TERMS OF REFERENCE

General Information

Grant no:	2025/488-600
Project Implementer:	Center for economic analyses - CEA Skopje
Type of action:	Grant EU for Rule of Law (IPA 2021))
Program	EU for Rule of Law (IPA 2021) EuropeAid/183031/DD/ACT/MK
Title:	Strengthening Integrity in Climate Finance: Transparent & Accountable Climate Finance for Corruption Prevention
Internal short title:	Climate Finance
Project start date:	3/12/2025
Project end date:	02/06/2028
link:	(if required)

Position: Senior Expert(s) for Conceptualizing Climate Adaptation Finance Governance

Location: North Macedonia

Start/End Date: June – November 2026

Contact Person: Igor Mitevski, ceaorgmk@gmail.com , 077656334

Project Information

The Project *"Strengthening Integrity in Climate Finance: Transparent and Accountable Climate Finance for Corruption Prevention"* aims to strengthen integrity, transparency, and accountability of climate finance at the local level in North Macedonia, thereby reducing corruption risks and improving resource allocation.

Climate finance is increasingly channelled through complex public finance management (PFM) systems at both central and local levels, involving state budget allocations, donor and EU funds, reimbursement mechanisms, and municipalities own-source revenues earmarked for environment and climate-related actions. While climate-related investments are essential for sustainable development and socio-economic resilience, they are also exposed to heightened corruption risks due to fragmented funding streams, limited transparency, weak risk management, and uneven institutional capacities, particularly at the local level.

Within this context, the project seeks to establish a comprehensive, evidence-based understanding of the current state of climate-responsive PFM in North Macedonia. It will generate a baseline assessment examining economic impacts, identifying corruption risks, with a specific focus on municipalities that receive and manage climate-related funds through their local budgets. This analysis will be supported by targeted case studies of pilot municipalities selected to receive project support.

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Objective and Scope of Engagement

The objective of this activity is to establish a framework for climate adaptation finance governance that will guide the allocation and efficacy of climate finance. This will involve identifying and suggesting governance standards in collaboration with stakeholders (e.g., government, businesses, CSOs, and international funding agencies).

By synthesizing existing theories and best practices, a set of mutually agreed-upon indicators that reflect good governance in the context of climate adaptation finance will be developed (the process will include the examination of the four core components of climate finance—planning, accessing, delivering, and monitoring) through the lens of five governance criteria: transparency, accountability, participation, integrity, and coherence. The enhanced governance is expected to promote greater accountability and transparency in climate finance management, ultimately benefiting vulnerable populations and improving socio-economic resilience to climate change.

Main Tasks and Responsibilities

<u>ASSIGNMENT: ACTIVITY 1.3 – Conceptualizing Climate Adaptation Finance Governance</u>

<u>DELIVERABLE</u>: Comprehensive Study on Existing Climate Finance Landscape (Central and Local Levels)
A comprehensive Climate Adaptation Finance Governance Framework, developed through a structured methodology and informed by international standards, best practices, and findings from the Climate Finance Awareness survey, incorporating inputs from multi-stakeholder consultations; the deliverable will include a validated set of governance indicators across key climate finance components (planning, accessing, delivering, and monitoring) and governance principles (transparency, accountability, participation, integrity, and coherence), a draft and finalized governance framework, as well as a policy brief, all refined through stakeholder feedback obtained via an online validation workshop.

The expert(s) shall be supported in the process of data and information collection from CEA researcher(s).

Task 1. Preparation of Methodology

Define research design, stakeholder engagement, and analytical framework.

Task 2. Review of Frameworks and Best Practices

Analyse international standards and practices. Review OECD, UNFCCC, GFDRR, IPCC, AF, GCF governance standards.

Task 3. Integration of Survey Findings

Incorporate findings from Climate Finance Awareness survey.

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Task 4. Stakeholder Consultations

Engage stakeholders across sectors.

Task 5. Development of Governance Indicators

Develop indicators across finance components and governance criteria. Define 4 core functional components: Planning, Accessing, Delivering, Monitoring. Define 5 governance pillars: Transparency, Accountability, Participation, Integrity, Coherence

Task 6. Draft Framework

Prepare draft governance framework.

Task 7. Online Workshop

Participate and facilitate workshop to present findings and collect feedback.

Task 8. Final Framework and Policy Brief

Finalize framework and policy brief.

Deliverables/Output: Comprehensive baseline assessment that outlines the current status of climate finance management at central and local levels, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, and corruption vulnerabilities. Policy brief.

Deliverables to be prepared in Macedonian language

The Expert shall produce the following sub-deliverables within the comprehensive study:

1. Methodology
2. Review of practices
3. Survey integration analysis
4. Stakeholder consultation summary
5. Governance indicators
6. Draft and final framework
7. Policy brief
8. Workshop documentation

Duration and Level of Effort

The assignment 1.3 is expected to be implemented from June – November 2026. The level of effort (LoE) for the assignment is 6 expert days.

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*The support received from the CEA researchers for data gathering, and analysis support to the expert for both assignments to complement the assignment is assessed at 6 work days throughout the process.

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum 8+ years of professional experience in public finance management, governance, anti-corruption, climate finance, or related fields.
- Demonstrated experience in conducting baseline assessments, analytical studies, or evaluations related to public finance and governance reforms.
- Familiarity with EU just green transition and place-based governance tools.
- Experience in corruption risk assessment, transparency analyses, or integrity systems is a strong asset.
- Prior experience working with local governments and decentralised public finance systems.
- Experience collaborating with civil society organisations and multidisciplinary research teams.
- Strong analytical, writing, and presentation skills in English.
- Previous collaboration with CEA is considered an advantage.

Remuneration and Payment Modalities

The remuneration for this assignment will be defined in the service contract. Payments will be linked to the successful completion and approval of agreed deliverables, in line with PRAG and contract provisions. Payment will be made within 10 days upon approved deliverables from the project stuff.

Reporting and Ownership

All deliverables produced under this assignment shall be the property of CEA. The expert(s) shall ensure confidentiality of all data and comply with ethical research standards throughout the assignment.

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