

Project Manager – Public Wi-Fi Infrastructure Deployment in Moldova (WiFi4MD)

1. About EU4Innovation East

The EU4Innovation East is a regional project aiming at enhancing the competitiveness of the startup ecosystem within 5 countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. At the heart of the project is a strategy designed to nurture high-performance incubators, expand funding and market opportunities for startups, and provide tailored support to Ukraine's emerging tech sector. Through strategic co-financing, skills development, regulatory assistance, and a strong commitment to gender inclusion, EU4Innovation East is laying the foundation for sustainable, long-term growth in the region, ensuring that innovation is both inclusive and impactful.

The EU4Innovation East project is funded by the European Union, co-funded by the French government and implemented by Expertise France.

Title:	EU4Innovation East – Support to Digital innovation in the Eastern Partnership region
Geographic scope:	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
Duration:	54 months, i.e. 4.5 years (04/2024 - 10/2028)
Financed by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Commission: 20.000.000,00€• France: 2.120.000,00€, earmarked for Ukraine
Implementing Agency:	Expertise France (EF)
Overall objective:	Contribute to strengthen the competitiveness and maturity of the private sector in innovation in EaP countries through valuable collaborations with European partners

Pillars' description:

Pillar 1 – Supporting early-stage funding

Pillar 2 - Backing high added-value segments and high-performance incubation

Pillar 3 - Strengthening community ties

Pillar 4 – Promoting EaP startups and advancing the development of EU partnerships

Pillar 5 – WiFi4MD

2. Mission Description

Limited access to reliable and affordable internet connectivity remains a barrier to socio-economic development, particularly in underserved and rural areas. In this context, the EU Commission has decided to provide an additional funding (top-up) to the EU4Innovation East project, in order to create and implement a new pillar designed to support the deployment of free public wireless access points in the municipalities of the Republic of Moldova, contributing to improved digital inclusion, access to information, and public service delivery. This new pillar 5, called WiFi4MD, will be implemented in parallel to other activities led by the project team.

To support the existing project team for the implementation of these new activity, Expertise France seeks to recruit a Project Manager responsible for overseeing the deployment of this Pillar 5, in close coordination with national and local stakeholders, as well as private sector partners.

The role requires a high degree of autonomy and interpersonal skills suitable for an international and multicultural environment. Building connections with local stakeholders is crucial for the project's success.

2.1. Objectives and tasks

Overall Objective

To ensure the effective and timely deployment of public Wi-Fi infrastructure in targeted areas of the Republic of Moldova.

Specific Objectives

- Plan and coordinate the deployment of public Wi-Fi access points in selected municipalities
- Ensure technical quality and compliance with EU standards (security, procurement, sustainability)

- Facilitate coordination between public authorities, Internet Service Provider(s), and technical providers
- Contribute to strengthening institutional capacities in managing digital infrastructure projects

Key Tasks

a. Project Planning and Coordination

- Develop detailed work plans, timelines, and implementation strategies;
- Develop detailed call for application to select municipalities and coordinate the selection process;
- Coordinate day-to-day project activities and ensure alignment with project objectives;
- Monitor progress and ensure timely delivery of outputs;

b. Technical Oversight

- Define and validate technical specifications for Wi-Fi deployment
- Supervise site identification and technical assessments
- Oversee installation, configuration, testing, and commissioning of equipment
- Supervise compliance with EU cybersecurity and data protection standards (including the EU's toolbox for 5G security)
- Define and validate technical specifications for potential additional technical expertise, select and recruit, and ensure the follow-up of their work

c. Stakeholder Engagement

- Liaise with national authorities, municipalities, and regulatory bodies
- Facilitate consultations with local stakeholders and beneficiary communities
- Maintain regular communication with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and vendors

d. Procurement and Contract Management (In coordination with the AdminFin Team)

- Contribute to the preparation of technical specifications and tender documents
- Participate in the evaluation of bids and selection of service and hardware providers
- Monitor contract implementation and service delivery

e. Monitoring, Reporting and Visibility (in relation with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) manager)

- Contribute to the development of monitoring tools and tracking of project indicators
- Prepare periodic technical and progress reports in line with donor requirements

f. Communication and visibility (in relation with the Communication team)

- Contribute to communication and visibility actions, in line with EU visibility requirements

g. Risk Management (in relation with the management team)

- Identify operational, technical, and institutional risks
- Propose and implement mitigation measures

2.2. Expected deliverables

The Project Manager will be expected to produce the following deliverables:

- Detailed Implementation plan (within 2 months of contract start)
- ToRs for technical expertise as needed
- Technical specifications and deployment plan for Wi-Fi infrastructure
- Regular progress updates (monthly/quarterly as required) including contribution to the EU4Innovation East yearly progress report
- Inputs for monitoring and communication
- Final report including results achieved, challenges, and recommendations

3. Contract details

- Duration: 14 months
- Employment contract under Moldovan law
- Duty Station: Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, with frequent travels within the country
- Travel requirements: Regular travel within the country

4. Expert Profile

Education

- Bachelor or Master's degree in Telecommunications, Information Technology, Engineering, or a related field

Professional Experience

- Minimum 7 years of relevant professional experience
- Minimum 3 years in project management

- Proven experience in telecom/network infrastructure deployment, in line with European telecommunications and cybersecurity standards
- Proven experience working with public sector stakeholders and institutional partners
- Demonstrated experience in managing multi-stakeholder projects would be an asset, especially experience working with EU institutions stakeholders

Technical Competencies

- Strong knowledge of Wi-Fi technologies and broadband connectivity solutions in line with EU standards (including the EU's toolbox for 5G security)
- Familiarity with network design, deployment, and maintenance
- Understanding of EU and national public procurement rules

Languages

- Fluency in Romanian is required (written and spoken)
- Good command of English is required

Soft Skills

- Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills;
- Excellent ability to build connections;
- Teamwork (multicultural) and adaptability;
- Diplomacy, empathy, and conflict management skills;
- Sense of responsibility, initiative, and responsiveness;
- Pragmatic and results-oriented;
- Organisational skills, rigor, and proactivity.

5. Selection criteria

Candidates will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance of academic background
- Proven professional experience
- Technical expertise in network deployment
- Experience in similar geographical or institutional contexts
- Quality of application (CV and cover letter)



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6. Application process

Interested candidates are invited to submit:

- A detailed CV (maximum 4 pages)
- A cover letter outlining their suitability for the assignment

Applications should be submitted through the Expertise France recruitment platform.

7. Application deadline

May 31, 2026, 23:59 (Chisinau time - UTC+3)