

## TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE (Competitive bidding procedure / One-off contract)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

### **Purchase of services for conducting a Survey on the attitude of citizens towards discrimination and Survey on the attitude of public authorities towards discrimination in Serbia, including the research on the effects of existing public policy measures on social groups particularly vulnerable to discrimination**

#### ***Contract N° BH5046/2023/6***

The Council of Europe is currently implementing an Action on "Combating discrimination and promoting diversity in Serbia", as part of the "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye III", a joint programme of the Council of Europe and the European Union aiming at supporting Southeast Europe and Türkiye to comply with European standards. In that context, it is looking for a Provider for the provision of services for conducting surveys on the attitude of citizens towards discrimination and on the attitude of public authorities towards discrimination in Serbia, including the research on the effects of existing public policy measures on social groups particularly vulnerable to discrimination and drafting its analytical report (See Section A of the Act of Engagement).

#### 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 Europe<sup>1</sup>, the Organisation shall invite to tender at least three potential providers for any purchase between €2,000 (or €6,000 for intellectual services) and €55,000 tax exclusive.**

This specific tender procedure aims at concluding a **one-off contract** for the provision of deliverables described in the Act of Engagement (See attached). A tender is considered valid for 120 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 a duly registered company under sole proprietorship of a natural person, or equivalent, provided that the signatory of the Act of Engagement is individually liable for all obligations undertaken by the entity and is the owner of the moral rights in any creations of the entity. If contracted by the Council of Europe, the signatory of the Act of Engagement shall provide the deliverables personally, in accordance with the terms as provided in the present Tender File and Act of Engagement.

Tenders shall be submitted **by email only** (with attachments) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject: HF30 SERBIA SURVEY 2023.** 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: HF30 QUESTIONS SERBIA SURVEY 2023**

<b>Type of contract ▶</b>	One-off contract
<b>Duration ▶</b>	Until complete execution of the obligations of the parties (See Article 2 of the Legal conditions as reproduced in the Act of Engagement)
<b>Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ▶</b>	<b>09 June 2023</b>
<b>Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶</b>	<b>tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int</b>
<b>Email for questions ▶</b>	<b>tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int</b>
<b>Expected starting date of execution ▶</b>	19 June 2023

<sup>1</sup> 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

The expected deliverables are described in **Section A of the Act of Engagement** (See attached).

## C. FEES

All tenderers are invited to fill in the **table of fees** as reproduced in **Section A of the Act of Engagement**.

Tenderers **subject to VAT** shall also send **a quote (Pro Forma invoice)** on their letterhead 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.

## D. ASSESSMENT

*Exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interests*

(by signing the Act of Engagement,<sup>2</sup> you declare on your honour not being in any of the below situations)

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;
- 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 or if their owner(s) or executive officer(s), in the case of legal persons, are included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the European Union (available at [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)).

*Eligibility criteria*

- be registered in Serbia;
- have at least 5 years of experience in the conceptualization and implementation of public opinion surveys, with specific focus on issues of human rights and/or equality matters;
- have implemented at least 5 public opinion surveys on national level in the area of human rights and equality matters;
- have documented track record in producing high quality reports with survey's findings and recommendations in both Serbian and English;
- Staff engaged under this action has relevant educational and professional background as well as direct and relevant experience in working in Serbia.

<sup>2</sup> 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 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).

*Award criteria*

- Quality of the offer (80%), including:
  - Evaluation of the proposed methodologies for surveying in the field of discrimination in Serbia 60%;
  - Evaluation of the reporting structure and proposal, as well of the sample infographics proposed to present results 20%.
- Financial offer (20%).

Multiple tendering is not authorised.

## E. NEGOTIATIONS

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

## F. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

Tenderers are invited to submit:

- **A completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement<sup>3</sup> (See attached)**
- For tenderers subject to VAT only: **a quote, describing their financial offer**, in line with the requirements of section C of the Tender File (see above);
- A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
- A detailed CV(s), in English (EU format) of the leading researcher that would be engaged under this assignment;
- 3 (three) relevant references, from previous employers or clients (name, surname, phone number or e-mail);
- Sample of clients and researches conducted in past 5 years in similar human rights and equality, with detailed elaboration of research methodologies

**All documents shall be submitted in English, failure to do so will result in the exclusion of the tender.**

**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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<sup>3</sup> 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.