making as well as leading the drafting and finalization of associated documentation.

The Request for Categorical Exclusion will cover a period of eight months (the duration of the award) and will deal with interventions that do not harm the environment in any way because they fall under training and technical assistance.

1.2 Project Overview: The Contractor must work with the Program Office and the CDCS Working Group (WG) primarily, but also with the entire USAID/North Macedonia team to facilitate the CDCS process as laid out in the Wave 2b CDCS Guidance. The contractor must conduct an organized, participatory, and inclusive consultation process that allows all Mission staff to fully participate and share their opinions.

The contractor must facilitate the workshops, meetings, and brainstorming sessions for the Mission in all three phases of the CDCS process. These are the workshops and the sessions related to the context, roadmap analysis, alignment with the country priorities and U.S foreign policy considerations, the new USAID North Macedonia/CDCS Coordination
vision and strategic choices, creation of the Results Framework, and the narratives for the final strategic document.

2. Project Description and Climate Risk Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defined or illustrative activities</th>
<th>Potential Climate Risk</th>
<th>Climate Risk Rating*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Facilitating workshops and brainstorming sessions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Writing parts of the CDCS (in Phase I, II, and III)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination

The activities under the Local Services Provider will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, under §216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an EA will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended for the following identified activities under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):]

- Activities 1 & 2 under §216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

4. Limitations of the Categorical Exclusion Determination:

This categorical exclusion does not cover classes of actions normally having a significant effect on the environment under §216.2(d):

i. Programs of river basin development;
   ii. Irrigation and water management;
   iii. Agricultural land leveling;
   iv. Drainage projects;
   v. Large scale agricultural mechanization;
   vi. Resettlement projects;
   vii. New land development;
   viii. Penetration road building and road improvement;
   ix. Powerplants;
   x. Industrial plants; and
   xi. Potable water and sewerage projects

In addition, this categorical exclusion does not cover activities that:

- Support project preparation, project feasibility studies, engineering design for activities listed in §216.2(d)(1);
- Affect endangered species ;
- Provide support to extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);
- Promote timber harvesting;
- Lead to construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation work;
- Support agro-processing or industrial enterprises;
- Provide support for regulatory permitting;
- Lead to privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property;
- Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, cleanup of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement,
transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials—pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; and/or

- Procure or use genetically modified organisms.

Any of these actions would require a Europe and Eurasia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approved amendment to the categorical exclusion.

5. Mandatory Inclusion of Environmental Compliance Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets, and Work Plans

- Appropriate environmental compliance language, including limitations defined in Section 4, shall be incorporated into solicitations and awards for categorical exclusions.
- The implementing partner shall ensure annual work plans do not prescribe activities that are defined as limitations in Section 4.

6. Revisions

Under §216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by the categorical exclusion might be considered major and their effect significant, or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered major and their effect significant, this categorical exclusion determination will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) with concurrence by the BEO. It is the responsibility of the USAID Contract Officer’s Representative (COR)/Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this determination.

7. Recommended Determination for Categorical Exclusion:

Approval:

Nancy Godfrey, Acting Country Representative  
Date: 05/03/2019

Clearance:

Ivica Vasev, Mission Environmental Officer  
Date: 05/23/2019

Clearance:

Ivica Vasev, COR  
Date: 05/23/2019

Concurrence:

Mark Kamiya  
E&E Bureau Environmental Officer  
Date: 05/23/2019

Distribution:

IEE File  
MEO (to also provide a copy to AOR/COR)

Attachments: Annex A Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Activity/Project/Strategy Design
## Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Activity Design

### ACTIVITY CRM TOOL OUTPUT MATRIX: CLIMATE RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND ACTIONS - CDCS Coordination

* = A required element, according to the Mandatory Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1: Defined or Anticipated Tasks or Interventions*</th>
<th>1.2: Time-frame</th>
<th>1.3: Geography</th>
<th>2: Climate Risks*</th>
<th>3: Adaptive Capacity</th>
<th>4: Climate Risk Rating* [Enter rating for each risk: High, Moderate, or Low]</th>
<th>5: Opportunities*</th>
<th>6.1: Climate Risk Management Options</th>
<th>6.2: How Climate Risks Are Addressed in the Activity*</th>
<th>7: Next Steps for Activity Implementation</th>
<th>8: Accepted Climate Risks*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Facilitating workshops and brainstorming sessions</td>
<td>June 2019 - January 2020</td>
<td>North Macedonia</td>
<td>No direct risks are associated with this component since it falls under technical assistance</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Writing parts of the CDCS (in Phase I, II, and III)  

| North Macedonia | June 2019 - January 2020 | N/A | Low | To incorporate the findings from the Biodiversity Assessment as well as the Climate Risk Screening that are being conducted in the preparation of the CDCS. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

No direct risks are associated with this component since it falls under technical assistance.