**TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**(Competitive bidding procedure / One-off contract)**

**Purchase of** **consultancy services related to design and development of the website of the Committee on National Minorities.**

The Council of Europe is currently implementing a Project on “Advancing the Protection from Discrimination in Albania” which is part of the “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye III”, a joint programme of the Council of Europe and the European Union aiming at supporting South-East Europe and Türkiye to comply with European standards. The project aims at bringing forward the effects of the reforms in the field of anti-discrimination and combating hate speech. It will support the alignment with European standards in the framework of the EU accession negotiation process, to better protect rights of vulnerable groups and national minorities, further strengthening diversity and equality by addressing the most recent forms of discrimination in the society and by engaging with additional partners, in line with standards and the latest recommendations of the Council of Europe monitoring bodies, notably those from the ECRI 2020 country report and from the 2019 ADFCNM opinion on Albania.

In that context, it is looking for a Provider for the provision of consultancy services related to the redesign and development of the website of the Committee on National Minorities in Albania. (See Section A of the Act of Engagement).

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 €6,000 for intellectual services) and €171,000 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: Design and development of the website of the Committee on National Minorities. 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 2 (TWO) 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: Question on Design and development of the website of the Committee on National Minorities.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of contract ►** | One-off contract |
| **Duration ►** | Until complete execution of the obligations of the parties (See Article 2 of the Legal conditions as reproduced in the Act of Engagement) |
| **Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►** | 24 April 2025 23h59 CET |
| **Email for submission of tenders/offers ►** | Tender.tirana@coe.int |
| **Email for questions ►** | Tender.tirana@coe.int |
| **Expected starting date of execution ►** | 29 April 2025 |

1. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The expected deliverables are described in **Section A of the Act of Engagement** (See attached).

1. 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;

- 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.

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[[2]](#footnote-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;
* are or if their owner(s) or executive officer(s), in the case of legal persons, are included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the European Union (available at [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)).

*Eligibility criteria*

* Advanced university degree in IT, programming, design, or any related field **or** equivalent work experience;
* 5 years of professional experience in areas related to design and programming, proven by Curriculum Vitae;

*Award criteria*

* Quality of the offer (90%)
* *Extent of experience of work with International Organisations and/or public administration and/or civil society organisations (45%)*
* *Experience in carrying out similar assignments, as shown in the portfolio presented (45%)*
* Financial offer (10%).

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

Tenderers are invited to submit:

* **A completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement[[3]](#footnote-3) (See attached-** AE. CNM website final**);**
* **A completed table of the Business Requirements,** whichoutlines the main functionalities of the desired website in table format. (**See attached-**Business Requirements \_ FO\_**table to be filled-in by bidder**; and please read the “Business Requirements FO” document, which provides an overview of the beneficiary, the existing website, the future website, and other key aspects, such as the project scope and the desired end state);
* 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);
* A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
* Portfolio (Company profile) of the service provider and two samples of similar work on website design and development, in English or Albanian language, preferably with other public national or international institutions or civil society organisations or initiatives;
* CV and certificate/diploma of the team assigned to the project (matching the eligibility criteria).

**All documents shall be submitted in English, with the exception of the Portfolio, which may be submitted in English or Albanian.**

**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. 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). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)