**TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**(Competitive bidding procedure / Framework Contract)**

**Purchase of international consultancy services in the framework of the joint EU/CoE “Pilot Project on Digital Citizenship Education” in Türkiye**

The Council of Europe will implement from 2 January 2023 to 2 July 2025 the “Pilot Project on Digital Citizenship Education” in Türkiye. In that context, it is looking for Providers for the provision of international consultancy services to be requested by the Council on an as needed basis.

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 €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: Tender – Pilot Project on DCE – International consultancy.** 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 – Pilot Project on DCE – International consultancy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of contract ►** | Framework contract  |
| **Duration ►** | Until 02 July 2025 |
| **Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►** | 14 April 2023 |
| **Email for submission of tenders/offers ►** | **ankara.office@coe.int** |
| **Email for questions ►** | **ankara.office@coe.int** |
| **Expected starting date of execution ►** | 21 April 2023 |

1. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

**Background of the Project**

The Council of Europe proposes this action to support the efforts of the Turkish Ministry of National Education in adapting competences for democratic culture in the education system. The action aims **to promote human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy in schools by empowering students in their digital presence through digital citizenship education (DCE) at the lower secondary level in Turkey**. The action proposes a series of complementary measures to introduce the concept of digital citizenship and its essential core competences, which are grouped under three clusters as [being online, wellbeing online and it is my right](https://www.coe.int/en/web/digital-citizenship-education/digital-citizenship-domains%20%20) with reference to the Digital Citizenship Education tools of the Council of Europe in education institutions in Türkiye in consultation with key stakeholders and end beneficiaries.

The Council of Europe is looking for a maximum of 25 Providers in total (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of the project with a particular expertise on Digital Citizenship Education, Capacity-Building, Digital tools and platforms, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Research. Only those Providers whose score, following the assessment of the Award Criteria (see Section E below), is equivalent to or higher than 50% will be selected under each Lot.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 80 activities, to be held by 2 July 2025. 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 900,000.000 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: Research, desk review  | 15 |
| Lot 2: Material development | 10 |

Lot 1 concerns the carrying out of research, desk studies, reviews, and the drafting of documents and comparative analysis (see below for more details), participating and contributing to the project events

Lot 2 concerns the development of online modules with the purpose of training teachers and school administrators, guiding materials, and learning content for lower-secondary children and parents, including but not limited to storybooks (see below for more details).

The Council will select the abovementioned number of Providers 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**

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

Under Lot 1:

* Conduct research, desk studies, reviews, and draft analytical reports (situational analysis, comparative analysis etc.)
* Develop policy documents
* With respect to the above mentionde tasks, participate and contribute to the organisation and to the carrying out of conferences, focus groups, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events, including moderating/facilitating discussions and delivering presentations.

Under Lot 2:

* Prepare training modules and training materials, including online modules with the purpose of training teachers and school administrators and guiding materials
* Develop learning content for lower-secondary children and for parents, including but not limited to storybooks
* With respect to the above mentionde tasks, participate and contribute to the organisation and to the carrying out of conferences, focus groups, roundtables, seminars, trainings, working group meetings, workshops, consultation meetings and other relevant events, including 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).]

1. 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.

1. 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.]

**Providers subject to VAT**

The Provider, **if subject to VAT**, shall also send, together with each signed Form, a quote[[2]](#footnote-2) (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.

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)**[[3]](#footnote-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 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;
* 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*

* A Master’s degree or equivalent work experience in Education and Social Sciences, Humanities, Political Science, International Relations, or any relevant field;
* Excellent command of the English language (at least level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
* Minimum 5 years of proven work experience, with a minimum of 3 years of experience in
	+ for Lot 1: research, desk reviews, and similar
	+ for Lot 2: in material development for adults and/or children, and/or families, capacity building activities in human rights and democratic school culture or in relevant field

*Award criteria for Lot 1:*

* Quality of the offer (70%), including:
* Relevant experience in the field of expertise covered by the Lot at international level and/or in work with a strong international component (25%);
* Knowledge of education in the digital sphere, Digital Citizenship Education, Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture and/or related thematic (25%);
* Previous cooperation experience with international organisations, government bodies and other relevant national institutions in CoE member States (20%);
* Financial offer (30%).

*Award criteria for Lot 2:*

* Quality of the offer (70%), including:
* Relevant experience in the field of expertise covered by the Lot at international level and/or in work with a strong international component (20%);
* Knowledge of Education in the digital sphere, Digital Citizenship Education, Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, children’s rights and/or related thematic area (20%);
* Proven experience in developing materials for children, parents and/or schools, and in capacity-building (20%);
* Previous cooperation experience with international organisations, government bodies and other relevant national institutions in CoE member States (10%);
* Financial offer (30%).

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with tenderers.

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
* **A completed and signed copy of the** **Act of Engagement[[4]](#footnote-4)** (See attached);
* A detailed CV (for natural persons), preferably in Europass Format, or a portfolio (for legal persons and consortia of legal and/or natural persons), demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria; For legal persons, CVs of the owners and executive officers;
* A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
* Motivation letter describing how the tenderer meets the award criteria and the requirements of the expected service, including the description of examples of relevant previous work (see Section B above), max.1 page.
* Samples of the previous works
* English proficiency certificate (at least, level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)) and/or proof of language proficiency (e.g., having completed a university degree in English).
* Proof of previous work experiences and two references

**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.**

**\* \* \***

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. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)