



Terms of reference for engagement of Locally Contracted Expert On sustainable management of inland waterway transport in Albania

1. Background

The Transport Community is an international organisation in the field of mobility and transport. It has 36 participants – the European Union Member States represented by the European Commission, the Southeast European Parties (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Republic of Serbia - hereinafter referred at collectively as “regional partners”) and the three observing participants (Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). Transport Community is working on integrating Western Balkans’ transport markets into the EU by assisting the regional partners in adopting and implementing the EU legislation in the transport field and supporting projects connecting the region and with the EU.

The organisation was founded by the Treaty¹ establishing the Transport Community signed on 9th of October 2017 by all partners (Council Decision (EU) 2019/392).

The aim of the Treaty therefore is the creation of a Transport Community in the field of road, rail, inland waterway, and maritime transport as well as the development of the transport network between the European Union and the Western Balkan Parties. The Transport Community shall be based on the progressive integration of transport markets of the South-East European Parties into the European Union transport market on the basis of the relevant *acquis*, including in the areas of technical standards, interoperability, safety, security, traffic management, social policy, public procurement and environment, for all modes of transport excluding air transport. For this purpose, this Treaty sets out the rules applicable between the Contracting Parties under the conditions set out hereinafter. These rules include the provisions laid down by the acts specified in Annex I².

2. Description of the assignment

Albania is bordered by three significant lakes and has several navigable rivers used primarily for passenger transport. These lakes and rivers play a crucial role in the country's inland navigation system:

Lakes Bordering Neighbouring Countries:

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

¹ <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/treaty-en.pdf>

² <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/treaty-en.pdf>



- Ohrid Lake: Bordered with North Macedonia.
- Prespa Lake: Bordered with North Macedonia and Greece.
- Shkodra Lake: Bordered with Montenegro.

International Agreements for Lake Navigation:

There is an International Agreement between Albania and Montenegro for the Establishment of the International Lake Navigation Line for Transport of Passengers between Shkoder and Virpazar.

The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate passenger transport across Shkodra Lake between Shkoder (Albania) and Virpazar (Montenegro).

The other International Agreement is between Albania and North Macedonia for the Establishment of the International Lake Navigation Line for Transport of Passengers and Goods between Ohrid and Pogradec.

The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate both passenger and goods transport across Ohrid Lake between city of Ohrid (North Macedonia) and city of Pogradec (Albania).

These agreements highlight Albania's commitment to fostering international cooperation and enhancing the efficiency and safety of its inland waterway transport system.

The navigable rivers in Albania are:

- The Buna River, also known as Bojana, is a 41-kilometre-long river in Albania and Montenegro which outflow of Lake Skadar and flows into the Adriatic Sea.
- The Drini River is the longest river of Albania 285 kilometres long with two major tributaries cross through both Kosovo and North Macedonia – the White Drin and the Black Drin and two distributaries – one discharging into the Adriatic Sea, in the Gulf of Drin and the other into the Bojana River.
- The Vjosa is a river in northwestern Greece and southwestern Albania. Its total length is about 272 kilometres of which the first 80 kilometres are in Greece, and the remaining 192 kilometres in Albania

Upon the establishment of the Transport Community, under the Article 13 of the Treaty there is an obligation that the Contracting Parties shall promote efficient, safe and secure inland waterway transport operations.

In order to improve the waterborne transport in the region Transport Community Permanent Secretariat drafted the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality with a list of short and medium terms activities addressing critical issues in waterborne transport as well as multimodal transport. The progress on the implementation of the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality as well as the EU acquis under Annex I related to inland waterway and maritime transport are monitored and reported in yearly bases.³

³ <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Action-Plans-and-EU-Acquis-Progress-Report-2023-WEB.pdf>



According to the Action Plans and the EU Acquis Progress Report 2023 results that Albania has not yet transposed any EU Acquis related to inland waterway transport but plans to start this process in 2024.

The aim of the assignment is to strengthen institutional, administrative and legislative frameworks and practices. This Terms of Reference (ToR) refers to the request submitted by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania to develop a study for the safe management of inland waterways in Albania.

The adoption of this assignment is related to the **fulfilment of the Article 13 of Transport Community Treaty**.

The primary objectives of this consultancy are to:

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current state of inland waterways in Albania.
- Provide recommendations for the further development of Inland Waterways in Albania

3. Scope of work

Provide assistance to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and the related Working Group and draft a study to support the sustainable development of inland waterways transport in Albania.

The expert that will be contracted for this assignment will cooperate closely with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania and provide these deliverables:

Task 1: Assessment of Current State of Inland Waterway

- a. Review existing reports, studies, and data on Albania's inland waterways.
- b. Conduct field visits and stakeholder consultations to gather primary data.
- c. Identify key challenges, opportunities, and gaps in the current infrastructure and regulatory framework.

Task 2: Provide recommendations for the future development of inland waterway transport in Albania. This framework should include recommendation in the field of:

- a. Legal framework
- b. Infrastructure
- c. Institutional capacities

The final mission report will be delivered to the beneficiary and to the Transport Community Treaty (TCT) Permanent Secretariat. The report should contain the following:

- a. A detailed description of the assignment and the scope of work undertaken by the expert.
- b. A comprehensive summary of the accomplishments achieved during the course of the assignment.
- c. Minutes of all meetings held with beneficiaries regarding the proposed tasks.

4. Deliverables

The consultancy is expected to deliver the following:

- a. A Workplan with details of the steps (activities and measures) that the expert will take for the

- successful finalisation of the assignment.
- b. State of Play Report
 - An assessment report of the current state of inland waterways in Albania as defined above in the scope of work
- c. Recommendations
 - Recommendations for future Sustainable development of the inland waterway in Albania as defined above in the scope of work

5. Qualifications

- A university degree of minimum 4 years in Engineering, Transport, Business Administration, Economics, Law or Waterborne related studies is required.

6. Work experience

- A minimum of seven (7) years of relevant working experience in the area of waterborne transport.
- Good knowledge of EU legislation, specifically the EU Directive/Regulation related to waterborne transport, proven with at least two (2) reference activity conducted in the past 5 years.
- 3 years of experience in the inland waterways would be considered as an asset
- Experience in working in the Western Balkan environment.
- Ability to build strong, trusted relationships and operate in an influential manner with government authorities, to assist in driving key initiatives is essential.
- Ability to consistently exercise discretion and confidentiality with sensitive information is essential

7. Languages

- Proficiency in English language and knowledge of Albanian language.
- Final Mission Report to be submitted to TCT Secretariat shall be in English language.

8. Timing and Location

- The consultancy is expected to be completed in maximum two months from the date of contract signing
- The assignment foresees work from home, periodic meetings with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and site visit. The assignment is expected to start from 15 September 2024.
- For implementation of the tasks listed above, physical presence of the expert in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy might be required from time to time.

9. Remunerations

The assignment foresees up to maximum 320 working hours or 40 working days of engagement with a maximum value of 10.000 EUR. The payment will be made in two instalments, the first one after completing task 1 and the second one after completing the assignment with delivering outputs and submission of payment documents.



The final outputs will be subject to TCT secretariat and Ministry of Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy quality control and approval before payment is executed.

Note: No other costs will be covered besides the expert cost per day.

10. Financial Offer

Financial offer should be shown in a form showing the price per working day of 8 hours.

The offer with the lowest price will be scored with maximum 20 points.

11. Selection and Award Criteria

Selection will be done based on work experience.

Work experience	Minimum score	Maximum score
A minimum of 7 (seven) years of relevant experience with working in the area of waterborne transport.	20, for 7 years of relevant experience. Every additional year will be scored with 2 points up to the maximum score.	30
Good knowledge of EU legislation, specifically the EU Directive/Regulation related to waterborne transport, proven with at least two (2) reference activities conducted in the past 5 years.	20 for good knowledge of EU legislation proven with at least two (2) reference activities conducted in the past 5 years. Every additional reference activity related to waterborne transport will be scored with 2 points up to the maximum score.	30
Experience of at least 3 years in the inland waterways	0	10
Experience in working in the Western Balkan environment	8	10
Total	48	80

The scoring on the abovementioned work experience will be done based on the information provided in the CV.

Total maximum score for the selection criteria is 80. Total maximum score for the financial offer is 20.

Offer with the highest score combining work experience and offered price will be proposed for assignment.