**Expert in PFM, Environmental Economics and Green Budgeting**

**Technical support to improve green budgeting practices in Greece**

**Duty station:** remote

**Contract type:** service contract

**Duration:** 50 days maximum, dispersed in the period between July 2024 to July 2026

**Department:** Governance

**Unit:** Transparency, Management and Public Accountability

**Deadline for application is:** July 15, 2024

**Mission Description:**

In the framework of the Green Budgeting project for EU regions and Greece at central level, Expertise France is recruiting a local expert specialized in Public Financial Management, Environmental Economics and Green Budgeting. We are looking for an international expert to provide technical support to the following beneficiary authority:

* Greece (EL), Ministry of Economy and Finance

The Expert will provide technical assistance for improvement of tagging methodologies and introduction of SDG tagging, and other green reforms. The Expert will collaborate with focal points from EL’s ministries of finance and environment, and relevant institutions, along with Expertise France´s Project Management team, and partners from the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) of the European Commission.

The Expert will support the civil servants from the ministries of finance, and environment, in the following outputs and activities:

**Output 1:** Inception Report

**Activities:**

* Contribute to the preparation and implementation of a round of meetings with the beneficiary authority to understand better their needs and the current situation, to discuss the approach for each task and the action plan, and to collect the information necessary for the next steps. The beneficiary authority is requested to provide background documentation on budgetary procedures, national climate, environmental, and a concise report of their specific expectations from the project at technical and political level. Additional documentation might be requested by the expert.
* Perform an initial analysis of the background documents provided by the beneficiary authority
* Drafting of the inception report. The inception report shall take stock of the current situation, adjust or confirm the approach for each activity and overall action plan, and collect the information necessary for the next steps

**Output 2:** A technical report, including AS-IS, GAP and TO BE analyses.

The aim of the reports is to provide an accurate and thorough analysis of the current policy, regulatory, governance and institutional framework of the budgetary governance systems of EL, and recommendations to improve Green Budgeting tagging and introduce SDG tagging, and other green reforms, including green bonds. This report shall inform the later stages of the project, particularly in terms of further defining the scope for the plans for introducing SDG tagging methodology.

The report shall include identification and review of relevant public policy, legislation that defines green budgeting practices, mapping of relevant central ministries and agencies at the state level that carry out this decision-making and their mandates/involvement, identification of key stakeholders, existing processes and state of play, underlying information system and technical architecture supporting the processes (if existing). The report shall include an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) in the relevant public policy.

**Activities:**

* Analysis of EL´s budgetary structure, national plans for SDGs targets, green bonds, and review of Greece´s green budgeting methodology
* Meetings with the focal points of EL´s ministries of finance and environment to agree on key topics to focus the foreseen peer exchanges phase of the project, in addition to agree on concrete baselines and targets.
* Drafting of the AS-IS, GAP and TO BE technical report
* Presentation of the report findings, including key differences between the AS-IS and the TO-BE situations (i.e. the gap analysis)

**Output 6:** Recommendations report based on key insights shared by peers from other EU Member States during the civil servants´ exchange programme

**Activities**

* Contribute to identifying relevant regions to exchange knowledge and best practices with and to the development of the content of the program for the exchanges
* Accompany the civil servants in the exchanges and gather insights to produce the recommendations report

**Output 7:** Final conference and summary report of the conference including the agenda, the presentations, the list of participants and the main conclusions drawn. The objective of the closing conference shall be to present the results of the project to different stakeholders, such as representatives of other MSs ministries of Finance, the European Commission (DG REFORM, and other services) and other stakeholders.

* Contribute to the preparation, implementation and reporting of the conference

**Output 8**: Final report. A final report with one separate chapter per beneficiary authority will be produced summarizing lessons learned and assessing the beneficiary authorities´ progress towards achieving Green Budgeting practices at regional and central level.

* Contribute to the drafting of the final report

**Time frame and work plan**

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| Activities | Days (max. for activities and development of the output) | Proposed time frame |
| Inception phase | 10 | Late July- September 2024 |
| Diagnostic and assessment phase (AS IS, GAP and TO BE analyses) | 15 | October 2024- December2025 |
| Peer exchanges | 20 | January 2025- June 2026 |
| Final conference and reporting phase | 5 | April 2026-June 2026 |

*Note: the precise dates for the activities will be agreed between the selected Expert and the project team.*

**Context of the project**

The European Union has set itself the objective of achieving zero net emissions by 2050, and it launched in December 2019 the European Green Deal as the roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality. This strategic package of policy measures has also provided the basis for the post covid-19 EU Recovery Plan. This led to strict conditions on the use of expenditure from the recovery and resilience facility (RRF), namely that **37% of EU RRF funding** should be dedicated to climate projects, and that **100% of expenditure should respect the “do no significant harm” criteria.**

Greening national budgets is key for climate action and the green transition. Budgets are one of the main expressions of how a government intends to implement its political ambition. The 2019 European Green Deal Communication highlights that “a greater use of green budgeting tools will help to redirect public investment, consumption and taxation to green priorities and away from harmful subsidies”.

Following the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) 2024 call, two European regions requested for specific and tailored technical support from DG Reform for the development of transparent and easily applicable method for climate tagging, as well as its integration in the budget cycle. The Regional Ministry of Environment and Climate of Lombardy (Italy) as well as the Ministry of Finance of Baden-Württemberg (Germany) requested this specific support to achieve climate neutrality by 2040. These two regions are members of the interregional network “Four Motors for Europe” .

In the framework of the TSI 2024 call, the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance expressed interest in technical support and continuing the exchange of best practices to strengthen the current green budgeting tools and linking these tools with further green reforms at state level, e.g., green bonds and sustainability. In the Framework of the EU Green Budgeting training project, officials from the Greek General Accounting Office (GAO) at the Ministry of Economy and Finance strengthened their knowledge of green budgeting by participating in the training modules 1 and 2, and peer-learning module 4. Particularly through module 4, the officials from GAO benefited significantly from feedback and best practices shared by peers from Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Ireland, and Portugal. Given the constraints to extend the TSI national level Green Budgeting training project, DG REFORM proposed to include Greece as a beneficiary of the project Green Budgeting practices at regional level.

In line with the request of the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance on further exchanges of best practices among peers, the project will particularly support GAO through activities in the inception, capacity building and dissemination phase.

The successful completion of the EU Green Budgeting training project has generated a strong knowledge base that shall be applied in the activities of the present project, namely Green Budgeting for EU Regions. Particularly, by incorporating elements from the previous training on methods for identifying public expenditure that contributes to climate change mitigation or adaptation, as well as from the peer-to-peer exchanges approach. In addition to the output of recommendations by local experts; this type of output contributed to the development of green budgeting methodologies in Slovenia, Romania and Latvia. These are the three key knowledge areas generated during the Green Budgeting training project that will be beneficial to apply in the project Green Budgeting for EU Regions.

**Desired profile**

-Advanced degree (master’s or PhD) in environment or economics/management, environmental science, public finances management or other relevant fields with at least 7 years of professional experience in the outlined areas;

- Track record of providing technical support to the development and implementation of Green PFM tools, as well as experience in executing capacity building activities;

- Fluency in English

-Experience with providing technical support in projects financed by the European Commission is an asset