

TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Purchase of International consultancy services on Human Rights of veterans, members of the armed forces and their families within the framework of the Project "Rights of veterans and personnel of armed forces in Ukraine"

Contract No.9214/2024/04

The Council of Europe is currently implementing and until 31 January 2026 will implement a Project on Rights of veterans and personnel of Armed Forces in Ukraine (hereinafter the Project). In that context, it is looking for Providers for the provision of national consultancy 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 purchase between €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 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 – International consultancy services: Human Rights of veterans and personnel of Armed Forces Project.** 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 - International consultancy services: Human Rights of veterans and personnel in the Armed Forces in Ukraine Project.**

Type of contract ▶	Framework contract
Duration ▶	Until 31 January 2026
Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ▶	07 July 2024 23h59 Kyiv time
Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶	Tenders_Veteransrights_UA@coe.int
Email for questions ▶	Tenders_Veteransrights_UA@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ▶	15 July 2024

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

This Project action is initiated as part of the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023-2026 \(chapter "Rights of veterans, personnel of armed forces"\)](#), which aims to meet Ukraine's specific needs at this particular time and as the situation unfolds. It is part of the continuous endeavour of the Council of Europe to support Ukrainian authorities in promoting and protecting human rights through the efficient functioning of human rights institutions and mechanisms during the war and/or post-war period. To this end, the Project will contribute to enhanced protection of human rights in the armed forces in Ukraine, in particular the rights of military personnel, veterans, law enforcement officers, and their families. The project will look into:

- supporting the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Veteran Affairs, the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Service and other relevant authorities through policy advice, capacity building and training, and other tools to promote and protect human rights, including social rights, of military personnel, veterans, law enforcement officers and their families;
- delivering expert advice and methodological support to national authorities on the policy, legal and regulatory framework, promoting best practices, experience-sharing, and awareness raising;
- supporting human rights institutions, including the Ombudsperson's office, its staff and civil society organisations, to address the human rights of military personnel, veterans, and their family members;
- providing support to the Ministry of Veteran Affairs, other relevant institutions of in-service training, professional pre-university, and higher education in order to develop special educational programmes for military personnel and veterans aimed at the professional adaptation to return to civilian life;
- promoting and disseminating relevant HELP courses (notably, Human Rights in the Armed Forces course, Introduction to the European Social Charter, labour rights and human rights, right of persons with disabilities, Prohibition of ill-treatment, Transitional justice and human rights, etc.) among all relevant actors, as well as supporting integration of human rights training into military training and education programmes.

The Council of Europe is looking for maximum of 40 provider(s) (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of the project with a particular expertise on human rights of members of armed forces, veterans and their family members.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 50 activities, to be held by January 31, 2026. 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 1 000 000 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.

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
Lot 1: Human Rights and Good Governance in the armed forces	10
Lot 2: Human Rights and operational support in the armed forces	10
Lot 3: Human Rights education and awareness raising in the armed forces	10
Lot 4: Human-Rights-related psychological research and training	10

Lot 1 concerns production, assessment and review of policy documents, laws, by-laws, procedures, and other documents relating to human rights protection and promotion and good governance in the armed forces, application of IHL, where necessary, legal research and analysis subsequent report production in line with the Council of Europe and International standards and best practices on human rights and good governance in military.

Lot 2 concerns operational support and capacity development, education and training in the armed forces in context of human rights protection and promotion including organizational and managerial aspects of human rights protection in line with the relevant Council of Europe and International standards and best practices.

Lot 3 concerns training and education needs assessment, production (including methodological aspects) of educational and awareness raising materials (handbooks, manuals, booklets, etc.), training curricula and training materials, delivery of training and seminars, training of trainers on the topic of human rights in the armed forces and IHL in line with the relevant Council of Europe and International standards and best practices.

Lot 4 concerns psychological research, education and training in the armed forces in context of human rights protection and promotion including psychological aspects of human rights violations and prevention thereof in line with the relevant Council of Europe and International standards and best practices.

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).

Only those Providers whose score, following the assessment of the Award Criteria (see Section E below), is equivalent to or higher than 70 will be selected under each Lot.

Scope of the Framework Contract

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

Under Lot 1: Human Rights and Good Governance in the armed forces.

- Produce (draft) strategic documents, policies, procedures and other similar documents;
- Produce analytical papers (assessment reports, gap analysis reports, etc.) on strategic documents, laws, by-laws, policies, procedures, and other documents based on the Ukrainian regulatory framework on human rights and good governance in military;
- Participate in and contribute to conferences, roundtables, workshops, high-level meetings and other events, including through moderating/facilitating discussions, mentoring and delivering presentations;
- Carry out reviews, research, assessments, surveys, focus group meetings and/or interviews and prepare analytical reports and/or studies;
- Participate in the planning cycle of capacity development activities, including drafting the concept, agenda, content, materials, exercises, methodology for delivery, evaluation questionnaires, and report on the activities;
- Provide specific policy and strategic support to state institutions and local authorities, including in the planning and implementation of initiatives in the areas of the present Lot;
- Undertake field visits, conduct or support in fact-finding missions and submit evaluation report(s) highlighting results and proposing follow-up actions.

Under Lot 2: Human Rights and operational support in the armed forces.

- Produce (draft) strategic operational documents, procedures, guidelines, instructions, and other similar documents;
- Carry out reviews, research, assessments, surveys, and prepare analytical reports and/or studies;
- Participate in the planning cycle of capacity development and operational activities, including drafting the concept, agenda, content, materials, exercises, methodology for delivery, evaluation questionnaires, and report on the activities;
- Contribute to workshops, seminars and other capacity development activities with lectures, presentations on operational and managerial aspects of human rights in the armed forces;
- Provide expertise for operational support and capacity development activities.
- Provide specific policy and strategic support to state institutions and local authorities, including in the planning and implementation of initiatives in the areas of the present Lot;

Under Lot 3: Human Rights education and awareness raising in the armed forces.

- Develop, review, adapt training modules/curricula and materials (including HELP training courses), methodological documents;

- Conduct training needs assessment exercises, produce subsequent reports, provide relevant recommendations;
- Produce tailored educational and awareness-raising materials including handbooks, manuals, guidelines, posters, videos, booklets for different target groups including both legal professionals and non-legal professionals based on the requirements of the Ukrainian regulatory framework on human rights and good governance in military;
- Conduct tailored training for different target groups including both legal professionals and non-legal professionals, training of trainers;
- Contribute to workshops, seminars and other capacity development activities with lectures, presentations.

Under Lot 4: Human-Rights-related psychological research.

- Conduct psychological training needs assessment exercises, produce subsequent reports, provide relevant recommendations;
- Produce tailored educational and awareness-raising materials on psychological aspects of human rights in the armed forces including handbooks, manuals, guidelines, posters, video-explainers, booklets for different target groups including both legal professionals and non-legal professionals based on the Ukrainian regulatory framework on human rights and good governance in military.
- Conduct tailored training on psychological aspects of human rights in the armed forces for different target groups including both legal-professionals and non-legal-professionals, training of trainers;
- Contribute to workshops, seminars and other capacity development activities with lectures, presentations on psychological aspects of human rights in the armed forces;
- Develop psychological knowledge assesment forms and conduct an evaluation of theoretical and practical skills of specialists after study.

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.

If contracted by the Council of Europe, 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 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 3 (three) 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.

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)²

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.

Eligibility criteria

Tenderers shall demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria (to be assessed based on all supporting documents listed in Section G):

For Lot 1:

² 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.

- A university degree in one of the following fields: law, security studies, political sciences, social sciences, international relations, military education, public administration, or related fields;
- At least 5 (five) years of professional experience in human-rights-related legal research and analysis, production of strategic and/or operational documents relating to military service and veterans issues and/or the other areas of expertise under the Lot, out of which at least 2 (two) acquired in an international context;
- Knowledge of the English language (at least level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

For Lot 2:

- A university degree in political sciences, security studies, social sciences, public administration, project management, business administration or related fields;
- At least 5 (five) years of professional experience in the areas of expertise under the Lot, out of which at least 2 (two) acquired in an international context;
- Knowledge of the English language (at least level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

For Lot 3:

- A university degree in one of the following fields: law, security studies, political sciences, social sciences, international relations, military education, public administration and governance, or related fields;
- At least 5 (five) years of professional experience in human rights training and education, development of training or awareness-raising materials and/or the other areas of expertise under the Lot, out of which at least 2 (two) acquired in an international context;
- Knowledge of the English language (at least level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

For Lot 4:

- A university degree in psychology or related fields;
- At least 5 (five) years of professional experience in the areas of expertise under the Lot, out of which at least 2 (two) acquired in an international context;
- Proven experience of work in war/armed conflict contexts or other crisis situations relatable to the nature of the Project;
- Knowledge of the English language (at least level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

Award criteria

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

Criterion 1: Professional experience in the fields of expertise covered by Lot(s) of this tender (40%), consisting of:

- Length of relevant experience;
- Proven record of knowledge of the Council of Europe and international standards and best practices in the given field;

Criterion 2: Quality of sample deliverables produced within the past 10 (ten) years (30%):

- Coherence of drafting; and
- Relevance and adequacy of content.

Criterion 3: Knowledge of and/or experience in the international and/or regional context in the areas covered by the Lot(s) of this call (10%).

- Financial offer (20% points).

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with 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.

G. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

- **A completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement³** (See attached);
- A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
- Registration documents, for legal persons only;
- At least two examples of recent deliverables of similar nature (e.g., publications, assessments, legal opinions, analyses, reports, studies, presentations, training material, links, etc.) for each respective Lot(s) applied (in English only). Attachments should not exceed 10 MB in total;
- Contact information of 2 referees (full name, company/organisation, position, e-mail address and phone)

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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³ 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.