

TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE (Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)

Purchase of national consultancy services for evaluation of project related activities under the project "Supporting Freedom of Expression and Media in Georgia" *Contract N° SFEM-GE.27.06.2025*



The Council of Europe is currently implementing the cooperation project on "Supporting Freedom of Expression and Media in Georgia (SFEM-GE)", until 31 December 2025. In that context, it is looking for Provider(s) for the provision of national consultancy services in the field of evaluation, to be requested by the Council on an as needed basis.

A. TENDER RULES

This tender procedure is a competitive bidding procedure. **In accordance with Rule 1395 of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe¹, the Organisation shall invite to tender at least three potential providers for any purchase between €2,000 (or €6,000 for intellectual services) and €171,000 tax exclusive.**

This specific tender procedure aims at concluding a **framework contract** for the provision of deliverables described in the Act of Engagement (See attached). A tender is considered valid for 180 calendar days as from the closing date for submission. The selection of tenderers will be made in the light of the criteria indicated below. All tenderers will be informed in writing of the outcome of the procedure.

The tenderer must be either a natural person, a legal person or consortia of legal and/or natural persons.

Tenders shall be submitted **by email only** (with attachments) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject: National Consultancy services for evaluation.** Tenders addressed to another email address **will be rejected.**

The general information and contact details for this procedure are indicated on this page. You are invited to use the CoE Contact details indicated below for any question you may have. **All questions shall be submitted at least 5 (Five) working days before the deadline for submission of the tenders and shall be exclusively addressed to the email address indicated below with the following reference in subject: Questions - National Consultancy services for evaluation.**

Type of contract ►	Framework contract
Duration ►	Until 31 December 2025
Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►	30 July 2025 23h59 CET
Email for submission of tenders/offers ►	mediaprojectgeorgia@coe.int
Email for questions ►	natalia.gamgebeli@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ►	1 September 2025

¹ The activities of the Council of Europe are governed by its [Statute](#) and its internal Regulations. Procurement is governed by the Financial Regulations of the Organisation and by [Rule 1395 of 20 June 2019 on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe](#).

B. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Background of the Project

The Council of Europe cooperation project "Supporting Freedom of Expression and Media in Georgia (SFEM-GE)" is 2-year project (2024-25) and is aimed at contributing to the improvement of media landscape and Freedom of Expression through supporting the key stakeholders in their research, capacity building and advocacy work.

The Council of Europe is looking for a maximum of 3 Provider(s) (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of the project with a particular expertise on evaluation.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 10 activities, to be held by 31 December 2025. This estimate is for information only and shall not constitute any sort of contractual commitment on the part of the Council of Europe. The Contract may potentially represent a higher or lower number of activities, depending on the evolving needs of the Organisation.

For information purposes only, the total budget of the project amounts to 780,000 Euros and the total amount of the object of present tender shall not exceed 171,000 Euros tax exclusive for the whole duration of the Framework Contract. This information does not constitute any sort of contractual commitment or obligation on the part of the Council of Europe.

Scope of the Framework Contract

Throughout the duration of the Framework Contract, pre-selected Providers may be asked to:

- Assess the results of project activities through analysis of pre- and post-activity evaluations/questionnaires and provide concise summaries and evaluation reports;
- Advise on the relevance, clarity and effectiveness of existing questionnaires and recommend adjustments where necessary, based on findings from conducted assessments;
- Develop and propose additional data collection tools, including tailored pre/post-questionnaires for activities planned in the project's final phase;
- Design comprehensive feedback tools (e.g. surveys or interview guides etc.) aimed at evaluating the overall impact of the project on key stakeholders and partners;
- Provide consolidated analysis of the feedback received from target groups and key stakeholders, identifying trends, gaps and lessons learned;
- Upon request, draft new or revised pre- and post-questionnaires for remaining project activities to ensure alignment with project objectives and expected outcomes;
- Ensure that gender perspective and other cross-cutting considerations are reflected in all assessment tools and final evaluation outputs;
- Deliver other related outputs as may be requested by the Council of Europe to support evidence-based project closure and reporting.

The above list is not considered exhaustive. The Council reserves the right to request deliverables not explicitly mentioned in the above list of expected services, but related to the field of expertise object of the present Framework Contract.

In terms of **quality requirements**, the pre-selected Service Providers must ensure, *inter alia*, that:

- The services are provided to the highest professional/academic standard;
- Any specific instructions given by the Council – whenever this is the case – are followed.
- If contracted by the Council of Europe, in the case of legal persons, the deliverables shall be provided personally by the persons identified in the offer of the Provider whose CVs have been presented to the Council of Europe (See section E. below), in accordance with the terms as provided in the present Tender File and Act of Engagement.

In addition to the orders requested on an as needed basis, the Provider shall keep regular communication with the Council to ensure continuing exchange of information relevant to the project implementation. This involves, among others, to inform the Council as soon as it becomes aware, during the execution of the Contract, of any initiatives and/or adopted laws and regulations, policies, strategies or action plans or any

other development related to the object of the Contract (see more on general obligations of the Provider in Article 3.1.2 of the Legal Conditions in the Act of Engagement).

Unless otherwise agreed with the Council, written documents produced by the Provider shall be in English (see more on requirements for written documents in Articles 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 of the Legal Conditions in the Act of Engagement).

C. FEES

Tenderers are invited to indicate their fees, by completing and sending the table of fees, as attached in Section A to the Act of Engagement. These fees are final and not subject to review.

The Council will indicate on each Order Form (see Section D below) the global fee corresponding to each deliverable, calculated on the basis of the unit fees, as agreed by this Contract.

D. HOW WILL THIS FRAMEWORK CONTRACT WORK? (ORDERING PROCEDURE)

Once the selection procedure is completed, you will be informed accordingly. Deliverables will then be delivered on the basis of Order Forms submitted by the Council to the selected Provider (s), by post or electronically, on **an as needed basis** (there is therefore no obligation to order on the part of the Council).

Pooling

For each Order, the Council will choose from the pool of pre-selected tenderers the Provider who demonstrably offers best value for money for its requirement when assessed – for the Order concerned – against the criteria of:

- quality (including as appropriate: capability, expertise, past performance, availability of resources and proposed methods of undertaking the work);
- availability (including, without limitation, capacity to meet required deadlines and, where relevant, geographical location); and
- price.

Each time an Order Form is sent, the selected Provider undertakes to take all the necessary measures to send it **signed** to the Council within 2 (two) working days after its reception. If a Provider is unable to take an Order or if no reply is given on his behalf within that deadline, the Council may call on another Provider using the same criteria, and so on until a suitable Provider is contracted.

Providers subject to VAT

The Provider, **if subject to VAT**, shall also send, together with each signed Form, a quote² (Pro Forma invoice) in line with the indications specified on each Order Form, and including:

- the Service Provider's name and address;
- its VAT number;
- the full list of services;
- the fee per type of deliverables (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement, tax exclusive);
- the total amount per type of deliverables (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement, tax exclusive);
- the total amount (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement), tax exclusive, the applicable VAT rate, the amount of VAT and the amount VAT inclusive .

Signature of orders

An Order Form is considered to be legally binding when the Order, signed by the Provider, is approved by the Council, by displaying a Council's Purchase Order number on the Order, as well as by signing and stamping the Order concerned. Copy of each approved Order Form shall be sent to the Provider, to the extent possible on the day of its signature.

Delivery

Each deliverable has to be accompanied by the filled-out AI tool checklist which is appended to this document.

² It must strictly respect the fees indicated in the Act of Engagement. In case of non-compliance with these fees, the Council of Europe reserves the right to terminate the Contract with the Provider, in all or in part.

E. ASSESSMENT

Exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interests

(by signing the Act of Engagement, you declare on your honour not being in any of the below situations)³

Tenderers shall be excluded from participating in the tender procedure if they:

- have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, child labour or trafficking in human beings;
- are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- have received a judgment with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or serious professional misconduct;
- do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of their country of incorporation, establishment or residence;
- are an entity created to circumvent tax, social or other legal obligations (empty shell company), have ever created or are in the process of creation of such an entity;
- have been involved in mismanagement of the Council of Europe funds or public funds;
- are or appear to be in a situation of conflict of interest;
- are retired Council of Europe staff members or are staff members having benefitted from an early departure scheme;
- are currently employed by the Council of Europe or were employed by the Council of Europe on the date of the launch of the procurement procedure;
- have not fulfilled, in the previous three years, their contractual obligations in the performance of a contract concluded with the Council of Europe leading to a total or partial refusal of payment and/or termination of the contract by the Council of Europe;
- are subject to restrictive measures applied by the United Nations Security Council or the European Union. In the case of legal persons, the restrictive measures imposed on the tenderer's owner(s) or executives will also exclude the tenderer from participating in this tender procedure.

Eligibility criteria to be met by the natural persons providing the deliverables

- Master's degree in statistics, social sciences, public administration, international development, developmental studies, public policy, economics or any other related field;
- A minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the elaboration of evaluation strategies and action plans;
- A minimum of 3 (three) years of Experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis;
- Excellent command of English (minimum CEFR-B2 level) and Georgian (native speaker) in speaking and writing.

Award criteria

- Quality of the offer (80 points), including:

³ The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask tenderers, at a later stage, to supply the following supporting documents:

- An extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country of incorporation, indicating that the first three and sixth above listed exclusion criteria are met;
- A certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of incorporation indicating that the fourth criterion is met;
- For legal persons, an extract from the companies register or other official document proving ownership and control of the Tenderer;
- For natural persons (including owners and executive officers of legal persons), a scanned copy of a valid photographic proof of identity (e.g. passport).

- relevance of the experience and level of expertise of the tenderer in the topics covered by tender (50 points);
- Previous experience of supporting international cooperation projects in evaluation (30 points).
- Financial offer (20 points).

Multiple tendering is not authorised.

F. NEGOTIATIONS

The Council reserves the right to hold negotiations with the bidders in accordance with Article 20 of Rule 1395.

G. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

- **A completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement⁴** (See attached);
- For natural persons only: detailed CV(s), preferably in Europass Format:
 - demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
 - including information about knowledge of Georgian and English languages;
 - highlighting the experience relevant for the topics of the Tender, preferably accompanied with attachments or active links to the drafted documents such as evaluation reports and other relevant materials produced by the tenderer.
- For legal persons only: a detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, of each natural person allocated to the execution of the contract:
 - demonstrating clearly that they fulfil the eligibility criteria;
 - including information about knowledge of Georgian and English languages;
 - highlighting the experience relevant for the topics of the Tender, preferably accompanied with attachments or active links to the drafted documents such as evaluation reports and other relevant materials produced by the tenderer.
- For consortia only: a detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, of all consortium members:
 - demonstrating clearly that they fulfil the eligibility criteria;
 - including information about knowledge of Georgian and English languages;
 - highlighting the experience relevant for the topics of the Tender, preferably accompanied with attachments or active links to the drafted documents such as evaluation reports and other relevant materials produced by the tenderer.
- A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;

Act of Engagement and CV shall be submitted in English, , failure to do so will result in the exclusion of the tender. Other documents (if any) may be submitted in Georgian.

If any of the documents listed above are missing, the Council of Europe reserves the right to reject the tender.

The Council reserves the right to reject a tender if the scanned documents are of such a quality that the documents cannot be read once printed.

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⁴ The Act of Engagement must be completed, signed and scanned in its entirety (i.e. including all the pages). The scanned Act of Engagement may be sent page by page (attached to a single email) or as a compiled document, although a compiled document would be preferred. For all scanned documents, .pdf files are preferred.