

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Purchase of consultancy services for mid-term URSO assessment of the implementation of the Central Electoral Commission Strategic Programme for 2024-2026 and the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training Strategic Programme for 2024-2027, in the Republic of Moldova.**

**Contract N° BH9284/2025/36**

The Council of Europe is currently implementing a Project on "[Improving electoral practice in the Republic of Moldova, 2025-2028](#)". In that context, it is looking for a Provider for the provision of consultancy services for mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Central Electoral Commission Strategic Programme for 2024-2026 and the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training Strategic Programme for 2024-2027. The development of these documents in 2023 was carried out based on the Council of Europe *methodology for strategic planning and prioritisation of strategic cooperation* ([Useful, Relevant, Sustainable, Owned - URSO](#)) and relevant legislation of the Republic of Moldova on developing policy documents. (See Section A of the Act of Engagement).

### 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 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 €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: *Tender - mid-term URSO assessment for CEC and Training Centre***. 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's contact details indicated below for any question you may have. **All questions shall be submitted at least 4 (four) 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: Tender - mid-term URSO assessment for CEC and Training Centre***.

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 ►	<b>16 September 2025 23h59 CET</b>
Email for submission of tenders/offers ►	<a href="mailto:elections.moldova@coe.int">elections.moldova@coe.int</a>
Email for questions ►	<a href="mailto:elections.moldova@coe.int">elections.moldova@coe.int</a>
Expected starting date of execution ►	01 October 2025

<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).

Each deliverable has to be accompanied by the filled-out AI tool checklist which is appended to this document.

## 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;
- 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, you declare on your honour not being in any of the below situations<sup>2</sup>)

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 subject to restrictive measures applied by the United Nations Security Council or the European Union. In the case of legal persons, the restrictive measures imposed on the tenderer's owner(s) or executives will also exclude the tenderer from participating in this tender procedure.

### *Eligibility criteria*

The eligibility criteria determine the conditions for participating in a procurement procedure and define the essential requirements that each bidder must comply with. Bidders shall demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria:

<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;
- 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).

Eligibility criteria	Document/s to be submitted
<u>Education</u> : University degree 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle or higher in one of the following fields: Law, Political Science, Social science, Public administration, International Relations	CV
<u>Work experience</u> : At least 5 years of experience/consultancy services in the field of electoral cooperation	CV
<u>Specific thematic expertise</u> : confirmed expertise in the strategic planning/cooperation based on URSO methodology as evidenced by the information included in the supporting documents	CV Samples of previous work
<u>Language skills</u> : at least C1 level of English language	CV Samples of previous work

The above eligibility criteria will be assessed **on the basis of the documents listed in the table and, where relevant, on the basis of other supporting documents** listed in Section F.

**For legal persons only:** legal persons are requested to include in their bids the profiles of **a maximum of 2** natural persons proposed to be assigned to the contract. The status of each natural person included in the bid must be specified, and in particular whether they are employees or subcontractors. **Each natural person included in the bid will be assessed against the above eligibility criteria.** The Council reserves the right not to accept the inclusion in the contract of persons who do not meet the eligibility criteria or to reject a bid entirely if no profiles met the eligibility criteria.<sup>3</sup>

**For consortia only:** each consortium member **will be assessed against the eligibility criteria above.** Consortium members who are legal persons are requested to provide the profiles of a maximum of 2 natural persons proposed to be assigned to the contract. The status of each natural person included in the bid must be specified, and in particular whether they are employees or subcontractors.

**Each natural person included in the bid submitted by a consortium – whether as an individual consortium member or as a natural person attached to a legal person – will be assessed against the above eligibility criteria.** The Council reserves the right not to accept the inclusion in the contract of persons who do not meet the eligibility criteria or to reject a bid entirely if no profiles meet the eligibility criteria.<sup>4</sup>

#### Award criteria

The award criteria aim at assessing the quality of a bid in order to **identify the bid/s offering the best value for money**. Eligible bids will be assessed against the following award criteria:

Award criteria	Document/s to be submitted
Quality of the offer (80 points), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thematic expertise in the relevant area covered by the bid, strong knowledge of the Moldovan legislation and practice, with focus on the electoral-related one, proved knowledge of the URSO methodology, as well as the international standards and recommendations of the Council of Europe (30 points);</li> <li>Relevance of the experience of the tenderer in the areas/field covered by the bid, including previous similar assignments with national or international organisations (50 points)</li> </ul>	CV Samples of previous work
Financial offer (20 points)	Completed and signed Act of Engagement

<sup>3</sup> If awarded a contract, legal persons undertake to entrust the execution of order forms only to the persons approved by the Council for inclusion in the contract. If, during the period of validity of the contract, it becomes necessary to replace one or more of the persons included in the contract, the legal persons undertake to assign to the contract only persons who satisfy the eligibility criteria above and to inform the Council without delay.

<sup>4</sup> If awarded a contract, consortium members who are legal persons undertake to entrust the execution of order forms only to the persons approved by the Council for inclusion in the contract. If, during the period of validity of the contract, it becomes necessary to replace one or more of the persons included in the contract, consortium members who are legal persons undertake to assign to the contract only persons who satisfy the eligibility criteria above and to inform the Council without delay.

The above award criteria will be assessed based on the bidder's capacity, as outlined in the supporting document, or on the basis of a consolidated assessment of the combined capacity of all eligible profiles or consortium members if the bid is submitted by a legal person or a consortium.

*Additional rules applicable to the submission and assessment of the bids*

The bidders' attention is drawn to the following additional rules governing the assessment of the bids:

- The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with prima facie eligible tenderers;
- Unless expressly provided otherwise in the tender documents, a bidder may not submit more than one bid for the same procurement procedure. Bidding for more than one lot – where a contract is divided into lots – is allowed;
- In the same procurement procedure, natural person may not submit a bid on his/her own behalf and, at the same time, be included in a bid submitted by a legal person or a consortium. In such cases, the Council of Europe reserves the right to exclude the bid submitted by the natural person from the procurement procedure;
- In the same procurement procedure, a legal person may not submit a bid and, at the same time, be a member of a consortium also bidding under the same procurement procedure. In such cases, the Council of Europe reserves the right to exclude the bid submitted by the legal person from the procurement procedure.

#### 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

- **One** completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement;<sup>5</sup>
- For legal persons only: **a list of all owners and executive officers**;
- For natural persons: **detailed CVs**, preferably in Europass format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
- For legal persons: **detailed CVs**, preferably in Europass Format, of each natural person allocated to the execution of the contract demonstrating clearly that they fulfil the eligibility criteria;
- For consortia: **detailed CVs**, preferably in Europass Format, of all consortium members clearly demonstrating that they satisfy the eligibility criteria;
- **A motivation letter** (1-page max.) demonstrating how the potential Provider meets the requirements of the expected types of deliverables and the eligibility criteria;
- **At least one sample of previous work**, e.g. policy papers/recommendations/opinions, study, training programme/module, presentation etc.;
- For legal persons and consortia only - **registration document/s**.

**All documents shall be submitted in English** (with exception of registration document/s for legal persons – in the original language – must be accompanied by translation into 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.**

**Documents may be submitted via file sharing services such as WeTransfer, Dropbox, OneDrive, etc.). In this case, the link must mandatorily remain active for at least 30 days after the deadline for the submission of the bids. Failure to ensure this may lead to the bid being excluded from the procurement procedure.**

**The Council reserves the right to reject a tender if the scanned documents are of such a quality that the documents cannot be read.**

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<sup>5</sup> 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.