



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria-Vlada-Government
Ministria e Arsimit dhe Shkencës/
Ministarstvo Obrazovanja i Nauke/Ministry of Education and Science

Request for Expression of Interest

Country: Kosovo

World Bank Loan/Credit Name: Early Childhood Education and Care for Kosovo's Human Capital (ECEC-HCP)

Project ID: P179656

Date: 10.08.2026

Independent Verification Agent

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) is currently implementing the Voucher Program, a sub-component of Early Childhood Education and Care for Kosovo's Human Capital Project. The Voucher Program aims to increase access to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services for children ages 3-5 coming from families registered in the Social Assistance Scheme (SAS). The Program covers early childhood education and transportation costs, allowing families to enroll their children in kindergarten and enabling parents to engage in full time work.

The Program is funded by a performance based grant from the World Bank's Early Learning Partnership Multi Donor Trust Fund, with funding contingent upon MES meeting agreed performance targets. The Program is implemented by MES through its Division on Private Pre University Education (DPPE).

The implementation period spans from December 2024 until June 2027 and will finance early childhood education and transportation expenses for up to 400 children per year. The Voucher Program does not cover public preschool institutions or alternative forms that are fully financed by public funds. Therefore, eligible institutions include: private preschool institutions, preschool institutions in public-private partnerships, and other alternative forms of organization in accordance with the legislation in force. As of now, the program is operational in 47 licensed preschool institutions across 15 participating municipalities (Prishtinë, Pejë, Ferizaj, Mitrovicë, Gjakovë, Prizren, Lipjan, Drenas, Suharekë, Klinë, Fushë Kosovë, Viti, Vushtri, Gjiilan, and Shtime).

OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT

MES is seeking the services of an experienced entity to serve as the Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for the Voucher Program. The main objective of the IVA is to verify the achievement of the Performance Based Conditions (PCBs) under the Program where disbursement of funds depends on increasing enrolment among targeted community groups. Each percentage point increase from the baseline (2.33%) yields an allocation of USD 78,750, with an annual target increase of 8%, capped at USD 630,000. To meet this target, approximately 400 children must complete six months of preschool attendance yearly. The assignment will include all municipalities covered by the Program (currently 15), subject to expansion following MES's annual participation call. The assignment will cover the period from April 2025 until June 2027.

Responsibilities

The IVA will verify the achievements of the PBC targets and confirm voucher distribution (including transportation) and child attendance against criteria already established in the *Project Appraisal Document (PAD)* and the *Guidelines on the functioning of the Voucher Program*. To this end, the independent agent will use all available means to form its opinion.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- The application entity should demonstrate at least 5 years of institutional experience in conducting third-party verification, program evaluation, or compliance monitoring of public funds, donor-funded, or results-based programs.
- Demonstrate prior experience working on projects in the education sector, early childhood education and care (ECEC), social protection, voucher-based or conditional financing schemes.
- Have the operational capacity to conduct field verification, including site visits, spot checks, beneficiary verification, and random sampling across multiple municipalities.
- Experience in programs addressing children's rights, child protection, or advocacy for equitable access to education and early childhood services shall be considered an asset.

Other specific tasks, deliverables, professional and qualified key staff requirements etc. are indicated under TOR for this assignment.

Selection process:

Experienced and qualified firms will be selected according to the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers' (the Regulations), issued in July 2016, and revised November 2017 and August 2018, based on an open call for **Consultant's Qualifications based Selection (CQS)**.

Detailed TOR for this assignment is available on MES web page.

Interested firms or Joint Ventures may obtain further information about the assignment by contacting the following email address: vlora.j.ferizi@rks-gov.net.

Expression of interest may be submitted to the below stated address until: **24 August, 2026, 16:00 local time**

**Ministry of Education and Science,
Address: St. Agim Ramadani ,10000 Prishtina
Office: Archive Office No. 4, Ground Floor**