

EU4Green Recovery East (700002623)
Recovery through a Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction in the Eastern Partnership countries

Service Contract for Review of the Ukrainian Water Monitoring System

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCES

1. Financing

European Union (Contribution Agreement 700002623)

2. Procedure

Direct award procedure pursuant to sec. 46 BVergG 2018 of Austria and in line with the Umweltbundesamt GmbH's internal procurement regulations

3. Contracting Authority

Umweltbundesamt GmbH (UBA), Drurygasse 1/1, 1030 Vienna, Austria

4. Thematic Leader

Umweltbundesamt GmbH (UBA)

5. Nature of contract

Service contract

6. Indicative time period of implementation

November 2026 – April 2027 (6months)

7. Contract amount

Max. EUR 48,000.00 (incl. EUR 2,500.00 max. travel costs)

Implementing partners:



8. Background information

The EU4Green Recovery East programme was set-up to support the European Union's (EU) Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, which are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. The citizens of these countries are their ultimate beneficiaries.

In the countries of the EU's Eastern Partnership the programme aims to accelerate development based on a growth model that is greener, more inclusive, and more resilient. To achieve this goal the programme focuses on policy reforms and capacity development measures in support of the countries' EaP priorities regarding environment and climate resilience.

EU4GRE is financed by the European Union's Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) with an EU contribution of EUR 21.3 million. This multi-country programme is jointly being implemented in the period between 2025 to 2028 by Umweltbundesamt GmbH (also called "UBA" or "Environment Agency Austria"), Expertise France (EF) and International Office for Water (OiEau, France), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The programme is complementary to bilateral and other regional activities funded by the European Union, its Member States, and other donors and is being implemented in a collaborative spirit with other EU-funded programmes in the Eastern Partnership countries (Team Europe approach). Country-specific activities are tailored to demands expressed in discussions with country stakeholders and depend upon the needs and pace of reforms.

The overall objective of the EU4Green Recovery East programme is to promote an environmentally and climate resilient development of the countries of the European Union's Eastern Partnership and to contribute towards the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP). In the Team Europe spirit, the programme uses synergies with other initiatives and projects funded by the EU Member States and International Financial Institutions.

The programme also builds on results of past regional programme (EUWI+, EU4Environment – Green Economy, EU4 Environment – Water and Environmental Data) and other relevant regional programmes, including in the Western Balkans.

The EU4Green Recovery East has **five components** as follows:

- (i) Circular economy promotion along the full lifecycle approaches;
- (ii) Pollution reduction with a focus on water, as well as water management;
- (iii) Legislative alignment with the European Green Deal, including, where relevant, with Chapter 27 of the EU acquis and facilitation of the accession process;

- (iv) Co-operation and data exchange with European Environment Agency (EAA) and European Environment and Observation Network (Eionet);
- (v) UNECE Water Convention (Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes), EU Global Gateway Strategy;

9. Scope of Services and deliverables

The Umweltbundesamt GmbH (also called “UBA” or “Environment Agency Austria”) requests from the Contractor to perform the following tasks:

- **Task 1: Review and revision of monitoring system design¹**
 - Review the existing water monitoring system for surface waters, including:
 - monitoring networks,
 - monitored parameters (biological, chemical – including emerging pollutants², hydromorphological),
 - monitoring frequencies,
 - institutional responsibilities and coordination mechanisms.
 - Assess the consistency of the current system with the requirements of the EU acquis, in particular:
 - Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC),
 - Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC, as amended),
 - relevant provisions for marine waters (Marine Strategy Framework Directive where applicable).
 - Develop a proposal for the revision of the monitoring system including institutional reforms, ensuring:
 - alignment with EU requirements,
 - integration of updated risk assessments,
 - improved cost-effectiveness and prioritisation,
 - of achieving Objective 5 of the Water Strategy of Ukraine until 2050 (optimization of the network of chemical laboratories for ecological monitoring of waters in order to prevent duplication and their maximum focus on meeting the information needs of the state environmental management using the updated technical and human resources potential, phased creation of a market for laboratory and analytical services in Ukraine) .
 - Support with the preparation of the Ukrainian Surface Water Monitoring Programme for 2027–2030 (by the end of 2026).

¹ Related work will be done by the Recovery and Reform Support Team (RST) at the Ministry for Economy and Environment of Ukraine. The contractors will need to coordinate with experts commissioned by RST; their results will need to be considered and further elaborated.

² There is already work being done on emerging pollutants under Activity 2.3 of EU4GRE. Available information and findings for emerging pollutants on parameters, in part also on frequencies, and on institutional roles and responsibilities will need to be considered.

- Update and further develop the monitoring development plans prepared under EUWI+, including:
 - concrete implementation steps,
 - a sequenced roadmap for progressive alignment with EU standards and investment plan for the next years.
- **Task 2: Review and amendment of legal framework³**
 - Review the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 758 (19 September 2018) on State Water Monitoring, and propose amendments to:
 - reflect the revised monitoring system,
 - ensure alignment with EU legal requirements,
 - clarify roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms.
 - Conduct a broader legislative compliance assessment, including:
 - identification of gaps in Ukrainian legislation related to water monitoring,
 - assessment of missing or insufficient provisions, including:
 - monitoring of priority substances and Watch List substances,
 - data management and quality assurance,
 - information exchange and interoperability,
 - reporting obligations (e.g. alignment with WISE/EEA frameworks).
 - Consider evolving EU requirements, including:
 - updates to the WFD,
 - extension to additional substances and emerging pollutants.
- **Task 3: Assessment of implementation practices**
 - Analyse the practical implementation of water monitoring in Ukraine, including:
 - planning and design of monitoring programmes,
 - degree of implementation across monitoring types (surveillance, operational, investigative),
 - coverage of status elements and parameters.
 - Evaluate the performance of laboratory systems, including:
 - analytical capacities,
 - accreditation status,
 - applied analytical methods,
 - quality assurance and quality control procedures.
 - Assess challenges related to monitoring emerging pressures, including:
 - pollution arising from military operations and conflict-related impacts.
- **Task 4: Human resources and institutional capacity assessment**

³ Related work will be done by the Recovery and Reform Support Team (RST) at the Ministry of Economy and Environment of Ukraine. The contractors will need to coordinate with experts commissioned by RST; their results will need to be considered and further elaborated.

- Assess the institutional setup and human resources involved in water monitoring, including:
 - number of staff,
 - level of expertise and specialisation,
 - distribution of responsibilities across institutions.
- Where possible, analyse:
 - remuneration levels,
 - staff retention issues,
 - capacity gaps.
- Provide recommendations for:
 - strengthening institutional capacity (e.g. necessary budget, equipment, responsibilities),
 - improving staffing and skills development.
- **Task 5. Evaluation of databases of monitoring results, status assessments, mapping, publication of materials (including in accordance with the Aarhus Convention)**
 - Review existing databases and information systems for storage, processing and use of water monitoring data and status assessments.
 - Assess their capacity to support:
 - WFD-compliant assessments,
 - data quality, consistency and interoperability,
 - reporting to EU frameworks (e.g. WISE/EEA).
 - Evaluate current practices for:
 - mapping and visualisation,
 - publication and dissemination of monitoring results.
 - Assess compliance with Aarhus Convention requirements on access to environmental information.
 - Provide recommendations to improve data management, reporting and public accessibility, and necessary budget.

Deliverables

The Contractor for this assignment will deliver the following main products:

- Inception Report
 - Detailed methodology and workplan
 - Refined approach to tasks
 - Stakeholder mapping
- Draft Final Report
 - Comprehensive assessment of the monitoring system

- Gap analysis against EU acquis (including WFD and EQS Directive),
- Proposal for a revised monitoring system (surface water, and relevant marine components)
- Draft legal amendments (Resolution No. 758 and relevant Ministerial Orders)
- Recommendations for implementation and capacity-building
- Initial findings on data management and information systems.
- Final Report (Monitoring Development Plan)
 - Revised version of the draft report incorporating comments from stakeholders and the Contracting Authority

The Final Report shall include:

- Results of the monitoring system review (surface water),
- Assessment of legal framework and compliance with EU acquis,
- Assessment of implementation practices and laboratory capacity,
- Assessment of institutional and human resources capacity,
- Assessment of data management, reporting and dissemination systems, including Aarhus Convention aspects,
- Identified gaps and challenges,
- Recommendations and a roadmap for alignment with EU requirements.
- Supporting materials
 - Legislative drafting proposals (where applicable)
 - Presentation materials for consultation/validation meetings
 - Any relevant analytical outputs
- Activity Report
 - Summary of activities carried out
 - Documentation of consultations and meetings

The final report must be produced in English and Ukrainian language. Other products and all data shall be prepared in English language. All deliverables shall be submitted in electronic format to:

- EU4Green Recovery East Programme Leader, UBA, Mr Gerhard Pulfer
(gerhard.pulfer@umweltbundesamt.at)
- EU4Green Recovery East Component 2 Co-Coordinator, UBA, Mr Daniel Trauner
(Daniel.trauner@umweltbundesamt.at)

10. Implementation modalities

Location of services

No specific place of performance, but occasional national and international travel is expected and required and will be reimbursed according to programme requirements and rules (see section “Remuneration”)

Assignment schedule

The duration of the assignment is **6 months**. The expected commencement of the assignment is November 3rd, 2026 and the planned completion date is April 30th, 2027.

Input

The provision of services is limited to a **maximum of EUR 48,000.00,-** throughout the entire performance period (upon contract signature, estimated November 2026 – April 2027). This maximum amount **includes all professional fees and travel expenses** up to **max. EUR 2,500.00,-**. Umweltbundesamt GmbH is not obliged to exhaust the maximum volume of the Contract throughout the entire performance period.

Management

The Contractor has to implement the service in close contact and cooperation with:

- Mr. Daniel Trauner, EU4GRE Component 2 Co-Coordinator and Technical Lead for Surface Water Monitoring, Environment Agency Austria
- Ms. Nataliia Zakorechevna, EU4GRE Programme Representative in Ukraine,
- Ms. Mariia Shpanchyk, Deputy Head of the Department of Regulation of Fisheries, Land Reclamation, Water Resources and Marine Ecosystems - Head of the Department of Protection and Restoration of Water Resources and Marine Ecosystems;
Ministry of Economy and Environment of Ukraine

All correspondence related to these services shall be in English.

The Contractor must personally provide the services. Subcontracting one or more parts of the contracted services is not allowed.

The Contractor agrees to adhere to the EU communication & visibility guidelines.

Work environment

The Contractor has to provide all means (workspace, transport, etc.) and technical equipment (e.g. hardware, software) necessary for a successful implementation of these services. Neither office facilities nor operating resources shall be provided by the Contracting Authority.

Remuneration

Remuneration will be determined as a result of a tender procedure.

Travel expenses, necessary to perform the tasks described, will be reimbursed up to € 2,500.00 on real cost basis and upon submission of proofing documents, according to programme requirements and rules.

Ancillary services, which are not explicitly stipulated in this document but obviously are necessary in order to perform and fulfil the services, shall be covered by the remuneration. The same shall apply to minor supplements, clarifications or attendance at meetings regarding the subject matter by the service provider.

11. Expertise and quality requirements of the Contractor

The Contractor must have the following qualifications and skills:

The Contractor must demonstrate strong technical, analytical and institutional expertise to successfully carry out the assignment. Proven experience in the field of EU water acquis and monitoring systems is essential.

The Contractor (single expert or consortium) must meet the following minimum qualifications and requirements:

11.1 General Requirements

- Proven experience in the implementation and/or assessment of **EU water policy**, in particular:
 - Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC),
 - Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC, as amended),
 - Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) (where relevant).
- Demonstrated experience in **reviewing, designing and/or implementing water monitoring systems**.
- Proven experience in **legal and institutional approximation processes** with the EU acquis, preferably in EU accession or Eastern Partnership countries.
- Ability to deliver **analytical reports, policy recommendations** in English.

11.2 Technical Expertise

The Contractor must provide expertise covering the following areas:

Water Monitoring Systems

- Design and optimisation of monitoring networks for **surface water**, including:
 - surveillance, operational and investigative monitoring,
 - selection of monitoring sites, parameters and frequencies.
- Knowledge of
 - biological, chemical and physico-chemical parameters,
 - monitoring of priority substances and EQS compliance,
 - integration of risk-based monitoring approaches.

Chemical Status and EQS Compliance

- Experience with:

- implementation of the **EQS Directive**,
- monitoring and assessment of priority substances and emerging pollutants,
- application of environmental quality standards in surface waters

Data Management and Reporting

- Experience with:
 - environmental data management systems,
 - quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC),
 - reporting to EU systems (e.g. WISE, EEA/Eionet).

Laboratory and Analytical Capacity

- Knowledge of:
 - laboratory accreditation processes (e.g. ISO standards),
 - analytical methodologies for water quality monitoring,
 - intercalibration and standardisation procedures.

Legal and Policy Expertise

- Experience in:
 - reviewing and drafting **water-related legislation and by-laws**,
 - aligning national legal frameworks with EU directives,
 - preparing amendments to legal acts and technical regulations.

Institutional and Capacity Assessment

- Experience in analysing:
 - institutional frameworks and governance structures,
 - human resource needs and capacity gaps,
 - organisational performance and coordination mechanisms.

11.3 Specific Experience

- At least **5–10 years of relevant professional experience** in water management, environmental monitoring, or related fields.
- Proven track record of **similar assignments**, such as:
 - review or development of national monitoring programmes,
 - support to WFD implementation,
 - advisory work in EU approximation processes.
- Experience in **Ukraine or Eastern Partnership countries** is considered a strong asset.
- Experience in addressing **complex environmental pressures**, including conflict-related pollution, is an advantage.

11.4 Team Composition (if applicable)

If a team is proposed, it should include complementary expertise, such as:

- **Senior Water Monitoring Expert / Team Leader**
Overall coordination, WFD expertise, monitoring system design.
- **Monitoring Expert/s**
Ecological and chemical monitoring, system optimisation.
- **Legal Expert**
Legislative review, drafting of amendments, EU acquis alignment. (if necessary)
- **Data and Reporting Expert**
Data systems, QA/QC, EU reporting frameworks.
- Additional supporting expertise (e.g. laboratory/QA-QC) as needed.

11.5 Quality Requirements

- Ability to ensure **high-quality, evidence-based analysis**, supported by data and international best practices.
- Strong **stakeholder engagement skills**, including conducting consultations with national authorities and institutions.
- Capacity to deliver outputs **within tight timelines** and in accordance with contractual requirements.
- All deliverables must be:
 - clear, structured and technically sound,
 - aligned with EU guidance documents,
 - suitable for direct use by policymakers and technical authorities.

12. Selection and award procedure

The submitted offers will be evaluated by the EU4Green Recovery East, Mr. Daniel Trauner. The Contracting Authority will award the contract according the best-bidder principle based on the best value for money.

12.1. Eligibility and exclusion criteria

The Contracting Authority will award the contract after the standard evaluation and selection procedures based on the best price-performance ratio through direct award procedure according to the relevant legal procedure.

Tenderers have to be compliant with these tender specifications and the following specific criteria.

- Tenderers are required to adhere to the EU Russia sanctions. Tenderers found to be in breach of these regulations may be rejected.
- As evidence of compliance each tenderer shall submit with their tender a Declaration of Honour on the tenderer's honour concerning the restrictive measures established by Council Regulation 833/2014 amended by Regulation (EU) 2022/576 (the "Regulations") concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (DoH Annex 1.).

The tenderer declares that he/she is not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. Tenderers found to be in an exclusion situation and/or in breach of these regulations may be rejected.

12.2. Selection criteria

The objective of the selection criteria is to assess whether the tenderer has necessary capacities to perform the contract. The selection criteria, including the minimum levels of capacities, are specified in the following sub-sections. Tenders submitted by tenderers which do not meet the minimum level of capacities may be rejected.

12.2.1. Legal Capacity

Each tenderer has to be authorised to perform the contract and, as the case may be, to confirm the possession of appropriate licenses and certificates as required under the relevant laws and regulations. Upon request, the tenderer has to submit appropriate approving documents.

12.2.2. Economic Capacity

Tenderers have to be in a stable financial situation and the economic capacity to perform the contract. Upon request of the Contracting Authority, the tenderer has to submit appropriate approving documents.

12.2.3. Technical and professional capacity

Human resources capacities

Capacity to carry out services in the required standards to handle the proposed contract (including time records)

Relevant experience

Professional working experience as expert in the environmental fields and the provided evidences of skills and competences as described in point 11 above will be taken into consideration to determine the best price-performance ratio of tenderers (The tenderer is requested to provide references).

12.3. Award criteria

The contract will be awarded according to the applicable legal tender procedure, based on the best price-quality ratio principle. The Contracting Authority will, in its sole discretion, determine the best bid.

The Contracting Authority may also conduct negotiation rounds at its own discretion if, from its point of view, a better offer (in particular but not limited to the price offered or with respect to any

other criteria the Contracting Authority deems appropriate) can be achieved. For this purpose, the Contracting Authority may, in its sole discretion, conduct either one or more rounds of negotiations with any bidder.

Technical Quality

Based on the applicable legal procedure: none specific

Financial Offer

Tenderers are requested to submit a financial offer giving an all-inclusive price excluding VAT in EURO for the requested task and a daily rate.

The Contracting Authority is not obliged to exhaust the maximum contract volume throughout the entire performance period.

The tenderer has to indicate if the service is subject of any VAT or indicate whether Reverse Charge applies. If the tenderer is VAT-exempt, it has to be declared and an official confirmation of VAT-exemption must be submitted with the offer.

It is understood that the contracting authority has no obligation to award any contract of this tender and reserves the right to withdraw from or cancel this tender.

12.4. Tender submission and timeline

Submission of the tender

Interested candidates must submit the following documents by email

- **Cover letter**
- **Technical offer**, including references, methodology and CV
- **Financial offer**, indicating daily rate and all-inclusive price excluding VAT
- **Declaration of honour** (Annex 1)

to the following addresses:

- EU4GRE_offers@umweltbundesamt.at
- daniel.trauner@umweltbundesamt.at
- gabriele.vincze@umweltbundesamt.at

The email subject line must read: **C2 Service Contract Water Monitoring Review**

The maximum allowable size of the email is 9.9 MB.

The tender and all documents can be submitted in English. The bidder must name an English-speaking contact person in his bid.

Signatures must be either hand-written or a qualified electronic signature as defined in Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions.

It is advised to start completing your tender early and to submit your tender several hours before the deadline. A tender received after the deadline for submission of the tender will be rejected.

In case of technical problems, please contact the following addresses:

- EU4GRE_offers@umweltbundesamt.at
- gabriele.vincze@umweltbundesamt.at
- daniel.trauner@umweltbundesamt.at

The Contracting Authority shall not reimburse any costs for participating in this selection procedure; such as but not limited to the preparation of bids, translation, clarifications, negotiations

Deadline for submission of the tender

The deadline for submission is **19th October 2026, 12:00 CEST**. Tenders submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The publication of these Terms of Reference does not commit the Contracting Authority to award the announced contract. The Contracting Authority can withdraw from this call at any given time. In no event shall the Contracting Authority be liable for any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits, in any way connected with the cancellation of a tender procedure.

13. Annex

- **Annex 1:** BidForm (includes the Declaration of Honour)
- **Annex 2:** Service Agreement Special Conditions
- **Annex 3:** Service Agreement General Conditions
- **Annex 4:** General Conditions of the Main Contract (Programme EU4GRE Contract)
- **Annex 5:** Template Data Processing Agreement