BUKU

TENDER DOCUMENT

FOR SOFTWARE SERVICE PROVIDER IN THE DEVELOPPP "CREATE
RWANDA" PROJECT (01/12/2024 - 30/11/2027)

GRONINGEN, JANUARY 2025

Project: DeveloPPP "CREATE Rwanda" Project

Position: Software Service Provider

Duration: 01/12/2024 - 30/11/2027

Introduction

This tender invites applications for the position of Software Service Provider for the DeveloPPP project. The selected provider will play a critical role in supporting the project's digital transformation goals through expertise in ePUB3 digital editing, graphic design, eBook creation, and training. The project focuses on digitizing and enhancing educational content for the Rwanda TVET ecosystem.

Information about the project

The core of BUKU's business model is an online platform providing access to digital books from internationally renowned publishers to educational institutes in emerging economies.

Rwanda is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and aims at becoming a middle-income country by 2035. Although the educational system has made strong progress with regards to the number of students that have access to education, access to textbooks and digitalized resources is limited to 1 in 8 students. In addition, teachers' access to training materials and teaching books is extremely limited, even more so outside of the capital city of Kigali. To study, students and teachers need to be physically present at a TVET school, where on average there are less than five textbooks per course in the libraries of schools.

Early 2024, BUKU started a partnership with the Rwanda TVET Board (RTB), the government institution in charge of all public and public-funded TVET schools in Rwanda. This resulted in RTB using Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) funds to pay for an initial 1 year subscription fee for all of its 100.000+ students, thus providing them access to BUKU's online library of more than 170,000 books from international publishers. That was made possible by last years' efforts of the Rwandan government and its development partners to improve availability of computers and internet to most TVET schools in Rwanda. To sustain this access, RTB committed to integrate the BUKU platform subscription costs into their yearly budget.

However, TVET education in Rwanda suffers from another major challenge: RTB has the mandate to develop and publish local content for its students. However, as of 2023 RTB had only been able to publish approximately 7% of all necessary local content for their students and lacked the capacity to create trainers and trainees' manuals to meet the remaining 93% needs. Hence at present Rwanda TVET students have to rely nearly exclusively on foreign educational resources. The need to develop localised content, adapted to Rwanda TVET curricula, was clearly expressed by Hon. Minister Claudette Irere and further conveyed by the General Director of RTB to BUKU and development partners, including GIZ, since 2023.

In the first half of 2024, RTB, with SDC funding (consultation by BUKU) created the first Rwanda specific e-manuals for TVET trainers and trainees and established the possibility to address through a digitalised process the lack of localised training materials. In total 56 trainee and 56 trainer manuals were created across ten trades: Electrical Technology, Electronic and Telecommunication, Fashion Design, Wood Technology, Plumbing Technology, Public Works, Land Surveying, Forestry, Fine and Plastic Arts, and Multimedia

Production. The modules were designed to serve as the foundation for RQF Level 3 training programs, ensuring a robust and scalable framework for skills development.

In view of the success of that pilot, RTB would like to develop more of such e-manuals and wants to capacitate its staff in e-manuals content development.

The project will have three work packages:

1. Refining piloted e-manuals content development procedures and setting-up a systematic process in collaboration with RTB.
2. Developing capacity within RTB to perform the different functions needed in content development procedures.
3. While testing this process, the capacities of RTB staff will be honed through the creation of content for 100 new e-manuals (50 for trainers, 50 for trainees), which will be digitalized by the to-be-selected Software Service Provider.

The "three Rs" of BMZ Feminist Development Policy 2023 will be translated into each work packages as follows:

- Ensuring equal **rights** for women and disadvantaged groups in the designed process
- Ensuring appropriate **representation** of women and disadvantaged groups during capacity development and therefore giving them a voice in content development
- Providing access to the **resources** for visually impaired and/or dyslexic students and teachers through digital features of created e-manuals

The selection of trades for which the 100 e-manuals will be created is planned within the first 6 months of the project and will be done in collaboration with RTB. However, in view of the big needs for localised manuals, it has already been decided to focus on content creation that contributes to the following aspects of Rwanda's Vision 2050, which particularly align with the principles of a Just Transition:

"The aim is to achieve high quality and standards of living.
(...) This will be achieved through ensuring all walks of society have increased opportunities to contribute to national development, including by growing investments in human capital and ensuring universal access to amenities, safety and security.

(...) growth and development will follow a sustainable path in terms of use and management of natural resources while building resilience to cope with climate change impacts.

Rwandans' aspiration for high quality of life will be further appreciated through the quality of the environment, both natural and built.

These aspirations will continue to be embedded in Rwanda's long term Green Growth and Climate Resilient Strategy (GGCRS) whose impact is intended to bring about mindset and developmental transformation in Rwandan society that is necessary to achieve the desired carbon-neutral and climate resilient economy."

Vision 2050, abridged version, Republic of Rwanda, p.7-8

Key responsibilities

1. Training and capacity building
- Organize a one-day introductory session on e-manual writing for RTB process managers (approximately 15 participants, including management, trade experts, and the best writers from the pilot phase). The session will cover objectives, process

steps, roles during writing, reviewing, and editing, communication with BUKU, responsibilities, preparation for writing workshops, and guidance for writers.

- Prepare and conduct four one-day introductory workshops on e-manual writing for the first cohort of 100 prospective writers (RTB teachers and/or industry experts, approximately 25 participants per workshop) in collaboration with RTB process managers. Topics will include writing versus reviewing/editing, templates and curriculum alignment, crafting informative content, designing introductory questions, problem-solving and discovery activities, and creating application exercises.
- Organize four one-day introductory workshops on e-manual writing for the second cohort of 100 prospective writers (RTB teachers and/or industry experts, approximately 25 participants per workshop) in collaboration with RTB process managers and/or champions.

2. Graphic design and content development

- Conduct two workshops with RTB multimedia teachers to pilot the internal design of images for e-manuals. Each workshop will last one day and include approximately 15 participants (e.g., 1-2 process managers/writing champions, multimedia teachers, and possibly students, along with BUKU staff). The Software Service Provider must demonstrate extensive experience in graphic design, creating digital books, and working with stylesheets in ePUB3 format.

3. Digitalization and content integration

- Digitalize the content of 100 validated manuals from cohort 1, integrating videos, images, and interactive elements (e.g., self-assessments, true/false questions, multiple-choice questions). The content will be formatted in ePUB3 and should be developed using a user-friendly platform accessible to and usable by writers, editors, and reviewers.

Preferred qualifications and experience

- Proven expertise in digital editing, styling and working with ePUB3 format development.

- Significant experience in graphic design, eBook creation, and interactive content design, with a strong portfolio demonstrating similar work.

- Capability to train and upskill individuals with varying levels of experience in content creation.

- Prior experience working on projects in the African continent, with a focus on publishing, education and technology.

Submission details

- Interested applicants must submit the following:
- A detailed proposal outlining their approach to fulfilling the outlined responsibilities.
- A portfolio demonstrating previous experience with ePUB3, graphic design, and interactive eBook development.
- Proof of experience in training and capacity building.
- Financial proposal, including a breakdown of costs.

Submission details

Interested applicants must submit the following:

1. A detailed proposal outlining their approach to fulfilling the outlined responsibilities.

2. Proof of relevant experience and connections with specified stakeholders

3. Financial proposal, including a breakdown of costs.

Deadline for Submission: 30th of January 2025, 12:00 PM

Contact Information

For inquiries and submission, please contact:

Wout Dingenouts

COO BUKU B.V
wout@buku.io
+31 629487718