



**U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR**
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Short Term Assignment

Ambassador's Water Experts Program (AWEP)

Romania, Winter 2022/Spring 2023

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking one or more experts to provide irrigation modernization and water conservation expertise to government, academic, and non-profit stakeholders in Romania.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of U.S. expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating across the globe with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. DOI-ITAP has managed short- and long-term multi-partner projects in over 60 countries since 1995.

Under an agreement with the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), DOI-ITAP has been tasked with organizing short-term deployments of U.S.-based hydrologist and water resource subject matter experts to support the implementation of the U.S. Global Water Strategy in priority countries. In 2018-19, DOI-ITAP sent experts to Armenia, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Uganda, Ukraine, and Vietnam. Since 2021, due to travel restrictions imposed by COVID19, DOI-ITAP launched virtual programs with Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Morocco, Belize, Brazil, Pakistan, and the Philippines. As travel restrictions are lifted, DOI-ITAP is supporting hybrid programming that includes both virtual and in-person components.

Romania is Europe's largest corn and sunflower producer and is in the top five wheat and soybeans producers in the European Union. However, Romania struggles with one of the lowest agricultural productivity rates due to inefficient and insufficient water distribution systems. Romania's once large national network of irrigation canals has fallen into disrepair and were originally designed to be energy intensive. At present, less than 20 percent of the 6,200-mile irrigation canal infrastructure is utilized, irrigating approximately 10 percent of the 22 million acres of arable land in Romania.

These infrastructure limitations have exacerbated ongoing drought conditions in 2022, with both wheat and maize production expected to drop significantly from previous years due to lack of consistent water supply. If Romania is to maintain its profile as a major agricultural exporter in the European Union, the country needs assistance to successfully build capacity to design and implement a successful canal water conservation program. Training for the Romanian National Agency for Land Reclamation (ANIF), which oversees the development of primary irrigation canals and related investments, would also inform Romania's ongoing efforts to request financial assistance from the EU to implement a broader water conservation program.

ASSIGNMENT: U.S. water experts will facilitate in-person for the Romanian Government on irrigation modernization and innovative water conservation solutions, specifically focused on building institutional capacity to design and implement a successful water conservation program for existing aging canal infrastructure that incorporates both smart-water systems and civil engineering retrofitting solutions. The in-country agenda will also include field visits to major irrigation infrastructure installations and focused discussions on smart-water technology implementation. Experts will provide a brief trip report summarizing their experiences in-country and identifying areas for potential future cooperation.

SCHEDULE: This assignment is expected to start with virtual meetings in January 2023. Travel is expected to take place later in the spring, depending on Embassy bandwidth and the availability of the selected expert(s).

DUTIES: The expert(s) will work in close collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers, counterparts at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, regional water organizations and local officials throughout the implementation process. Planning and implementation will include consulting with DOI-ITAP, the State Department, and the relevant representatives to develop the program agenda, format, and schedule. DOI-ITAP will facilitate planning calls/videoconferences with the expert and in-country counterparts to ensure strategic alignment of any technical and diplomatic objectives. DOI-ITAP and the U.S. Embassy will provide and manage the videoconferencing platform and arrange scheduling for regional stakeholders. Technical experts will be responsible for delivering the relevant subject matter and engaging in reasonable follow-up activities (e.g., answering email/telephone questions from training attendees).

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all costs associated with this assignment.

NOTE: U.S. Government employers will still be responsible for paying the salaries of expert(s) for the duration of the assignment. A daily honorarium of \$250 is available to compensate members of the private sector or retirees. The honorarium will cover preparatory time, actual online engagement, and any follow-up reporting (billing and reporting requirements for honoraria will be discussed with the DOI-ITAP Project Manager upon selection for the assignment).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Have significant academic and/or professional expertise in a field closely related to the subject matter of the assignment;
- Have working knowledge of water resource management, particularly in a developing country context;
- Be able to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of professional peers, agencies, and stakeholders of diverse ethnic or cultural affiliations;
- Have strong oral presentation abilities and public-speaking skills
- Be able to convey technical material to a wide knowledge base and broader audiences;
- Be willing to work with regional counterparts during their workday (GMT+2).

Preference will be given to applicants with:

- Experience working with U.S. embassies or a demonstrated knowledge of the structure of U.S. embassies and the general purpose of key positions;

- Familiarity with inter-agency coordination and managing the strategic priorities of multiple government stakeholders;
- Extensive international experience, can include voluntary positions and/or field work;
- Relevant foreign language skills not required, interpretation funding is available;

HOW TO APPLY: To receive consideration for this assignment, individuals must:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing direct, relevant work experience to the AWEF Project Manager, Elizabeth Goffi (Elizabeth_Goffi@ios.doi.gov). The materials should be sent as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_JOB TITLE"

All DOI employees must secure prior approval from their supervisors to apply for an ITAP assignment. Supervisors will ultimately adhere to office-specific requirements for any further approvals. For DOI employees, applicants should contact their bureau-level International Affairs points of contact (see table below). USG personnel from other agencies should similarly contact their International Affairs office for Department-specific guidance.

Bureau	Contact	Email	Telephone
BLM**	Ryan Witt	Rwitt@blm.gov	202-912-7562
BOR**	Jeff Morris	Jmorris@usbr.gov	303-445-3373
FWS	Tasha Harris	Tasha.Harris@fws.gov	703-358-1904
BSEE	Julie Fleming	Julie.Fleming@bsee.gov	703-787-1681
BOEM	Emily Lindow	Emily.Lindow@boem.gov	202-513-0825
NPS**	April Brooks	April.Brooks@nps.gov	202-354-1808
OSMRE	Sterling Rideout	Srideout@osmre.gov	202-208-2596
USGS**	Kevin Kunkel	kkunkel@usgs.gov	693-648-6206
ONRR	Chris Mentasti	Chris.Mentasti@ONRR.gov	202-513-0614

**All NPS, BOR, BLM, and USGS applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs when they submit their applications to ITAP.

Please note that ITAP travel does not require the use of a field office credit card and any travel will not count towards ‘travel caps.’

APPLICATION PROCESS: DOI-ITAP reviews applications on a rolling basis and the selection process may take several weeks. Short-listed candidates will complete a brief virtual interview, after which DOI-ITAP will notify all applicants of final selection results by e-mail. The position is open to anyone that meets the stated requirements. Recipients of this notice are encouraged to forward the announcement to any individuals or agencies that may be interested. If you believe you have received this in error or would like to be taken off the distribution list, please inquire with the Project Manager. Applicants not selected for this announcement will have their resumes retained for consideration for future ITAP projects.