Terms of reference for the recruitment of an individual consultant for the design of the TALENT's interactive knowledge exchange platform

Context:

The global learning crisis has been documented in the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/4 and figures show that it is more prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The region is home to 17 of the 21 countries for which data are available, where more than half of the children were not learning the basics. This has been confirmed by several learning assessment surveys conducted throughout the region. In addition, disparities in learning outcomes suggest that the factors that marginalize certain groups have not only failed to be mitigated by education, but have in fact been exacerbated by other factors.

Aware of these concerns and the need to promote effective strategies to improve learning, the Teaching and Learning: Educators' Network for Transformation (TALENT) was set up in 2016, within the framework of the coordination of SDG 4 in West and Central Africa. As of today TALENT's steering group is composed of ADEA-NALA, ANCEFA, CONFEMEN (and its PASEC programme), Education International, UNESCO (and its institutes), UNHCR and UNICEF.

TALENT's focus is teaching and learning, to support effective learning in line with the needs of 21st century learners in sub-Saharan Africa. TALENT's average interventions are the exchange of experiences, expertise and knowledge; the production of research; and capacity building in SSA countries.

In order to achieve its objectives, the UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar, which hosts the TALENT Secretariat, envisages to set up a web platform with the aim of facilitating exchange between countries, stimulating dialogue around teaching and learning in SSA and promoting good practices.

A Community of Practice (CoP) is defined as "A group of people who share a concern or passion for something they do and learn to do it better by interacting regularly". The TALENT platform aims to become an online community of practice for education professionals to guide the engagement of SSA countries in achieving the targets of the SDG 4 and the Education Agenda 2030.

The design and operationalization of TALENT's web platform/community of practice responds to a need for information, knowledge sharing, the creation of a framework for exchanges and a visual identity with all stakeholders. For the realization of the platform, UNESCO Dakar Office is looking for a web designer with proven experience in the development of interactive web platforms.

Mission :

The consultant is responsible for developing the online platform of the TALENT working group. In particular, the consultant will need to review the current online platform (ED2030) the strengths and weaknesses of the tools currently available. Then, the consultant will have to design and implement the design of a web interface for the online community of practice linked to the Education 2030 platform. In developing the web platform, the consultant should take into account the following criteria:

a) Target the needs of the TALENT steering group and its members by taking into account the institutional image;
b) Develop, within the TALENT space on the website ED2030, an interactive dialogue space where TALENT members can dialogue and exchange on best practices and lessons learnt;
c) Include in the platform a mailing list for the SSA countries, the TALENT members' country offices, the education sector leaders in SSA countries and any other stakeholders;
d) Include a space for sharing videos, photos, podcasts and other audiovisual communication tools;
e) Include a space for interactive computer graphics;
f) Include a database of documents to be shared with a multi-criteria search engine;
g) The platform must be responsive design (adaptable to different screen types, e.g. Tablet, smartphone etc.);
h) The platform must be available at the same time in two language versions (English and French).

This is an home-based assignment. The consultant will need to have a proper equipment and a high quality internet connection. The platform must be active before **30 September 2019**.

Tasks :

- Submit a plan for the implementation of the web platform including a detailed schedule for the work;
- Based on the platform structure approved by the TALENT team and its Secretariat, develop the web platform avoiding duplication with other existing platforms and respecting the United Nations guidelines for the development of a web portal, namely the graphic charter (logo and colours), the Social Network Policy, etc...;
- Write a user and maintenance manual for the web platform;
- Train the relevant staff of the UNESCO Dakar Office/ TALENT Secretariat and other members of the TALENT Steering group on the updating and maintenance of the web platform.

Qualifications:

Skills required carrying out this assignment:

- Mastery of web development tools (CMS, HTML, PHP, XML, Java, Javascript, MySQL etc.);
- Mastery of CSS and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standards;
- Good writing skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and pay attention to detail and quality of work;
- Ability to maintain effective working relationships in a multicultural environment;
- Languages: Excellent knowledge of English or French. Operational knowledge of the other language is an asset

Required education and experience :

- Higher university degree (minimum bac+4) in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) or similar;
- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in web project management and proven experience in the development of web content management platforms or online communities of practice;
- Experience in communication and online engagement is an asset;

Duration of the consultancy assignment:

The consultation is scheduled for a period of two months.

How to apply:

Please send your CV, references of web platforms and/or online communities of practice you have developed and your technical and financial proposal to d.ruscelli@unesco.org and m.gueye@unesco.org. The deadline for applications is **19 August 2019.** Please note that only pre-selected candidates will be contacted.

Annexes of the reference sites:

- Network on Education Quality Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific (NEQMAP) Portal:
http://nespap.unescobkk.org/neqmap/
- Portal of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning:
https://learningportal.iiep.unesco.org/en

- o Library to upload and download resources to or from the platform by members
- o Space for audio-visual communication tools
- o Members' area with a forum for discussions
- o Glossary of terms
- o Resource database with multi-criteria search engine
- o News section
- o Headings for activities and events (past, current and future)
- o Blog for articles
- o Section for registration of members
- o About this section
- o Section to contact us
- o Partners section
- o Other