Section of Education for Sustainable Development

Division for Teaching, Learning and Content

Education Sector

UNESCO

**Terms of Reference: Developing guidelines for schools on mainstreaming ESD and climate action through a whole-school approach**

Type of contract: Individual authors

Duration: two months

**A. Background:**

According to the final report on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), whole-school approaches are particularly promising mechanisms for integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into education holistically. Whole-school approaches imply mainstreaming sustainability into all activities of the school, including the reorientation of teaching content and methodology, green campus and facility management, school governance, as well as cooperation with partners and the broader community. Whole-school approaches allow members of the school community to integrate sustainability principles into their daily practice – to live what they learn; to learn what they live.

As part of the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP), the official follow-up to the UN Decade of ESD, UNESCO will help UNESCO Associated Schools worldwide to implement a whole-school approach to ESD. In order to support the ASPnet schools in their efforts, UNESCO will develop guidelines for implementing a whole-school approach. These guidelines will be discussed as part of the international ASPnet seminar “Getting climate-ready: Showcasing the ASPnet schools’ response to climate change”, a UNESCO contribution to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), on 7 and 8 December 2015.

**B. Task:**

Under the overall guidance of the Director of the Division for Teaching, Learning and Content and the direct supervision of the Chief of the Section of Education for Sustainable Development, the contractor shall develop guidelines for schools on mainstreaming ESD and climate action through a whole-school approach.

In particular, the author will:

1) Prepare a detailed concept note for the work to be undertaken including:

* a work plan with timeline
* approach and methodology
* initial proposition for the content (table and detailed outline of content, including outlining principles for mainstreaming a whole-school approach to climate change)

2) After UNESCO’s approval of the detailed concept note, draft the guidelines for schools on mainstreaming ESD and climate action through a whole-school approach, including:

a) Review documents, studies, Associated Schools’ response to a three-page questionnaire and related materials (e.g. good practice examples, school sustainability plans, policy documents and frameworks), and collect information on whole-school principles, required steps to be taken, relevant areas of action, etc.

b) Draft “easy-to-implement” guidelines (approximately 20 standard pages of 320 words each), providing a step-by-step process for schools to develop their own strategies and sustainability plans, and mainstream ESD and climate change into the whole school.

These guidelines should cover, among others, the following four conceptual dimensions:

* Curriculum content/teaching and learning methodologies
* Facilities/school operations
* School governance/policy and capacity building
* Community partnership

The guidelines should be accompanied throughout by illustrative good practice examples from schools (to be included in boxes). It will be a major task of the contractor to ensure the guidelines are concise, easy to read and orientated towards practitioners. Unnecessary technical language and detail is to be avoided. The guidelines should represent the state of the art in the field and should take into account related work undertaken by other organizations (for example, the eco-schools of the Foundation of Environmental Education).

3) Submit draft guidelines to UNESCO by 30 September 2015.

4) Finalize the guidelines based on feedback received by UNESCO by 31 October 2015.

5) Incorporate feedback collected at the international ASPnet seminar by 31 December 2015.

**Profile and qualifications required**

* Minimum of a Masters’ degree in education or related field
* Extensive experience in carrying out education-related project design and implementation
* Experience in Education for Sustainable Development or other areas of transformative education
* Excellent analytical skills
* Excellent drafting skills in English

Deliverables

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| Payment | Upon submission and approval by UNESCO of the following: | Latest date for submission | Amount in US Dollar |
| 1 | Detailed concept note, first draft of guidelines | 30/09/2015 | 2,000 |
| 2 | Final draft of guidelines | 31/10/2015 | 2,000 |
| 3 | Revision based on the International ASPnet seminar | 31/12/2015 | 1,000 |