

Terms of reference Project Coordinator for GOGIN II
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CONTEXT

The Gulf of Guinea (GoG) has become a global hotspot for maritime criminality, with a wide range of threats ranging from piracy, armed robbery to kidnap-for-ransom, oil theft and bunkering, different forms of smuggling and trafficking and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, environmental degradation and security at ports. Despite recent improvements, coastal countries and regional institutions still need to enhance their capacities to be better equipped to address these challenges in line with the Yaoundé Code of Conduct.

Since 2016, the “Gulf of Guinea Inter-regional Network” (GoGIN) project, funded by European Union (EU) and implemented by Expertise France (EF) has been contributing to maritime safety and security in the region. This has been done through GoGIN provided technical support to the Yaoundé Architecture (YA) maritime structures including regional and zonal centres, and national bodies in charge of fighting illicit activities at sea. The support has focused mainly on promoting information exchange and coordination between countries in order to enhance collective Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), defined as the understanding of the situation at sea, and enhancing response to incidents at sea. To this end, in 2020, GoGIN designed, in close collaboration with the Yaoundé Architecture Heads of Institutions, and developed the “Yaoundé Architecture Regional Information System” (YARIS), a web-based information exchange and coordination platform. YARIS has since then gained significant support from the GoG and international maritime security community and its deployment is one of the major contributions of the EU to the Yaoundé Architecture. The platform has been deployed across the region and currently almost all maritime centres of the YA (national and supranational) have received an initial training on YARIS.

Funded by EU and implemented by EF, GoGIN II aims to continue and enhance the work initiated by GOGIN (included its extension under GOGIN+), which ends in April 2023. Its overall objective is to contribute to improve maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea in order to favour blue economy and economic development of the countries. GOGIN II’s specific objective is to make the YARIS maritime information-sharing and coordination platform operational, handed over to the Gulf of Guinea region, fully used and functioning.

To achieve these objectives, Expertise France will conduct large-scale capacity building and mentoring activities to maritime administrations and agencies of the 19 coastal states (national networks) and the centres of the Yaoundé Architecture. Moreover, YARIS will be technically enhanced based on users’ needs and YARIS Steering Committee’s guidance.

The international and regional actors, such as Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG), the EU Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP) and the individual EU Member States will be encouraged to connect and use YARIS. Finally, in order to ensure the sustainability of the system, the Action will work towards the handover of the legal ownership of YARIS to the Yaoundé Architecture, along with a transfer of competences. The ownership of YARIS by the regional structure is the defining feature of the system compared to other MDA tools being used in the region.

MISSION’S DESCRIPTION :

The project coordinator ensure the good implementation of the project GOGIN II, in coordination with EF team in Abidjan and in Paris. Based in Abidjan in Ivoiriy Coast, and under the responsibility of the head

of division in Paris, the project coordinator intervene in all aspects of project management at the regional level (the project is implemented in 19 countries in the Gulf of Guinea).

The project coordination's main missions are as follows:

In relation with the strategic director and the project technical experts:

- Ensure the definition, planning and good implementation of all activities from the project ;
- Coordinate the work of long term and short term experts (draft of terms of reference; technical, logistics, and administrative supports for the organization of the mission, etc.);
- Organize and lead team meetings, steering committees, or other meetings necessary for project coordination ;
- Support if necessary the strategic director in his activities to promote the project and ensure cooperation with donors and partners; ensure complementarity between the organization of trainings and the political dialogue;
- In close relation with the monitoring and evaluation expert, ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the Description of Action (DOA), the logical framework, and the achievement of project's results ;
- Ensure the role of focal point in terms of reporting at the level of the project team in the field (collect and consolidate information sent by the experts, ensures the timely delivery of reports, systematically review reports in coordination of competent technical experts and under the supervision of the strategic director);
- Ensure the proper flow of information between the project team based in Abidjan or off-site, the mutualized support unit (CAM) of Expertise France in Abidjan, and Expertise France headquarters ;
- Supervise and coordinate the work of the project assistant and ensure good coordination with CAM support functions in Abidjan ;
- Contribute to the budget planning of activities in coordination with CAM finance team in Abidjan and the project officer in EF headquarters;
- Contribute to project audits in coordination with CAM finance team in Abidjan and the project officer in EF headquarters;
- Ensure compliance with the rules and procedures of the donor (European Union), in conjunction with the CAM's legal division;
- Ensure compliance with EF standards and procedures (logistics, financial, legal, safety) during the implementation of the project;
- Validate payments and contract awards within the limite of the amount of his signature delegation ;
- Any other task necessary for the smooth running of the project.

Desired profile

Professional experience :

- Minimum 5 years of experience in project management in the area of international cooperation and development
- Professionnal experience in the target area (gulf of Guinea, from Senegal to Angola)
- Prior experience working within a multicultural team
- Priori experience in managing EU funded projects and/or projects with a regional dimension

Qualifications et skills :

- Master 2 in international coopération internationale / project management / international relations / international law or any other relevant thematic;
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- Demonstrated project management skills ;
- Knowledge of and interest for the thematic of maritime security ;
- Fluent in French and English, both written and spoken. Knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish an asset;
- Sense of analysis and synthesis;
- Excellent writing skills ;
- Ability to work remotely, within a team deployed in several countries ;
- Ability to respond to emergencies and work within tight deadlines ;
- Sense of organization and initiative ;
- Ability to be reactive, proactive, autonomous and rigorous ;
- Proven interpersonal skills ;
- Good stress management ;
- Availability to travel in the project intervention area (Gulf of Guinea) or in France (EF headquarters).