**TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**(Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)**

**Purchase of national consultancy services for communication and awareness raising activities in the field of violence against women and gender equality. BH8693/1-17/07/2020**

The Council of Europe is currently implementing a Project on “Promoting an integrated approach to end violence against women and reinforcing gender equality in Georgia". The Project will end on 31 December 2022. In that context, it is looking for Provider(s) for the provision of intellectual services to be requested by the Council on an as needed basis.

1. 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[[1]](#footnote-1), the Organisation shall invite to tender at least three potential providers for any purchase between €2,000 (or €5,000 for intellectual services) and €55,000 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, or a legal person except consortia.

Tenders shall be submitted **by email only** (with attachments) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject:** **Promoting an integrated approach to end VAW and reinforcing gender equality in Georgia\_ Awareness raising.** 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\_ Promoting an integrated approach to end VAW and reinforcing gender equality in Georgia.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of contract ►** | Framework contract |
| **Duration ►** | Until 31 December 2022 |
| **Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►** | **31 July 2020** |
| **Email for submission of tenders/offers ►** | [nino.machkhaneli@coe.int](mailto:nino.machkhaneli@coe.int) |
| **Email for questions ►** | [nino.machkhaneli@coe.int](mailto:nino.machkhaneli@coe.int) |
| **Expected starting date of execution ►** | 10 August 2020 |

1. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

**Background of the Project**

The consultancy services are to be delivered in the framework of the Project “Promoting an integrated approach to end violence against women and reinforcing gender equality in Georgia".

The project aims at strengthening the gender equality, contributing to better prevention, prosecution and protection against all forms of violence against women in line with the Istanbul Convention. The Council of Europe focuses on providing the latest information and knowledge about the relevant European standards, in particular the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (hereinafter the Istanbul Convention), and its implications for national policy and legal frameworks. The project takes an awareness raising and knowledge-based approach to combating violence against women and domestic violence with the aim build capacity of the Georgian professionals, authorities and NGOs to implement European standards, in particular the Istanbul Convention, in Georgia.

Duration of the Project: January 2020 – 31 December 2022

The Council of Europe is looking for establishing **a pool of maximum of 3 Providers** (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of the project in the area of **expertise on communication and awareness raising activities in the field of violence against women and gender equality**, which concerns: support in the development of the project communication strategy and concept notes for awareness raising activities; producing communication and multimedia products, such as posters, infographics for offline and online media, photo and video stories, quizzes, other content; provision of other content-related as well as technical support in planning and implementing awareness raising activities on promoting gender equality and the prevention of violence against women.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 10 activities, to be held by 31 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 800 000 Euros and the total amount of the object of present tender **shall not exceed 55,000 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:

* Produce communication and multimedia products;
* Develop communication strategy and concept notes;
* Produce videos and other multimedia products;
* Provide technical support in planning and implementing the awareness raising acitivities.

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 for the lot concerned.

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).

1. 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. Tenders proposing fees above the exclusion level indicated in the Table of fees will be **entirely and automatically** excluded from the tender procedure.

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.

1. 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 for the relevant lot 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 quote[[2]](#footnote-2) (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.

1. 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]](#footnote-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;
* 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; n
* 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 or are likely to be in a situation of conflict of interests.

*Eligibility criteria*

* Minimum 5 years of professional experience in the areas of communication, awareness raising and/or advertising;
* Excellent oral and written Georgian; Fluency in English is required (at least B1 or B2 level CEFR).

*Award criteria*

* Quality of the offer (90%), including:
* Thematic expertise related to awareness raising and communication activities, especially in the fields of violence against women and/or gender equality, gained from experience in planning, designing and producing awareness raising activities/campaigns, infographics, animations, videos, online and/or offline media products, etc.;
* Writing and language skills in Georgian and English;
* Previous experience in the relevant type of activity and/or conducting work in international context/ within international organisations.
* Financial offer (10%).

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

Multiple tendering is not authorised.

1. NEGOTIATIONS

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

1. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

* A completed and signed copy of the **Act of Engagement[[4]](#footnote-4)**(See attached);
* A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria; Where the tenderer is a legal person, this shall include the CV of the person(s) who will be assigned to carry out the work;
* Registration documents, for legal persons only;
* A motivation letter in English (1 page maximum) highlighting the most relevant expertise regarding the lot(s) tendered for.
* At least 1 sample of previous professional work relevant to the scope of the Project (portfolio, videos, brochures, etc.) in English;
* 2 (two) referees' contact details (contacts including phone number and e-mail address)

**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.**

**\* \* \***

1. The activities of the Council of Europe are governed by its [Statute](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680306052) 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](https://search.coe.int/intranet/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168094853e). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It must strictly respect the fees indicated in the Financial Offer attached to the original Provider’s tender as recorded by the Council of Europe. In case of non-compliance with the fees as indicated in the original Provider’s tender, the Council of Europe reserves the right to terminate the Contract with the Provider, in all or in part. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask tenderers, at a later stage, to supply 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, and a certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of incorporation indicating that the fourth criterion is met. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)