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www.ecopontes.com

EcoPontes – Requirement Profile for Operators

1 Background

The aim of EcoPontes is to expand the circular economy and recycling activities in low-income countries and to connect them more closely. Paper, plastic, glass and other recyclables are to be collected separately via local EcoPontes stations in order to return the material to the recycling value chain.

The EcoPontes operator is responsible for all organizational and operational procedures and processes in the interface between collectors and recyclers. The operators play a central role in safe and professional operation of EcoPontes. In order to build trust and long-term contact between the EcoPontes operators and the subsequent actors in the value chain, e.g., aggregators, recyclers, clearly defined tasks and requirement profiles are of decisive importance.

2 Tasks of the operator

The operator of one or more EcoPontes is responsible for the performance of the following tasks:

- Selection and training of collectors on site
- Main communication with downstream recyclers
- Management of any financial resources
- Remuneration of collectors
- Weighing and quality inspection of the delivered material
- Complete and transparent documentation of the recorded material flows
- Clarification of numerous individual questions, such as occupational safety or health protection

3 Requirements for operators

The aim of this document is to define a requirement profile in preparation for the identification and selection of EcoPontes operators. For this purpose, criteria for determining the suitability of an operator are defined. The selection criteria correspond to minimum requirements, which should be reviewed and, if necessary, extended.

3.1 Organization

3.1.1 Legal framework

The operator has a state recognition or legal form in the country of activity or a comparable official permit to fulfill the contractual provisions of the project as an organization.

3.1.2 Financing

The operating organization is financially independent and is entitled to accept financial resources and make payments to the collectors. It undertakes to fulfil this task diligently and to take active action against fraud.

3.1.3 Staff

The operator or operating organization is active on site and provides sufficient human resources to ensure the continuous operation of the EcoPontes collection center. In addition, the staff is trained so that smooth and safe operation is possible, and collectors' questions can be answered reliably.

3.1.4 Transparency

The operator undertakes to be transparent towards all actors involved in the project. This presupposes that proper documentation is carried out on the delivered materials of the collectors in terms of weight and quality.

3.2 Main Areas of Activity

3.2.1 Tackling important social and environmental problems in the operating country

The activities of the operator have a positive impact on society and the environment. Overcoming important social and environmental problems in the target country is the focus of its own commitment. In doing so, they have set themselves the implementation sustainable goals. One focus area is on activities in the field of waste management and recycling.

3.2.2 Representation of the interests of collectors

The operating organization promotes the social and economic integration of collectors, and strengthens their organizations, to help them move up the value chain and to be included and favored in formal waste management systems. The operator acts as a mouthpiece for the collectors and advocates the improvement of living and working conditions in front of the stakeholders involved.

3.2.3 Respect for human rights

The work of the operator takes place in respect of human rights. This includes supporting the participation of collectors and empowering them to claim, exercise and monitor their rights independently. The monitoring of human rights is the responsibility of the operating organization. In case of human rights violations, the organization is obliged to report them (to relevant human rights organizations). This also includes an active commitment against child labor.

3.2.4 Commitment to sustainable delivery of agreed quantities of recyclable materials

A functioning value chain and the reliability of all actors involved are prerequisites for a sustainable recycling value chain. The recyclers are therefore dependent on the collectors adhering to the agreed quantities and delivery periods and thus generating sustainable material flows. The obligation of the operator to ensure the collection and thus maintenance of the material flow is therefore essential.

3.3 Reach

3.3.1 Strong connections at grassroot level and EcoPontes locations

The interface function between collector and recycler presupposes that the operator works locally and has a good reputation among the local population. The organization is already active in the vicinity of the EcoPontes locations and is known to the population with its activities and familiar with the local conditions.

3.4 Expertise/Experience

3.4.1 (International) Project experience and understanding of deadlines and timelines

The organization has experience in project work with several, sometimes international project partners. Since the different work steps are dependent on each other, or build on each other, an understanding of the binding nature of time frames and deadlines is required.

3.4.2 Ability to innovate and develop

The operator is determined to apply previous experiences to the implementation of EcoPontes and, if necessary, to bring in special local characteristics for the continuous improvement process. In this way, the operator should contribute to promoting locally innovative developments in the field of waste management and recycling.

3.4.3 Experience in capacity building, trainings

The organization has experience in the planning and implementation of training and measures for capacity building. The training and qualification of even larger groups of informal waste collectors is feasible in terms of personnel and organization. The organization imparts knowledge and capacity-building measures to the collectors in order to promote the recognition and professionalization of their work.

4 Eligibility criteria and evaluation

In order to determine the suitability of a potential operator, a questionnaire is provided during the selection procedure (see Table 1), which asks the minimum requirements for the operator. The answers to the questionnaire serve as a basis for further dialogue with the potential operator. The exclusion criteria for future cooperation are:

- Violation of human rights
- untraceable use of financial resources/corruption
- no obligation to regular collection activity

5 Questionnaire to determine the suitability of a potential operator

Table 1: Evaluation questionnaire for potential EcoPontes operators

Question	Answer		Remark
	YES	NO	
Organization			
Can the operator prove a state/institutional document certifying the legitimacy of his work in the country of effect?			
Does the operator have financial security for his previous activities and can prove this for at least 2 years?			
Are the income and expenses of the operating organization documented and archived?			
Is transparency towards all actors involved in the project a key value of the operator?			
Operations			
Is the main focus of the operator's activities in solving important social and environmental problems?			
Does the operator regularly document his activities?			
Does the operator have experience in the field of "advocacy", e.g., implementation of local campaigns about environment, social grievances?			
Does the operator generally work according to the participatory approach and strengthen the capacities and opportunities of the local communities?			



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Has the operator organized local meetings where stakeholders from different interest groups participated?			
Is the operator officially committed to upholding human rights?			
Does the operator cooperate with relevant human rights organizations?			
Does the operator undertake to maintain the collection of recyclable materials in order to establish permanent material flows?			
Reach			
Does the operator carry out projects in the respective EcoPontes location?			
Have the operator's activities generated a positive impact on local communities in the past?			
Have the operator's activities been reported in the local press?			
Expertise/Experience			
Does the operator have experience in project work with several, sometimes international project partners? (Proof of project proposals, reports,...)			
Is the operator interested in participating in the conception of sustainable development? Implementation of pilot projects?			
Capacity Building			
Does the organization have experience in planning and implementing training courses and measures for capacity building? (Photos of training courses, training materials,...)			
Is the operator able to provide training in local languages and methods so that the participation of the local population can be guaranteed?			



About Us

Rodiek & Co GmbH is a consulting company in the field of waste management, recycling and the circular economy.

Our mission is to support the development of a functioning circular economy by providing experience and operational know-how.

Our target regions are low- and middle-income countries where waste management and recycling are still in their infancy. Our solutions are tailored to the specific local requirements and needs.

We offer services along the entire value chain from collection and sorting to treatment and processing for recycling.

We provide technical support for equipment, including vehicles and machinery, as well as material flow management.

In addition, we offer the development of sustainable recycling and energy concepts for municipalities, companies and industry.

As a 100% subsidiary of the Nehlsen Group, one of the largest German waste disposal and recycling companies, we can draw on the operational know-how and practical experience from 99 years of waste disposal and recycling business in Germany.

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