

TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)



Purchase of international intellectual consultancy services for the enhancement and support of Barnahus structures in Finland and for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

FC.DGII.VC2964.2021.02

The Council of Europe is currently implementing a Project on Ensuring child-friendly justice through the effective operation of the Barnahus-Units in Finland. It is co-financed by the EU Structural Reform Support Programme and implemented in close cooperation with the EU DG Reform and the Finnish National Institute of Health and Welfare (THL) for the period 1/9/2021 to 29/2/2024.

In that context, it is looking for international Providers for the provision of intellectual consultancy services to provide technical assistance in the following areas: review and analysis of legislation, policies and institutional framework related to the operation of Barnahus and interagency coordination in Finland; development of tools and guidance for professionals to combat child sexual abuse; training and sensitisation of professionals, children and parents on child sexual abuse and violence against children in Finland and more specifically in the context of Barnahus, to be requested by the Council on an as needed basis, in compliance with the ordering procedure defined below.

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 €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, a legal person or consortium of natural and/or legal person.

Tenders shall be submitted **by email only** (with attachments) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject: International consultancy tender – Barnahus Finland.** 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 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 tender – Barnahus Finland**

Type of contract ▶	Framework contract
Duration ▶	Until 29 February 2024
Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ▶	12 November 2021
Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶	children@coe.int

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](#).

Email for questions ▶	children@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ▶	01 December 2021

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Background of the Project

Barnahus is a leading European model for a child-friendly multidisciplinary and interagency response to child sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2019, Finland initiated its own nationwide Barnahus project to be implemented around the core of five university hospital expert units specialising on forensic psychology/psychiatry (Barnahus-units). The EU-CoE Joint Project Barnahus in Finland sets to support the Finnish authorities in addressing the needs and challenges identified since the launch of their project so as to reduce significant existing delays in the pre-trial and judicial processes involving children.

The project is divided into three main components:

1. Improving the legislative and policy framework for the functioning of Barnahus services in Finland;
2. Strengthening inter- and multi-agency coordination mechanisms to reduce the delays in the duration of the judicial processes related to child victims of violence;
3. Increasing awareness on child sexual abuse through child participation.

The Council of Europe is looking for a maximum of 40 Providers (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of the project with a particular expertise on review and analysis of legislation and policies; development of tools and guidance for professionals; training and sensitisation of professionals, children and parents in the area of combating child sexual abuse and violence against children in Finland.

Experts and professionals from different fields and sectors with diverse experience are sought, including legal experts, trainers, academia, researchers, professionals with practical experience from working in Barnahus-type contexts and/or for the prevention and protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The Council of Europe promotes peer-to-peer exchanges and participative and sustainable approaches to training, including mentoring, learning-by-doing, etc.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 50 activities to be held by 29/2/2024. 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 666,667 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 five (5) lots as detailed below.

Relevant Council of Europe standards for all lots include the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention), Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice, integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence and the rights of the child in the digital environment.

Lots	Maximum number of Providers to be selected
Lot 1: Analysis, review and drafting of legal, policy and institutional framework in Finland in line with international standards and good practices.	8
Lot 2: Training and support for legal professionals on violence against children, including forensic interviewing and child sexual exploitation and abuse both online and offline.	8

Lot 3: Targeted and interdisciplinary training and support for professionals working for and with children with focus on interagency coordination, forensic interviewing, collaboration and case management ; awareness raising and sensitisation of target groups on Barnahus and child sexual exploitation and abuse both online and offline.	8
Lot 4: Training and support of relevant professionals on medical examinations of child victims of violence .	10
Lot 5: Child participation and child safeguarding	6

Lot 1 concerns the provision of intellectual services for the **analysis, review and drafting of legislation, policies and institutional framework** relevant to the establishment, operation, monitoring and evaluation of Barnahus in Finland and for the prevention and protection of children against sexual and other forms of violence in Finland in line with relevant Council of Europe, EU law, other international standards and good practices in this area.

Lot 2 concerns the provision of intellectual services for the **development of training materials, courses and other supporting materials** as well as **planning and delivery of training for legal professionals** (judges, prosecutors, lawyers and criminal investigation officers) in the area of combating child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA), including online CSEA and forensic interviewing of children, and/or in the context of effective and child-friendly operation of Barnahus in Finland with a focus on the role of legal professionals in that process.

Lot 3 concerns the provision of intellectual services for the **development of training, sensitisation materials and other supporting tools** as well as **planning and delivery of interdisciplinary and targeted training** with an objective to facilitate and strengthen child-friendly interagency coordination, collaboration and case management within Barnahus and among professionals and local authorities working for and with children (social workers, law enforcement officers, health care professionals, psychologists, educators and other relevant child protection actors), as well as to **promote Barnahus and sensitise and raise awareness** for the **prevention and protection of children against** violence including in the digital environment and with emphasis on child sexual exploitation and abuse and **forensic interviewing of children**. The target groups for awareness raising, sensitisation and promotional activities include children, parents, professionals working with and for children and their families as well as the wider public in Finland.

Lot 4 concerns the provision of intellectual services for the **development of training and sensitisation materials, strategies and programmes and other supporting tools** as well as **planning and delivery training and support** for professionals carrying out or performing **medical examinations of child victims of violence**. Target groups include clinical psychologists, law enforcement officers for the forensic interviewing of children and forensic doctors and health care professionals for the medical examinations of children.

Lot 5 concerns the provision of intellectual services related to the **development of strategies, guidance and other supporting tools** related to **child participation** and **child safeguarding** as well as **planning and delivery of training and facilitation of activities** in these areas. 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).

Scope of the Framework Contract

The pre-selected Providers may be requested to work independently or as part of a team with other Provider(s). Throughout the duration of the Framework Contract, pre-selected Providers may be asked to provide the following types of services:

Under **Lot 1: Analysis and review of legislation and policies**

- Review and analysis of policy documents, strategies, legislation, secondary legislation (draft documents and/or documents in force) and/or practice and provision of advice (in the form of an oral and/or written advice), preparation of legal opinions, comments, recommendations, reports etc.;
- Drafting of analytical reports (risk assessments, needs and gap analysis, institutional reviews, etc.);
- Carrying out research relevant to the lot;
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of Barnahus set up and procedures and development of strategies and tools for that purpose;

- Development of internal guidelines/protocols/materials on specific aspects related to the theme of the lot;
- Participation and contribution to conferences, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events with national stakeholders, including through moderating/facilitating discussions and delivering presentations;
- Mentoring beneficiaries on specific working processes and/or cases relevant to the lot.

Under **Lot 2: Training and support for legal professionals**

- Assessment of training needs and gaps of target groups;
- Mapping of existing training materials and identification of good practices at European and/or international level for potential replication in Finland;
- Development and adaptation of training courses, programmes, strategies and training materials (e.g. session plans, manuals, guidebooks, etc.) relevant to the lot, the needs of target groups and the context in Finland;
- Conducting training relevant to the lot;
- Support for the development of internal guidelines, protocols, check-lists, monitoring and other tools on specific aspects related to child-friendly justice, forensic interviewing of children the role of legal professionals in Barnahus and case management of child sexual abuse cases (e.g. on ensuring the best interests of the child and the principle of due process throughout criminal investigation and court proceedings);
- Mentoring beneficiaries on specific working processes and/or cases relevant to the lot;
- Participation and contribution to conferences, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events with national stakeholders, including through moderating/facilitating discussions and delivering presentations.

Under **Lot 3: Targeted and interdisciplinary training and support for professionals working for and with children with focus on interagency coordination, collaboration and case management; awareness raising and sensitisation of target groups on Barnahus, forensic interviewing of children and child sexual exploitation and abuse both online and offline**

- Assessment of training needs and gaps of target groups;
- Mapping of existing training materials and identification of good practices at European and/or international level for potential replication in Finland;
- Development and adaptation of training courses, programmes, strategies and training materials (e.g. session plans, manuals, guidebooks, etc.) relevant to the lot, the needs of target groups and the context in Finland;
- Conducting training relevant to the lot;
- Support for the development of internal guidelines, protocols, checklists, terms of references, other tools and materials to strengthen and facilitate interagency procedures, forensic interviewing of children, collaboration within Barnahus and case management of child sexual abuse cases.
- Advice and consultation on the physical infrastructure of Barnahus based on lessons learnt and best practices from other countries;
- Mentoring beneficiaries on specific working processes and/or cases relevant to the lot;
- Drafting, development and adaptation of awareness raising, prevention and informational materials for different target groups (children, parents, educators, wider public) in one or more of the following areas: risks and consequences of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA), detection and reporting of CSEA, the Barnahus model and the interagency approach in Finland, rights of the child including in the digital environment (e.g. data protection, right to correspondence and privacy), online safety;
- Participation and contribution to conferences, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events with national stakeholders, including through moderating/facilitating discussions and delivering presentations.

Under **Lot 4: Training and support for professionals carrying out medical examinations of child victims of violence.**

- Research of existing practices relevant to the lot;
- Assessment of needs and gaps of target groups for training and sensitisation relevant to the lot;

- Mapping of existing training and sensitisation materials, programmes and strategies and identification of good practices at European and/or international level for potential replication in Finland;
- Development and adaptation of training courses, programmes, strategies and training materials (e.g. session plans, manuals, guidebooks, etc.) relevant to the lot, the needs of target groups and the context in Finland;
- Conducting training relevant to the lot;
- Support for the development of internal guidelines, protocols, checklists, other tools and materials to strengthen and guide the forensic medical examination within Barnahus;
- Design and development of strategies, activities and tools for sensitisation for target groups;
- Mentoring beneficiaries on specific working processes and/or cases relevant to the lot;
- Participation and contribution to conferences, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events with national stakeholders, including through moderating/facilitating discussions and delivering presentations.

Under **Lot 5: Child participation and child safeguarding**

- Development of strategies, internal guidelines, procedures, checklists, other tools and materials on child participation and child safeguarding in Barnahus and during case management of child sexual abuse cases from the initial report, referral to Barnahus and to court proceedings and convictions;
- Drafting and preparation of child-friendly materials inspired by good practice examples at European/international level;
- Development of methodologies for carrying out child participation activities and support for the facilitation, follow-up and analysis of child consultations;
- Mapping of existing training materials on child safeguarding and identification of good practices at European and/or international level for potential replication in Finland;
- Assessment of training needs and gaps of target groups as relevant to the lot;
- Development and adaptation of training courses, programmes, strategies and training materials (e.g. session plans, manuals, guidebooks, etc.) relevant to the lot, the needs of target groups and the context in Finland;
- Conducting training relevant to the lot;
- Mentoring beneficiaries and partners on specific working processes relevant to the lot;
- Participation and contribution to conferences, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events with national stakeholders, including through moderating/facilitating discussions and delivering presentations.

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).

B. 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.

C. 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 quote² (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.

D. 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

Tenderers shall be excluded from participating in the tender procedure if they:

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.

³ 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).

- 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 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).

Eligibility criteria

For natural persons:

- **For all Lots:**
 - A university/higher education degree in law, social sciences, psychology, human rights/children's rights or a related field;
 - At least 3 years of professional experience at international level or at national level of the country of residence/origin in the areas related to the fields of expertise as described within the specific Lots under the scope of this contract;
 - Good written and verbal command of English language.
- **For Lot 2** (Training and support for legal professionals) **in addition:**
 - At least 3 years of professional experience as criminal investigation officer/prosecutor/judge, including documented experience in the area of child sexual abuse investigation/prosecution/trial, including online OR at least 3 years of practical experience from training the above-mentioned target groups.
- **For Lot 4** (Training and support for medical examinations) **in addition:**
 - **Medical examinations:** At least 3 years of experience as a paediatrician or in a related field; at least 1 year of experience from performing medical examinations on children with documented experience on child sexual abuse cases OR at least 3 years of experience from research.

For legal persons:

Same requirements as for natural persons mentioned above, to be applied for the natural persons allocated to the execution of the contract.

Award criteria

For natural persons:

- Quality of the offer (70%), including:
 - Professional experience in the fields of expertise covered by this tender, including length of experience and proven track record of practical achievements in the given field;
 - If provided, relevance and quality of examples and sample deliverables (e.g. draft materials recently produced, training outlines or training methodologies employed);
 - Practical experience from working in a Barnahus-type context is considered as an advantage.
- Financial offer (30%).

For legal persons:

Same requirements as for natural persons mentioned above, to be applied for the natural persons allocated to the execution of the contract.

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with eligible 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

- A completed and signed copy of the **Act of Engagement**⁴ (See attached);
- A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
- A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
- CVs of persons allocated to the execution of the contract, for legal persons only;
- **Motivation letter** demonstrating the tenderer's understanding of the Council of Europe needs and clearly indicating relevant professional experience and expertise for the lot(s) tendered for;
- Additional as relevant: links and/or samples of previous work if available in English.

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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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.