

TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE (Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Purchase of consultancy services in the field of Information and communication technologies (ICTs)

The Council of Europe Europe is currently implementing the joint EU/CoE project "Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova" (the project). In that context, it is looking for Providers for the provision of consultancy services in the field of Information and communication technologies (ICTs) 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 €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 or a 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: CoE consultancy services in the field of ICT.** 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 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: CoE consultancy services in the field of ICT.**

Type of contract ▶	Framework contract
Duration ▶	Until 31 October 2021
Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ▶	26 May 2021
Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶	Tatiana.tribolo@coe.int
Email for questions ▶	Tatiana.tribolo@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ▶	25 June 2021

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

The Council of Europe is currently implementing the project on "Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova" that aims at improving the functioning of the justice system through strengthened efficiency and quality of courts and a better system of enforcement of court decisions. The project is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The expected results of the project are:

1. The efficiency and quality of courts are enhanced through the application of CEPEJ tools at national level, while the mechanisms for judicial transparency and accountability are further consolidated.
2. The enforcement of court decisions in civil and administrative cases is improved through the implementation of the instruments developed by CEPEJ to analyse the functioning and efficiency of the system of enforcement.

The Council of Europe is looking for a maximum of 3 (three) Providers (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) with a particular expertise in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), in order to support the implementation of the project.

The envisaged assignments are estimated to cover three activities, to be held by 31 October 2021. This estimate is for information only and shall not constitute any sort of contractual commitment on the part of the Council of Europe. The Framework 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 600,000 Euros and the total amount of the object of present tender **shall not exceed 15,000 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.

Scope of the Framework Contract

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

- Draw up terms of reference or technical specifications as part of calls for tender for the acquisition of software development services and/or IT equipment. The acquired services and equipment shall support the implementation of: 1) IT tools to collect, process and publish judicial statistical data on the basis of the CEPEJ-STAT model and in line with a specific concept paper; 2) software updates and (new) modules to support the electronic document management, statistical reportig, or other functionalities of the register of enforcement procedures; 3) IT solutions for electronic auctioning of seized goods in the national system of enforcement of court decisions of civil and administrative matters;
- Coordinate with the selected service provider(s) the development process and launching of the abovementioned products;
- Perform a comparative assessment of two alternative registers of enforcement procedures and draw up an expert opinion, including details on compliance with national legislative and strategic documents in the area of IT, key technical functionalities and their potential for upgrading and technological resilience, strengths and weaknesses;
- Participate in coordination meetings with by the project team and with representatives of national partners and stakeholders, when necessary.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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 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

² It must strictly respect the fees indicated in the Act of Engagement. In case of non-compliance with these fees, the Council of Europe reserves the right to terminate the Contract with the Provider, in all or in part.

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)³

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 or are likely to be in a situation of conflict of interests;
- 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

- Bachelor's Degree in computer sciences, engineering, telecommunications or other related discipline;
- Professional experience of 5 years or more in the area of ICT;
- Experience in business analysis and technical implementation of IT solutions;
- Excellent oral and written Romanian;
- Intermediate knowledge of English.

Award criteria

- Quality of the offer (90%), including:
 - Information Technology expertise (50%)
 - Experience in performing assignments similar to the expected deliverables (40%)
- Financial offer (10%).

Council reserves the right to hold interviews with eligible 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

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 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).

- 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;
- Motivation letter, explaining the suitability of the tenderer for the work, particularly providing details on the previous similar assignments and experience in the requested fields;
- 2 (two) referees' contact details.

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.