

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

Purchase of *intellectual services*

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe will implement from October 2021 to the end of 2022 a Project on the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe's first thematic report on pandemics and natural disasters as reflected in History Teaching. In that context, it is looking for Providers for the provision of consultancy and drafting services, 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 €5,000 for intellectual services) and €150,000 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 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 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: Tender for the Thematic Report on Pandemics and Natural Disasters in History Teaching.** 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 7 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 on the thematic report on pandemics and natural disasters as reflected in history teaching**

Type of contract ▶	Framework contract
Duration ▶	Until 31 December 2022
Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ▶	15 September 2021
Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶	ohte@coe.int
Email for questions ▶	ohte@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ▶	01 October 2021

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 [Observatory on History Teaching in Europe](#) is an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe which was established in November 2020. The Observatory is currently comprised of 17 member States (Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey).

The Observatory aspires to a future where, the knowledge, skills, and values acquired by young people through history learning will help to foster an openness towards different perspectives and will ensure mutual understanding of democratic culture within Europe.

The Observatory shall provide an impartial overview of the state of history teaching in European countries as well as evidence-based analysis on specific topics. This is done through regular reports as well as thematic reports examining how these topics have been addressed in national curricula. Based on the factual data in the reports, the Observatory provides the platform for networks of professionals, government representatives and other interested parties to engage in high-level debates on the state of history teaching and related policies.

Thematic reports conducted by the Observatory will provide an opportunity to explore certain specific issues in depth. The choice of subject takes into consideration the priorities of the Council of Europe, as well as issues which are particularly urgent and pertinent to a number of European countries. The first thematic report will focus on **"Pandemics and Natural Disasters as Reflected in History Teaching"**.

In the Covid-19 context, many history educators are reflecting on how to discuss the coronavirus pandemic with their students. How will this moment be remembered in history? Whose stories and perspectives should be shared? What lessons can be learned from past public health crises and how should those lessons be applied in the education field?

Pandemics and natural disasters in history teaching should be examined in the report in a broad historical context, including the history of everyday life, the influence of pandemics and natural disasters on economy, society, demography, political events and culture. The situation of national minorities could be among the issues to be raised in the report.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, a dangerous surge in racist, anti-Asian and anti-Chinese sentiments has been sweeping the internet and social media. Historically, attempts to scapegoat and blame specific groups have often accompanied pandemics. During the 14th century, when the Bubonic Plague (also known as "the Black Death") swept across Europe, the Jews were blamed for spreading the disease and were accused of poisoning wells and trying to infect others. These accusations led to violent attacks on Jews and entire communities were wiped out.

A century later, when syphilis established itself in Europe, its early nomenclature was almost a "flowchart of national antagonisms". Syphilis was known as "the Italian disease" in France. Italians called it "the French disease", as did the English and Germans a little later. In the XVI century, syphilis was known in Russia as the "Polish", "German" or "French" disease. Turks called it the "Christian" or "Frank" (Western European) disease. And this list is not exhaustive.

The Great Flu Pandemic of 1918-1919, which is still referred to as Spanish Flu, offers an interesting historical parallel in this respect. The flu was tagged as "Spanish" because Spain, free of wartime censorship, was the first country to report the disease publicly and not because it originated there.

The first thematic report will analyse similarities between historic pandemics and their specifics, examine how these moments in history have been presented to later generations and showcase the best ways to teach about these issues without stigmatising or making certain groups or peoples responsible for the ills of society.

The duration of this project shall run from October 2021, from when the selected providers begin work on the thematic report, through to May 2022 when the draft report is finalised and then prepared for publication. Providers shall also be available to contribute to the dissemination and promotion of the results

and findings of the thematic report, until the report is presented during the Annual Conference at the end of 2022 (date to be confirmed).

The report will be drafted and edited by a team of up to three providers selected on the basis of this call for tenders. They will be guided by and shall work in cooperation with the [Scientific Advisory Council of the Observatory](#), who shall define the general scope and methodology for the report. The Scientific Advisory Council will analyse and approve the final draft of the report.

The Council of Europe is looking for 3 providers (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of the project with a particular expertise on the theme of the thematic report.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover activities related to **the thematic report on pandemics and natural disasters as reflected in history teaching to be held** by December 2022. 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 less than 150,000 Euros and the total amount of the object of present tender **shall not exceed 100,000 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:

- **contribute to the definition by the Scientific Advisory Council of the report outline (thematic approach, geographical scope, and questions to be addressed) and methodology (data collection procedure and questionnaires)**
- **gather and analysing data on pandemics and natural disasters in history education**
- **sourcing additional data apart from those provided by the OHTE Governing Board through questionnaires submitted by Board members to ministries of education of the OHTE member States**
- **developing a structure for the thematic report**
- **drafting the thematic report**
- **coordinating and organising work within the expert group and participating in meetings of the expert group and the Scientific Advisory Council**
- **promoting the results and outcomes of the report, at the annual conference and other related events**

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.

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.

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;

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.

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.

- 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.

Eligibility criteria

- Higher education degree in a relevant academic discipline, including but not limited to, humanities or social sciences (education, history, law, public policy, political science, international relations);
- Minimum of 2 years professional and/ or research experience relevant to the subject of the thematic report;
- Knowledge of the English language, equivalent to a minimum of C1.1 the Common European Framework of References for Languages.

Award criteria

Criterion 1: Relevant expertise on how pandemics and natural disasters are reflected in history teaching (40%)

Criterion 2: Professional and/ or research experience in the field of history education (30%)

- Ability to write clearly, logically, and concisely (10%)
- Previous experience working in the international context and in similar projects (10%)
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team, strong interpersonal and communication skills (10%).

Criterion 2: Financial Offer (30%)

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with eligible tenderers.

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.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

- A completed and signed copy of the **Act of Engagement**⁴ (See attached);
- A motivation letter in English, describing how the tenderer meets the requirements of the expected service (see Section B above);
- A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, outlining tenderer's educational qualifications, professional engagements, and a list of relevant work undertaken;
- Two relevant references, from current or previous employers or clients (name, surname, title, phone number or e-mail).
- For legal persons only, registration documents;

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.

- For legal persons only, a detailed CV of the staff member(s) appointed to provide the deliverables, preferably in Europass Format, outlining the staff member(s) educational qualifications, professional engagements, and a list of relevant work undertaken.

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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