

Terms of Reference

SUBNATIONAL BUSINESS READY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Short Term Consultant for Czechia

Background

The development of a healthy and thriving private sector is central to promoting growth. It is well recognized that encouraging firms to invest, improve productivity and create jobs requires the right legal and regulatory environment—including on business entry, property rights and transfers, and efficient judicial systems.

Subnational Business Ready in the European Union provides a quantitative assessment of the business environment and the efficacy of bureaucracy at the local administrative level in the EU Member States. The goal is to raise awareness on the need to improve business regulation at the subnational level, promoting a dialogue between the government and the private sector. Creating a business environment that motivates entrepreneurship, business growth and employment generation not just in big economic centers, but across all regions and cities, is an important tool to foster private sector development.

The *Subnational Business Ready in the European Union* series will benchmark business regulations in 7 cities in Czechia. The data collection methodology is inspired by the World Bank's *B-READY* study and adapted to the subnational context.¹ The first round of studies to be published in September 2024 covered 6 EU Member States including Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, and Slovakia. Together with Czechia, the second round will cover Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Spain.

The project builds on the subnational knowledge accumulated between 2016 and 2023 in 115 cities from 16 EU Member States.²

The project is managed by the Global Indicators Group of the World Bank and is carried out in collaboration with governmental counterparts in each country benchmarked. The topics measured in the series are: Business Entry, Business Location (property transfer, building permits and environmental permits), Utility Services (water, electricity and internet), Dispute Resolution, and Business Insolvency. For each topic, the assessment will focus on i) regulatory framework (the rules and regulations that firms must follow as they open and operate); ii) provision of related public services (government-provided facilities for compliance with regulations and the critical institutions and infrastructure that enable business activities), and iii) the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.

¹ More information on Subnational Business Ready is available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/businessready/subnational>

² Previous reports and data are available at: <https://subnational.doingbusiness.org/en/reports/subnational-reports/eu>

Key Tasks

The consultant will conduct research and analysis of local policy and regulatory issues in Czechia for the Utility Services topic in support of the project team.

Duties will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Partake in the data collection process for the Utility Services topic (water and/or internet sub-topics) in the benchmarked cities: ensure quality control of the data collected, follow-up with local experts, and code the data as needed.
- Research and analyze selected policy and regulatory issues relevant to the topic/s in Czechia.
- Liaise with stakeholders and experts who contribute data to the project, including from relevant public institutions and the private sector, to ensure their support and collect the needed information.
- Review translations of correspondence and questionnaire instruments.
- Participate in project meetings (virtual or in-person) and conduct policy dialogue, including coordinating consultations with national and local public policy makers.
- Prepare detailed explanation/ memos analyzing the data collected and outlining the priorities for reform in the measured areas.
- Provide general support to the project, as needed.

Required qualifications

- University degree in Law, Public Policy, Economics, Business Administration, Engineering, or related discipline.
- Ability to work independently and under strict deadlines.
- Strong analytical skills: demonstrated research, data collection and analysis.
- Strong oral and written communication skills in English and Czech.
- Good communication skills, ability to meet and/or call people to gather and verify information.
- Previous experience working with data collection and/or on investment climate in the country is a plus.
- Previous experience working with (or knowledge of) the utility sector is a plus.
- Systematic, organized, and detail-oriented.
- Interest in private sector development issues.

Expected duration of contract and how to apply

The consultant is expected to be employed for approximately 70 working days between September 2024 and June 2025. Selected candidates will first receive training on the methodology, oversee the data collection phase and participate in project missions. To apply, send your CV and application letter to Trimor Mici (tmici@ifc.org), Marko Grujicic (mgrujicic@worldbank.org), and Iryna Lagodna (ilagodna@worldbank.org) by August 31, 2024.