



Framework Agreements consist of a 2 stage process:

1. A pool of Providers is established (at least 3) for a particular need. The selected Providers will then sign the FA.
2. When a need arises, a Provider will be chosen from the pool through a "call off" competition to provide the deliverable(s).

Why are Framework Agreements used?

FAs are used by the Council of Europe (COE) when needs are regular but relatively variable, changeable, uncertain or complex. They are utilised for situations where neither the precise deliverables required, nor the quantity or volume required, is yet known.

No obligation to buy

Once a FA has been concluded, the CoE is not under any obligation to buy anything. However, each time a need arises which is covered in the FA, the CoE must launch a call-off among the selected Providers. The Provider will be determined by the call-off procedure on the basis of the best value for money principle.

Single or multiple

FAs can only be multiple. A minimum of 3 Providers will be selected per lot or per FA if there are no lots. This ensures that the call-offs are competitive.

Call-offs

Call-offs will always be limited by the scope of the FA. Further details of the deliverables sought will be defined by terms of reference/technical specifications that will be sent to Providers along with an invitation to submit a tender. Call-offs are then assessed on the same principles as award criteria. The call-off award criteria will be published in the FA tender file and can be different to the award criteria for the FA itself. There are no eligibility criteria for call-offs, because the selected Providers in the 'pool' have already been assessed as eligible for the FAs being awarded.

