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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Request for Information (RFI) No. RFI-121-16-000001

Project Name: Anti-Corruption through eGovernance

Date of issuance: November 17, 2015

Response due: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 at 17:00 Kyiv Local Time

To e-mail: morlova@usaid.gov; rfpkyiv@usaid.gov

This is a Request for Information. This is not a Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Applications (RFA) and is not to be construed as a commitment by the U.S. Government to issue any solicitation or Notice of Funding Opportunity, or ultimately award a contract or assistance agreement on the basis of this RFI, or to pay for any information voluntarily submitted as a result of this request.

USAID posts its competitive business opportunities on www.fbo.gov or www.grants.gov. It is the potential offeror's/applicant's responsibility to monitor these sites for announcement of new opportunities. Please note that responding to this RFI will not give any advantage to any organization or individual in any subsequent competition. Responses may be used by USAID without restriction or limitation. Therefore, proprietary information should not be sent.

This USAID/Ukraine Request for Information (RFI) is issued for the purpose to offer the opportunity for interested organizations and individuals to provide information, opinions, and recommendations on approaches for the implementation of a contemplated activity to address corruption in Ukraine through eGovernance.

Responses should be sent as email attachments in English. This RFI will be open from the date of release through December 3, 2015 at 17:00 Kyiv Local Time. Please send all responses to this RFI via email to morlova@usaid.gov and rfpkyiv@usaid.gov. You will receive an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response, but will not receive feedback. Please do not submit applications, proposals, resumes, promotional materials, statements of qualifications, as they will be discarded. Responses should not exceed five (5) pages.

Questions regarding this announcement will not be answered. After USAID reviews and considers any responses, a decision will be made regarding whether and how to proceed with a new activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Lord". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

JOHN F. LORD
Regional Contracting Officer
USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine,
Moldova, Belarus and Cyprus

Attachments:

1. Concept Paper (6 pages)



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CONCEPT PAPER

Activity Title:	Anti-Corruption through eGovernance
Purpose:	Reduce corruption and improve effectiveness of government in Ukraine through transformative eGovernance initiatives
Period of Performance:	TBD
Funding Amount:	TBD
Proposed Implementing Mechanism:	TBD

I. Introduction

The Anti-Corruption through eGovernance activity, as part of a more comprehensive anti-corruption project in Ukraine, will expand initiatives involving the use of technology in government (e-governance) to transform public administration, improve provision of services, and greatly increase access to public information. These areas are part of reform efforts currently underway in Ukraine and anticipated assistance will focus on: 1) reform of public procurement through use of electronic procurement; 2) implementation of an Open Data program; and 3) development of electronic services. The Anti-Corruption through eGovernance activity will go beyond technology solutions to address policies and practices within government, as well as the ability of individual citizens, civil society and the private sector to fully benefit from these changes.

II. Context

Many reform efforts currently underway in Ukraine include an element of e-governance. At the national level, legislative reform and development of policies related to e-governance continue at a rapid pace. For example, in 2015, revisions to laws on access to public information, public procurement, and citizen appeals have laid the ground for significant change. Most recently, the Cabinet of Ministers issued a decree requiring over 300 data registries to be made public in the next six months via the national Open Data portal (data.gov.ua).

Key ministries are also fully engaged in fighting corruption through e-governance. The Ministry for Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) has implemented an electronic procurement system across numerous ministries and municipalities, while also moving forward with a single portal for access to administrative services. The Ministry of Finance has launched a budget transparency project, including a website where users can view local level expenditure information. Several ministries, including the Ministry of Infrastructure, are leading the effort to open their data registries. Similarly, local

governments are implementing a range of reforms enabled by technology, including improved public services, participatory budgeting, etc.

All branches of the national government are developing ePetition solutions in line with amendments to the law on citizen appeals. In August, 2015, the President's Administration launched an e-petitions website <https://petition.president.gov.ua/>, followed by the Verkhovna Rada site <https://itd.rada.gov.ua/petitions> launched in October.

These efforts also align to Ukraine's current Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP), which contains specific action items related to increased access to public information, publication of public data in open data format, creation of a single portal for administrative services, transparency in the extractive industries, and access to urban planning information.

The above are just examples of a wide range of e-governance initiatives. There are ongoing efforts to coordinate across the national government via the State Agency for eGovernance, which leads an Inter-Ministerial Council focused on eGovernance issues. A roadmap for e-governance in Ukraine is one of the anticipated products of the Council.

While there is progress in numerous areas, there are two key reform initiatives where significant opportunity exists and momentum is building; specifically the use of electronic procurement and creation of an Open Data regime in Ukraine. A third area relates to delivery of eServices to reduce corruption. Although distinct in many ways, these areas also exhibit overlap.

Electronic Procurement: Following the Revolution of Dignity, a team of reform-minded individuals developed an electronic procurement solution based largely on the experience of Georgia. Their primary objective was to end corrupt practices in the public procurement sphere. The ProZorro initiative <http://prozorro.org/> was formally launched in February, 2015, and has since become one of the key tangible reform steps cited by the government as well as civil society. As of early November, estimated savings to public budget are approaching 400M Hryvnia.

Legislative amendments have allowed for wide-scale use of electronic procurement on a pilot basis within the government at both the national and municipal levels. A new draft Law on Public Procurement expected to be introduced in the Verkhovna Rada by the end of 2015, would mandate the use of electronic procurement in Ukraine for the vast majority of cases by January 1, 2017. However, many challenges to successful scaled rollout exist. These include policy and technical issues as well as capacity within

the public sector to reform public procurement through the use of e-procurement methods.

Successful implementation of e-procurement in Ukraine would not only transform public sector practices through transparency and accountability. It would also open up new opportunities for a wider range of businesses, contributing to economic growth. E-procurement is also a component of European integration and Ukraine's recent accession to the Government Procurement Agreement under the World Trade Organization.

Open Data: In April, 2015, amendments to the law on Access to Public Information introduced the requirement for government entities in Ukraine to make their data available in open data format. A further step toward implementation came on October 21, 2015, when a Cabinet of Ministers decree identified over 300 data sets to be published within six months. The data must be published on the official open data portal - <http://data.gov.ua/>, a site developed by the organization SocialBoost, which is now in the process of being transferred to the State Agency for eGovernance.

In May 2015, the Verkhovna Rada passed legislation requiring greater fiscal transparency of government entities in Ukraine. Essentially, most government bodies, including municipal governments, will meet this requirement through an open data approach. Kyiv City has recently introduced a transparent budget tool <http://new.kievcity.gov.ua/> and in early October, the Ministry of Finance launched <http://www.e-data.gov.ua/> to offer greater budget transparency across Ukraine.

In addition to giving civil society and individual citizens greater access to information to hold government accountable, access to Open Data can be a way to introduce new public services as NGOs and the private sector are increasingly able to use public data to create new tools and services. This in turn can take a burden off of the public sector for developing and maintaining a full range of public services.

eServices: Electronic services are an efficient means of delivering a range of public services. As comprehensive public administration reform and decentralization efforts are carried out, governments at the national and local level in Ukraine will increasingly rely on technology to inform and deliver services to citizens and businesses. At the same time, automation of services minimizes corruption opportunities by creating standardized, auditable transactions. This will be a key to reducing petty corruption as experienced by citizens on a daily basis.

Implementation of eServices is not simple. At a minimum it requires analysis of existing processes to ensure elimination of unnecessary steps through re-engineering. It also requires technical solutions that will allow for data required as part of a given service to

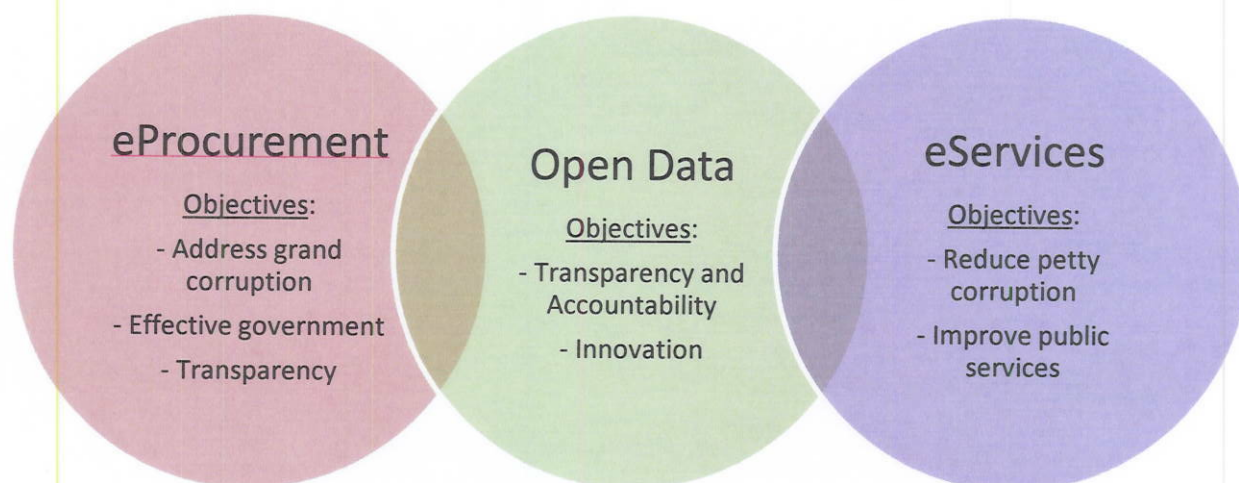
be exchanged in a reliable and secure manner. As such, a national interoperability solution will be essential to allow for a greater expansion in the number of eServices offered in Ukraine.

The State Agency for e-Governance is testing interoperability solutions to connect all necessary governmental databases via a single secure data exchange layer. This solution will connect government databases for secure online public services with the goal of making public services accessible, transparent and efficient.

As a way of improving the experience for citizens and businesses, many local governments and national level ministries have introduced administrative service portals. However, without a minimum level of coordination and connection between such portals, the citizen's experience can be frustrating. MEDT is taking steps to address this and released a new single portal for administrative services in October 2015. Over the next year, the number of services available on <http://poslugy.gov.ua/> will increase significantly. In the long-term, local service portals would connect to the central portal, creating a seamless experience for citizens and businesses.

III. Approach

As noted above, the proposed activity components of Electronic Procurement, Open Data, and eServices are overlapping yet distinct. Although technical assistance to each area will need to be specialized, there is also a need for close collaboration between components. For example, electronic procurement can be viewed as an e-service made available by MEDT to other government entities, businesses, and the public at large. It also generates a significant amount of data, which should be included in an Open Data program. Similarly, a successful Open Data program will fuel new e-Services.



In all cases, on the supply side there is a need to address fundamental technology issues, improve the legislative and policy framework, and increase the capacity of government to develop and deliver related programs. On the demand side, public awareness and inclusion are key issues, as well as the need to build capacity in civil society organizations and effectively engage the private sector.

Another important aspect to note is that each of the component areas has different key stakeholders in the Government of Ukraine. For eProcurement this is the Public Procurement team within MEDT. For Open Data, this is the State Agency for eGovernance. For eServices, stakeholders include MEDT and the State Agency for eGovernance. The scale of the effort is also national and will include regional and municipal level stakeholders.

IV. Activity Design Questions

USAID/Ukraine ideally envisions a unified approach under this activity. However, there are several key questions related to the specific design, for which USAID/Ukraine is seeking input under this RFI. These questions are as follow:

1. Describe what you see as the best development practices in each of the described component areas.
2. Are there emerging, innovative models to apply to one or more of the component areas which are relevant for Ukraine? If so, please elaborate.

3. What do you see as the benefits and/or drawbacks to a single activity with several components vs. several separate activities?
4. What do you view as more appropriate for such potential activities, acquisition or assistance, and why?
5. Describe how the key factors of sustainability and gender inclusion can be addressed.

Responses to the above questions will help to ensure that the proposed Anti-Corruption through eGovernance activity is relevant and impactful.

[End of Request for Information]