

# TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Purchase of for the provision of travels, catering, and audio-visual equipment in Ireland.

The Council of Europe is currently implementing the Project "Barnahus Ireland: Supporting the implementation of the Barnahus model in Ireland". It is co-financed by the by the EU Structural Reform Support Programme and the Council of Europe and implemented in close cooperation with the EU SG Reform and the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) for the period 01/09/2025 to 28/02/2028. In that context, it is looking for Provider(s) for the provision of travels, catering, and audio-visual equipment in Ireland 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 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 **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 a legal person or consortium of legal 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: Ireland Barnahus II – Event Management Tender.** 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: Ireland Barnahus II – Event Management Tender – Questions.**

<b>Type of contract ▶</b>	Framework contract
<b>Duration ▶</b>	Until 28 February 2028
<b>Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ▶</b>	<b>11 November 2025</b> 23h59 CET
<b>Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶</b>	<b>cooperation.children@coe.int</b>
<b>Email for questions ▶</b>	cooperation.children@coe.int
<b>Expected starting date of execution ▶</b>	01 December 2025

### B. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

<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](#).

## Background of the Project

Barnahus is a leading European model for a child-friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response to child sexual abuse.

Ireland successfully implemented the Children First Act 2015, which introduced mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse. In 2019 the DCEIY provided finance to support the implementation of a pilot "One House" Barnahus project in Galway, which is part of the PROMISE II project. Since January 2022 the centre in Galway, known as Barnahus West, is operational and the Child Protection Agency (Tusla), the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the National Police (An Garda Síochána) are able to provide their services under the same roof. The current project sets to address the challenges faced during the implementation of the pilot and to replicate the Barnahus model in Cork and Dublin.

During Phase I of the Project (2022-2025), the goal of the project was to expand the Barnahus model by supporting the Irish government to open two additional centers: Barnahus South in Cork and Barnahus East in Dublin.

The objective of Phase II is to ensure the success of Phase I by continuing to support the Irish authorities in the setting up of the three Barnahus sites. In this context, Phase II aims to:

- concentrate on the development of key interagency tools to establish clear governance structures amongst the four main agencies involved in Barnahus in Ireland;
- provide tailored training for staff working with and for children in the context of Barnahus;
- amplify awareness around the Barnahus model in Ireland.

In that context, the Council of Europe is looking for Provider(s) for the provision of event management (travels and catering), and audio-visual equipment in Ireland, to be requested by the Council of Europe on an as needed basis, in compliance with the ordering procedure defined below.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 15 to be held by 28 February 2028. 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 747,126 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.

## Lots

The present tendering procedure aims to select Provider(s) to support the implementation of the project and is divided into the following lots:

Lots	Maximum number of Providers to be selected
<b>Lot 1 - Travel</b>	5
<b>Lot 2 - Catering</b>	5
<b>Lot 3 – Videoconferencing and technical equipment</b>	5

Lot 1 concerns Travel arrangements, including transportation, transfers, drivers, and car rentals.

Lot 2 concerns Catering arrangements, including coffee breaks, lunches, and dinners.

Lot 3 concerns videoconferencing and technical equipment arrangements, including providing services for professional videorecording, training on the use of meeting platforms and services and equipment for livestreaming services.

The Council will select the abovementioned number of Provider(s) per lot, provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below. Tenderers are invited to indicate which lot(s) they are tendering for (see Section A of the Act of Engagement).

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### Scope of the Framework Contract

Throughout the duration of the Framework Contract, pre-selected Providers may be asked to provide the deliverables listed in the Act of Engagement (See Section A – Terms of reference and the five Appendices).

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 in the five Appendices. These fees are final and not subject to review.

The Council will indicate on each Order Form (see Section D below) the number of units ordered, 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 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<sup>2</sup> (Pro Forma invoice) in line with the indications specified on each Order Form, and including:

- The title "proforma invoice"
- Delivery to Council of Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, F. 67075, Strasbourg Cedex. France
- The Service Provider's name and address.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- Tts VAT number.
- The full list of services in ENGLISH and FRENCH.
- The total amount excluding VAT (indicating "VAT=0" or "VAT excluded")
- The paragraph: Sale/Service to an exempted organization : Articles 143 and 151 of Council Directive 2006/112/EC. According to Article 2 b) of Directive 2001/115/EC: "Intra-Community service/sale to an exempted organisation: Articles 143 and 151 of Directive 2006/112/EC."
- Date and place of signature

### 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)<sup>3</sup>

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;
- 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*

The eligibility criteria determine the conditions for participating in a procurement procedure and define the essential requirements that each bidder must comply with. Bidders shall demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria:

- Being a registered company specialised in a relevant field to the present tender.
- A minimum of two years of similar experience as requested by the tender.

### *Award criteria*

The award criteria aim at assessing the quality of a bid in order to **identify the bid/s offering the best value for money**. Eligible bids will be assessed against the following award criteria:

<sup>3</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 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).

- Quality of the offer (50%), including:
  - capacity to meet the technical and quality requirements under this Framework Contract.
- Financial offer (50%).

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

- **One** completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement (see attached);<sup>4</sup>
- A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
- A short cover letter with a list of relevant examples of experience in providing similar services during the last 1-5 years.

**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.**

**Documents may be submitted via file sharing services such as WeTransfer, Dropbox, OneDrive, etc.). In this case, the link must mandatorily remain active for at least 30 days after the deadline for the submission of the bids. Failure to ensure this may lead to the bid being excluded from the procurement procedure.**

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

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<sup>4</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.