

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

### **Purchase of provision of consultancy services for the assessment of the accessibility of the Youth Department's websites and online educational platforms.**

#### ***Contract N° C 20/2024***

The Council of Europe is currently implementing a project to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of its youth sector's instruments and activities for young people. In this context, it is looking for a Provider for the accessibility assessment of the websites and online educational platforms of the Youth Department, as well as a detailed report with recommendations to address identified weaknesses (see Section A of the Act of Engagement).

#### A. TENDER PROCEDURE 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 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 – Council of Europe youth websites' assessment.** 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 Council of Europe 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 - Council of Europe youth websites' assessment.**

<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>10 April 2024 23h59 CET</b>
<b>Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶</b>	<a href="mailto:youth_tenders@coe.int">youth_tenders@coe.int</a>
<b>Email for questions ▶</b>	<a href="mailto:youth_tenders@coe.int">youth_tenders@coe.int</a>
<b>Expected starting date of execution ▶</b>	17 April 2024

<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 to be provided;
- 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;
- 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;

### *Eligibility criteria*

Tenderers shall demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria (to be assessed on the basis of all supporting documents listed in Section F)

- Being specialised **in IT services** and **with evidence of competency in the field of the call**.
- **Minimum 2 (two) years** of experience and expertise in web accessibility audits and usability (properly documented).
- Fluency and drafting skills in English (level C1 - CEFR).

### *Award criteria*

- Quality of the offer (60%), including:
  - Approach and methodology proposed and specifically (30%):
    - Alignment with the requirements detailed in the Terms of Reference (Act of engagement document);
    - the capacity of the Provider to understand the needs of the Council of Europe and to reformulate them in a clear manner;
    - the work schedule proposed;
    - the appropriateness of the resources used.

<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 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.

- Tenderer's expertise, experience, and relevance of the latter in undertaking similar services (30 %)
- Financial offer (40%).

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with tenderers.

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);
- Registration documents (for legal persons only);
- The detailed CVs of person(s) allocated to the execution of the contract and demonstrating clearly that the tenderer(s) fulfils the eligibility criteria;
- A document describing the methodology proposed, specifying needs, resources, time schedule;
- At least 2 (two) samples of similar web accessibility audits (or similar works) conducted including date, timeframe, nature and scope;
- 3 (three) professional referees' contact details.

**All documents shall be submitted in English or French, 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, scanned in its entirety (i.e. including all the pages) and sent as a compiled document. For all scanned documents, .pdf files are preferred.