Development of Web portal for Open Educational Resources

Request for Quotation

Description: Development of a web portal for educational resources under the UNESCO KFIT Project

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNESCO ROSA) hereby invites suitably qualified organisations to express their interest in the development of a web portal for Open Educational Resources for use in teaching and learning. In line with this activity, suitably qualified individuals and organisations are invited to express their interest. See below the concept note for the activity. This activity is one of a series of activities towards the establishment of the Zimbabwe Repository of Open Education Resources. See the details below

Background

"ICT Transforming Education in Africa" is a project developed within the framework of the UNESCO-Korean Funds-in-Trust (KFIT) contribution by the Republic of Korea. The project, which runs from 2016 to 2019, intends to support the integration of ICT-based innovative approaches for education in three countries in Africa, i.e. Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The project implementation is unfolding at country level in Zimbabwe under the theme "Transforming Zimbabwe into a Knowledge Based Society: Strengthening Quality Education through Integrating ICTs into Teaching, Learning, Research and Innovation." The goal of the project is; to strengthen e- Education and ICTs in Primary and Secondary Education; to capacitate Higher and Tertiary Education utilizing diverse methodologies for lifelong learning; and to create an enabling policy environment for the effective use of ICTs in Primary, Secondary, Higher, and Tertiary Education.

In the framework of the UNESCO-KFIT project on "ICT Transforming Education," one of the activities foreseen for Zimbabwe is the provision of electronic resources to pre and in service teachers for use in teaching and learning. The activity was conceived because of a need assessment exercise conducted in March/April 2015. The exercise identified that the access to and integration of ICT tools into education in order to facilitate quality and accessible learning, teaching, and research is still low, particularly there is a lack of digital pedagogy in many institutions.

In line with this, UNESCO ROSA and the Zimbabwe Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education are embarking on an activity to develop an online repository of Open Educational Resources. The envisaged repository seeks to bring together relevant digital resources across all stages of school education in Zimbabwe. It will span all subject domains and will be available initially in English. The OERs will include video, audio, documents, interactive objects and images. The repository proposes to use the digital resources to reach out and connect all members of the Primary and Secondary school community through various interactions on a consolidated platform. The repository will contain OERs for teaching and learning as well as Past Exam Questions and online forums for various categories of education stakeholders. The mission of the repository is to store, preserve and provide access to variety of digital resources to teachers and to enable the participation of the educational community in development and sharing of digital resources. The broad objective of the repository is to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and research and to facilitate teachers to create and share contextualized teaching learning resources and to celebrate innovations in resource creation.

UNESCO's Paris Declaration on Open Education Resources will be followed to ensure that all the resources are freely accessible to all. The objective of the repository is to provide teaching and learning material for every subject and topic at every learning level. The Zimbabwe Education system is divided in the following learning groups.

1. Infant (comprises Grades ECD A and B – Grade 2)
2. Junior (comprises Grades 3 to 7)
3. Ordinary level (comprises Forms 1 to 4)
4. Advanced level (comprises Forms 5 and 6)

Infant education has eight (8) learning areas, junior education has eleven (11) learning areas while O and A level education have forty-two (42) learning areas each.

Description of activities

In line with the background above, UNESCO invites interested individuals to develop a web portal and mobile application for the repository. The portal will be hosted by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, however during development, the contractor is expected to host the site and any associated content, which will be migrated to the Ministry's server at the end of the development process.

The portal should:

- Have a User Interface Aesthetic Design - The site must be appealing
- Be interactive and capture feedback.
- Should contain links to Ministry social Media Accounts and other relevant external content.
- The basic structure for the portal should include:

I. Home
II. Sections for all syllabi and past exam papers
III. Sections for electronic resource in the 4 areas*
    1.Infant (comprises Grades ECD A and B – Grade 2)
    2.Junior (comprises Grades 3 to 7)
    3.Ordinary level (comprises Forms 1 to 4)
    4.Advanced level (comprises Forms 5 and 6)

This section should be organised logically following the national syllabi, producing a semantic map of resources for each learning area. All the syllabi are available here. The OERs will include video, audio, documents, interactive objects and images. Each resource should be tagged to related concepts making it accessible. Each resource should be easily downloadable and can be commented upon. The resources will be provided by the ministry with whom the consultant will jointly work in uploading the resources online

IV. Social Platform for teachers – allowing for interaction and knowledge sharing between professionals. Teachers should also be able to contribute by adding tags and resources.
V. Relevant Ministry documents (Archives, Forms, Manuals, Speeches, Publications, Scholarships, Reports and FAQs
VI. Contacts
VII. Webmail

- The website must be able to track user behaviour using information such as how the user arrived at the website, how long they spent on the website, where the users are showing greatest interest as well as demographic data and this data will be stored in a manner that can be retrieved by the administrator and it can also be aggregated to generate statistical data in the form of charts and graphs.
- Address the issue of Security Testing - Given the sensitive nature of the information in the Ministry security is essential and there is need to employ industry standard encryption to keep data safe.
- There will be no trademark or tag for the developer (as it is a government website the government retains autonomy of the site)

- Detailed information will be supplied on request

The mobile application:

The application will be the mobile home of the repository for greater access. It should be a standalone application covering both iOS and Android, and available in the respective app stores.

The app should offer:

1. Simplicity for the end user
2. High performance
3. Offline work capability
4. Security (e.g for login to personal account)
5. Feedback and contact means

Specific roles of the consultant

1. Develop work plan in consultation with UNESCO and MOPSE
2. Attend inception meeting with UNESCO and MOPSE on the design of the portal
3. Design web portal and app schematics for approval
4. Develop web portal
5. Develop mobile applications
6. Attend 4 workshops on the ''Development of content and mining of web for OERs'' to facilitate sessions on uploading resources onto the portal.
7. Attend official launch ceremony of the OER portal.

Application Criteria:

Eligible companies are invited to submit a proposal that outlines the following information.

Applicant Information

- legal name of company
- contact information
- the background of the delivery organization (including links to previous websites and apps developed)
- Its expertise to carry-out the proposed activities.

Work plan

Describe the specific activities that will be undertaken and include a description of the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts of each activity. The activities will share the following characteristics: be action-based; of definite duration (please note that this is a high priority activity for the ministry and should be completed in the shortest possible time, which should be highlighted); have identifiable logical relationships.

Budget

The budget should include an expense section that links costs to the work plan activities. This will be used as a quotation for evaluation purposes. All payments will be made in USD which will be deposited in relevant nostro accounts.

Application

Proposals should be emailed to Don Tererai (d.tererai@unesco.org) and copied (cc) to Abdoul Coulibaly (aw.coulibaly@unesco.org) and Shingi Chipuka (sh.chipuka@unesco.org) on or before 21 November 2018.

There is no specific template for the proposal; however, it should contain sections providing the information indicated above. You are welcome to contact Don Tererai (email: d.tererai@unesco.org cell: +263773537242) for assistance in completing your proposal.

Evaluation/Selection

Proposals will be evaluated against the guidelines highlighted in this request.

Selection process

All proponents who submit a proposal will be contacted and advised of the outcome. Proponents may be asked to provide additional information or develop a detailed proposal for further consideration.