



INVITATION FOR EOI-RFP-2022-014

Expression of Interest (EOI) for provision of Services on a prototyping exercise on identifying growth opportunities in Kazakhstan's key economy sectors as part of the First Knowledge Week in Kazakhstan

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office in Kazakhstan (CO) hereby invites national and international Companies to express their interest in providing services **on a prototyping exercise to identify growth opportunities in Kazakhstan's key economy sectors as part of the first Knowledge Week in Kazakhstan**. The expression of interest should illustrate the ability of the Company to provide high quality services on aforementioned assignment.

This call for EOI aims to assess the market availability and viability of the Companies on the local and international market in relation to the upcoming procurement process (Request for Proposal – RFP) to establish Contract for Professional services with UNDP CO Kazakhstan. The Contract will be concluded for 4 months from the date of contract signing (approx. May-August2022).

a) Background

We live in a time of rapid technological discoveries and changes in the way we live, work, communicate, and even spend our leisure time. Wealth is no longer measured by the yield of physical land, but by what is in people's minds - knowledge, skills, mentality. Kazakhstan has the potential to tap into its human capital to achieve growth and reduce economic inequalities. Given the recent health emergency in the face of COVID - 19, which affected the most vulnerable, including women, people with disabilities, youth, informal workers, and migrant workers, it is important to build a society that is resilient to various shocks. What does the country need to promote human capital and advance knowledge-based development? What priorities should the government consider in its long-term competitiveness agenda, leaving no one behind?

In order to accelerate economic development and improve living conditions, Kazakhstan aims to build a knowledge-based economy that focuses on the skills and preparedness of the population for future trends and scenarios. Knowledge-based economic growth is a solid alternative to the current status, where most government revenues are generated by extractive industries [insert statistics]. As society becomes more adaptable and flexible to change, Kazakhstan should learn to take advantage of technological innovations and benefit from new opportunities rather than trying to catch up. It is imperative to address understanding and measuring the concept of knowledge. What indicators can help us better understand society's adaptability and curiosity, its attitudes and mentality, its research and innovation? The answer is complex and requires an in-depth discussion with experts and members of society.

Technological progress is the ally in the dissemination of knowledge - free online access to educational materials democratizes the dissemination of knowledge in the 21st century, which consequently affects the labor market of the future. Normalization of the use of modern technological approaches such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data will lead to automation of jobs. In Kazakhstan, a whopping 52 per cent of jobs are at risk of automation, signaling the urgency of preparing our current and future workforce for the future now.

Demand for non-automated skills and occupations will increase as Kazakhstan pushes to increase the



complexity of its economy. Non-automated skills include cognitive and socio-emotional skills such as critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, teamwork, and leadership. To remain competitive in the job market, an increased focus on digital skills is essential. A growth mindset, which requires a learning also one of the most important characteristics of a competitive worker.

Kazakhstan Knowledge Week 2022: embracing the change is an event that aims to facilitate discussions and develop solutions for building a knowledge-based economy in Kazakhstan. The goal of Knowledge Week is to provide a platform to discuss the impact of emerging technology trends, the changing nature of education delivery, and the future of Kazakhstan's key economic sectors in the face of these rapid changes. Knowledge Week is a three-day event in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, with a buildup of satellite events in the country's four regions: Mangystau, Karaganda, South Kazakhstan, and East Kazakhstan. The audience of the Knowledge Week consists of young people, academics, private and public sector representatives. The event will focus on three main themes through interactive sessions, bootcamps and side events:

- 1) Impact of technological trends on the future of knowledge in Kazakhstan
- 2) Reimagining skills for the 21st century
- 3) Co-creating the future together with youth.

The signature event of the Knowledge Week is the application of a prototyping method to analyze how current technological upheavals will affect selected sectors of Kazakhstan's economy. The aim of the exercise is to forecast changes and identify what skills and know-how need to be developed to ensure that Kazakhstan's society remains competitive in the future. A pool of experts will create an action plan with practical recommendations for each sector, which will be presented at the high-level forum during Knowledge Week.

As a result of Kazakhstan Knowledge Week 2022, the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Systemic understanding of how technological disruption impacts Kazakhstan's key economic sectors.
- Creation of a knowledge community of experts and young people to share insights
- Adoption of prototyping methodology that participants can apply to their respective sectors
- Develop practical solutions for transitioning from a factor-driven to a knowledge-driven economy

b) Scope of work

The Contractor's detailed assignment will include, but not be limited to the following tasks:

- Develop the methodology for the prototyping workshop based on the proposed scenario (see the Annex) and the schedule in consultation with UNDP;
- Organize learning seminars from the industry experts identified in consultation with UNDP;
- Produce recommendations based on the prototyping workshop and present them at the high-level forum during the Knowledge Week event.

#	Expected deliverables	Review and approval
1	Prototyping methodology is developed and customized to the Kazakhstan context. Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear methodology with the schedule, requirements, and outputs are developed; At least three consultations with relevant industry experts are conducted that inform the prototyping methodology developing; At least 10 experts on selected industries are identified who can participate in the prototyping workshop during the Knowledge Week event 	Accelerator Lab
2	Organize learning seminars from the industry experts identified in consultation with UNDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool of at least three experts and relevant seminar topics they would deliver are identified and approved by UNDP; 	Project Manager,
3	Recommendations are produced and shared at the Knowledge Week. Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three concrete recommendations per each industry sector are produced in a narrative and presentation form; written materials should be in both English and Russian languages. 	Head of Unit

c) General Instructions and application documentation

UNDP invites potential Companies to express their interest for the above procurement. The expression of interest should specify UNDP reference number EOI-RFP-2022-014 and shall be received no later than **16 March 2022, 11.00 AM, Nur-Sultan Time (GMT+6)**.

The Expression of Interest shall include the following documentation:

- i. A brief profile of the company including size, geographical location and network, areas of expertise, years in business, product range, etc.
- ii. Copy of valid Business registration documents and certificates confirming the absence of debts in tax and other authorities.
- iii. Duly Accomplished Annex A – Questionnaire

Submission Requirements – interested Companies must submit the completed questionnaire (Annex A) and all other information/documents to the following e-mail address no later than **16 March 2022, 11.00 AM, Nur-Sultan Time (GMT+6)** to:

Procurement.kz@undp.org

Information Meeting

Based on the responses received, UNDP may request further clarification in the form of email, written communication or a presentation to the EOI review committee. Companies responding to this EOI shall designate a single contact for receipt of all subsequent information regarding this EOI. The name of this contact will be made available to the Review Committee.

**Selection for the partnership**

The responses will be evaluated by a committee comprising of UNDP representatives. The committee may invite respondents for further discussions and presentation.

The information received through this EOI may result into open competitive procurement process through Request for Proposal (RFP). Solicitation and timelines for the RFP process will be shared with all respondents of this EOI.

Annex A - Questionnaire

General Information	
1. Company Name	
2. Business Address	
3. Year of Registration	
4. Contact Person	
5. Contact Details (phone and email address)	
Technical Information	
6. Has the Company an experience of conducting skills building activities in the field of STEM, girls and women empowerment, leadership skills	
6.1 If Yes, how many years?	
7. Has the Company an experience of conducting skills building activities for the target groups in regions outside of big cities?	
8. Can the Company confirm availability of qualified key personnel (Project manager-1, Project Assistant-1, Expert facilitators-3)?	
9. Litigation and arbitration history within the last three (3) years, if any	
10. Top Five (5) corporate clients for the past five (5) years	
11. Balance sheets for 2020 and 2021	
12. Other information (optional)	