

Call for Preschool Expert

Project: Preschool Education for All Children (PEACH) / Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H)

Caritas Switzerland (hereafter called CaCH) is looking for a Preschool Expert in line with the below Terms of Reference.

I. Context and Background

According to the Framework Law on Preschool Care and Education in B&H, preschool education is compulsory for every child. Based on data from UNICEF (2015), merely 15% of children in B&H attend preschool; this rate is way lower among Roma children (1.5%). Low enrolment rates are partly due to lack of awareness on the need for preschool education, shortage of preschool facilities, but also due to administrative and financial constraints that particularly affect vulnerable families. Authorities often lack expertise and resources in the preschool sector, but are very open for a cooperation to address this educational gap. Therefore, CaCH has started a project “Preschool Education for All Children – PEACH”. The PEACH project is implemented in partnership with the Association Društvo ujedinjenih građanskih akcija DUGA in Canton Sarajevo and the Association for Development LEDA in Zenica-Doboj Canton (Kakanj, Zenica and Zavidovići municipality).

Overall objective of the project is that children from vulnerable families develop a positive attitude towards learning and are prepared to enter primary school. Specific objectives are the following:

- Children from vulnerable families attend preschool.
- Preschools provide a stimulating and inclusive learning environment.
- Relevant public institutions strengthen preschool education and promote child development in vulnerable families.

CaCH collaborates closely with the relevant ministries of education and public institutions to secure the necessary ownership, sustainability and institutional embedding of the project. Together with its partners, CaCH reaches out to vulnerable families with a focus on Roma families. A first step is the provision of socio-economic support to overcome the barriers for preschool enrolment. Further, social workers and Roma mediators facilitate the exchange between parents, preschools and other relevant institutions. The focus of the project is to recognize the needs of every child. Preschool facilities become more child-friendly through a stimulating environment and diversified didactic materials that are offered. Pedagogic faculties develop new learning modules and materials, while preschool teachers are trained in contemporary methodologies and approaches for the direct work with children from vulnerable families.

II. Purpose of the Engagement of the Preschool Expert

The Preschool Expert shall provide technical support for the development and introduction of various modules for the education of current and future preschool teachers. The modules shall contain theoretical and practical parts with a focus on “Learning through Play” and the importance of “Play” for children aged 4 to 6 years. The modules will be developed in cooperation with professors from the Pedagogic Faculty, University of Sarajevo, and the Islamic Pedagogic Faculty, Zenica, within CaCH’s PEACH project.

Duration of the assignment: February 2020 – May 2021

III. Main tasks of the Preschool Expert

- The Preschool Expert will lead the working group with professors from two pedagogic faculties. Together they will produce a set of modules which will cover ECEC focusing on the “Learning through Play” methodology. Each module will cover a theoretical part accompanied with practical examples that will be applicable for the education of children aged 4 to 6 years in preschools in B&H.

- The Consultant will use the existing material in the field of ECEC that CaCH already possesses and will do research on new materials in the same field, offering ideas for new approaches that would be in compliance with the already existing curricular reform in Canton Sarajevo.
- The Preschool Expert will deliver a training for Master Trainers based on the developed training modules (theoretical part with a focus on the practical examples) in the field of ECEC.
- The Preschool Expert will be responsible for the delivery and will ensure the quality of all training materials and resources developed for the implementation of the developed modules in kindergarten.
- The Preschool Expert will offer a short work report with recommendations on how to improve the existing curriculum for ECEC in kindergarten and faculties.

IV. Required Qualifications

- University degree in Education, Preschool Education, Early Childhood Development, Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology, Special Pedagogy or other fields of Social Studies and Humanities;
- At least 8 years of experience in education policy and curriculum development, in the area of early learning will be an asset;
- Experience in the design and realisation of teacher training programmes, mentoring and supervision;
- Experience in the design and development of games – development of various didactic materials;
- Excellent knowledge of current ECEC methodologies, policies and major initiatives, including inclusive education (inclusion of children coming from the most vulnerable families into the educational system with a focus on the inclusion of the Roma children)
- Familiarity with the educational system of Bosnia and Herzegovina and context of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a strong asset
- Languages: English, knowledge of the local language is must

V. Place, Time, Duration of Assignment and Resources

The assignment shall be carried out from February to May 2021 with the following schedule and deadlines:

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| • Deadline for submission of offers: | 16.02.2020 |
| • Selection, clarification of scope and contracting: | 24.02.2020 |
| • Development of modules: | March to June 2020 |
| • Education of Master Trainers: | September to December 2020 |
| • Introduction of the modules at the faculties: | June 2020 |
| • Testing of modules at the faculties: | School year 2020/2021 |

The total number of working days will be suggested by the consultant and will be agreed with CaCH.

VI. Application process

The application must include a financial proposal in BAM as a separate document, providing the following information:

- a cover letter which clearly summarises relevant experience
- a technical proposal, including a critical analysis of the ToRs, as well as a proposed concept including envisaged methods and a work schedule
- a financial proposal, including a daily fee plus an estimation of travel costs including allowances and translation, if needed

For questions regarding the offer, the project, or the consultancy please contact isrepfler@caritas.ch or ecurulija@caritas.ch. Deadline for the submission is 16 February 2020. Please send your offer to bih@caritas.ch indicating in the subject:

Preschool Expert – Preschool Education for All Children

Sarajevo, 28 January 2020