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|  <p>ECOWAS COMMISSION<br/>COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO<br/>COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO</p> | <p>HARMONIZING AND IMPROVING STATISTICS IN<br/>WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA PROJECT<br/>(HISWACA -SOP1) (P178497)</p> <hr/> <p>PROJET D'HARMONISATION ET D'AMELIORATION<br/>DES STATISTIQUES EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET<br/>DU CENTRE<br/>(PHASAOC-SOP1) (P178497)</p> |  <p>THE WORLD BANK<br/>IBRD - IDA</p> |
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**HARMONIZING AND IMPROVING STATISTICS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA  
PROJECT  
(HISWACA - SOP1) (P178497)**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE No. 02/ECOWAS/DRS/HISWACA/2024**

**Start date: 02 February, 2024**

**End date: 15 February, 2024**

**Title: Recruitment of a Consultant for the development and dissemination of a database (Database Development and Dissemination)**

**I. BACKGROUND**

Within the framework of the ECOWAS Commission's regional statistical development programme, the Conference of Heads of State and Government adopted a statistical policy in 1996 with a view to strengthening the capacity of national and the regional statistical systems to meet the demand for reliable statistics, with data that is comparable and generated in time for the development. It will also enable the monitoring and evaluation of community development policies and programmes. The ECOWAS Commission is implementing this policy through the formulation of regional statistical programmes in various statistical fields. To achieve the objectives of this policy, the Commission also mobilizes technical and financial resources from development partners. In response, the Commission has received a grant from the World Bank to implement the "Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa (HISWA)" Project. The Project supports national statistical systems and the ECOWAS regional statistical system in the process of producing up-to-date, reliable and harmonized statistics mainly covering social and economic data.

As part of the implementation of the HISWA Project, the ECOWAS Commission is developing and managing sectoral databases for the various departments. It is also necessary to facilitate the compilation of harmonized statistics by developing automated computer applications and creating data portals for disseminating statistics. Automated and harmonized tools include applications for compiling annual national accounts, quarterly national accounts, the consumer price index, public financial statistics, the balance of payments, and so on. Data portals are online platforms that help users access data collections such as STATBASE, portals for sustainable development goals, population and vital statistics, etc.

To have the Directorate of Research and Statistics perform these tasks, the Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture is hereby soliciting the recruitment of an Information Technology Consultant for advising, planning, designing, developing, deploying and maintaining IT systems for automated harmonized statistical tools, as well as database and portal management.

The consultancy services include the elements listed below for a one (1) year initial contract period renewable based on satisfactory performance. The consultant will be based full-time at the Project Management Unit (PMU) in the office of the Directorate of Research and Statistics of the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja.

The activities to be carried out by the IT Expert are as follows:

- Analyse economic data to identify patterns and trends that can help create models applicable in forecasting future results;
- Create new analysis methods or develop new software tools for data analysis;
- Develop new techniques for data collection and survey design;
- Prepare reports on data analysis results for the use of the Directorate or other stakeholders;
- Create new models to predict future behaviour based on past data;
- Develop IT programmes for automation;
- Understand the design and development of databases, data portals in collaboration with ECOWAS institutions and agencies, with a view to assessing data comparability in the region;
- Consult the various departments of ECOWAS institutions in developing automated applications, data portals and databases;
- Identify information system requirements and define portal and database objectives;
- Make recommendations, such as suggesting appropriate hardware, software and systems for effective data management;
- Design, install and test new systems and software, and resolve any problems arising in compiling and presenting information and statistics;
- Network with regional institutions on statistical dissemination issues;
- Define appropriate policies for regional databases and the development of harmonized automated statistical tools;
- Ensure data confidentiality, integrity and protection;
- Develop regional tools to disseminate harmonized statistical data for the regional statistical programme;
- Propose improvements to statistical methods and procedures and implement changes to processing systems and applications for handling, storing and retrieving statistical data;
- Facilitate the publication and dissemination of statistics in relevant areas of regional integration, including economic and trade surveillance and the monitoring of regional and international development programmes;
- Facilitate the implementation of harmonized data dissemination frameworks by ECOWAS Member States, including compliance with international standards and frameworks;
- Facilitate the modernization of the regional statistical system with the implementation of modern data collection methods in line with international standards and frameworks, and;
- Perform any other tasks assigned by the hierarchy.

The IT Specialist will, in collaboration with other ECOWAS professionals, support the strengthening of national statistical systems by providing modern tools relevant to economic management.

The ECOWAS Commission is, through the Directorate of Research and Statistics, inviting interested, eligible and qualified applicants (Individual Consultants) to express their interest in providing the Services. Interested consultants must provide information (*documentation in English, French or Portuguese in Word and PDF format*) demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to deliver the services (references relating to the execution of similar contracts, copies of diplomas/degrees, attestations, certifications, etc.).

## II. PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

Applicants to this position must have the following qualifications:

- Have a master's degree in computer science coupled with economics, statistics, information technology, econometrics or equivalent diploma ;
- Have at least 5 years' experience as a Data Scientist or database/data portal programmer and developer of statistical computing applications;
- Have a solid knowledge of database design and database management, including economic data modelling, schema design, database installation, patching, high availability and cluster recovery design;
- Be skilled in debugging and optimization ;
- Being proficient in Python or R programming languages is an additional asset.
- Have analytical skills: the database and automated harmonized statistical tool developer must be able to analyse data inflow, classification and application;
- Have good communication skills: The database and automated harmonized statistical tool developer must be able to work in a team including other agents, analysts, database administrators and others;
- Pay attention to details: data is complex, so the developer needs to be able to examine the smallest details to ensure that it is accurately calculated and correctly saved;
- Have logical thinking: the developer must be able to understand how data is organised, stored, accessed and retrieved in a user-friendly way;
- Be able to solve data problems as they arise.
- Have a good command of macroeconomic and socio-economic statistics and a proper understanding of development issues, particularly in the ECOWAS region;
- Have a strong ability to analyse action from stakeholders' point of view and to translate strategic thinking into convincing action plans;
- Be able to build and lead motivated and committed teams across functional boundaries, and to productively make use of team members' talent and expertise;
- Have a perfect command of two of ECOWAS' official languages, with the knowledge of a third language being an asset, and;
- Be able to partner with other institutions and produce results that meet the needs of the ECOWAS community and long-term interests within and outside the Institution.

Applications will be assessed based on the following evaluation criteria and rating scale:

| No.       | Evaluation criteria   | Rating scale     |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| <b>I</b>  | <b>General qualifications (education and experience)</b>  | <b>20 points</b> |
| I-1       | Hold a master's degree in computer science with economics, statistics, in information technology with econometrics, or any equivalent diploma/degree  | 5                |
| I-2       | Have at least 5 years' experience as a Data Scientist or database/data portal programmer and developer of statistical computing applications  | 15               |
| <b>II</b> | <b>Specific experience in link with the assignment</b>  | <b>60 points</b> |
| II-1      | Have a solid knowledge of database design and database management, including economic data modelling, schema design, database installation, patching, high availability and cluster recovery design | 20               |
| II-2      | Have analytical skills: the database and automated harmonized statistical tool developer must be able to analyse data inflow, classification and application  | 20               |

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| II-3                | Have a good command of macroeconomic and socio-economic statistics and a proper understanding of development issues, particularly in the ECOWAS region | 20                |
| <b>III</b>          | <b>IT and language skills</b>  | <b>20 points</b>  |
| III-1               | Good command of computer applications for processing automated and harmonised statistical tools  | 10                |
| III-2               | Proficiency in a second language of ECOWAS   | 10                |
| <b>TOTAL SCORES</b> |  | <b>100 Points</b> |

**Remark:** Compulsory prerequisites to be met include the presentation of attestations of service rendered as regards the execution of contracts for similar missions, studies and/or activities in connection with the assignment. Similar services that are not backed with legible cover sheet copies and signatures for contracts performed and certificates of successful completion will not be taken into consideration in the evaluation.

### III. SELECTION METHOD

The consultant will be recruited using the Individual Consultants' Selection method, and in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for Borrowers Applying for Investment Project Financing (IPF), November 2023 revised version.

The selection procedure will be based on a competitive call for applicants and will comprise two phases:

- A pre-selection phase, in which a shortlist of the best-qualified candidates for the assignment is drawn up based on an analysis of received applications, and;
- An interview phase with shortlisted candidates with the highest scores, following which the successful candidate will be invited to negotiations for awarding the contract.

### IV. COMPOSITION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates must submit a file comprising:

- A cover letter;
- An updated Curriculum Vitae;
- Copies of diplomas/degrees and certificates, and;
- Copies of contracts or certificates for previous services.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below, during office opening hours, **Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

Applications can be submitted by e-mail at the following address: [cedeo.phasao.ugp@gmail.com](mailto:cedeo.phasao.ugp@gmail.com), with a copy to **Mahamadou YAHAYA**: Director, Research and Statistics (HISWA Project Coordinator): [mnyahaya65@gmail.com](mailto:mnyahaya65@gmail.com); [myahaya@ecowas.int](mailto:myahaya@ecowas.int) no later than **15 February, 2024 at 4:00 pm GMT.**



**Mahamadou YAHAYA**  
PHASAO Coordinator