

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Purchase of consultancy services for conducting desk research to collect insights on the new methods of technical co-operation

Contract N° 28072023

The Council of Europe is currently implementing an initiative to enhance the capacity of the Council of Europe Office staff in Georgia. This initiative aims at building staff members' capacity in research methods, reporting, persuasive communication, and negotiation. The project is being implemented through capacity building activities for the staff and will also produce a toolkit based on the findings from scientific research applicable in the international cooperation sector. The activities within the initiative will last until December 31, 2023. In this context, the Council of Europe is looking for international Service Providers that will be tasked with conducting desk research on insights from recent scientific research applicable in the international cooperation sector. The provider should produce a toolbox containing recommendations and tools that can be applied as working methods in the Council of Europe's co-operation sector projects (see Section A of the Act of Engagement).

A. TENDER PROCEDURE 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 €6,000 for intellectual services) and €55,000 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 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 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 - provision of consultancy services to conduct desk research to collect insights on the new methods of technical cooperation.**

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 of Europe 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 - Provision of consultancy services to conduct desk research to collect insights on the new methods of technical cooperation.**

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 ▶	28 August 2023
Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶	tbilisi.tenders@coe.int
Email for questions ▶	tbilisi.tenders@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ▶	19 September 2023

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

The Council of Europe is currently implementing an initiative to enhance the capacity of the staff at Council of Europe Office in Georgia. This initiative aims at building staff members' capacity in research methods, reporting, persuasive communication, and negotiation. The project is being implemented through capacity building activities for the staff and will also produce a toolkit based on the findings from scientific research applicable in the international co-operation sector. The activities within the initiative will last until December 31, 2023. In this context, the Council of Europe is looking for international Service Providers that will be tasked with conducting desk research on recent scientific research that can be applicable within the international co-operation context. Based on the reviewed studies, the provider should produce a toolbox containing recommendations and tools applicable within the Council of Europe co-operation sector.

The Project Management Methodology used by the Council of Europe in the cooperation sector aims to make its contributions to reforms more effective while integrating the principles of results-based project management during the process. The theoretical framework is designed to facilitate evidence- and results-based approaches during the various stages of the project management process. The result chain in the logframes is built on changes in the perceptions, knowledge and behaviour of stakeholders that allows the impact, overall situation for the end beneficiaries to be improved. The focus of Council of Europe's cooperation sector is therefore on changing perceptions, attitudes and behaviour/practices. Most of the methods employed by the Council of Europe's co-operation projects are built around knowledge sharing and capacity building activities. Insights from this area of research are significant for the co-operation projects in order to refine working methods. Development of a practical toolkit is necessary for showcasing the new approaches and insights on transformation and behaviour change for specific interventions to be more efficient and effective.

The present tendering procedure aims to select international Service Providers with the assignment to carry out desk research and produce a toolbox of approaches and techniques for bringing change in attitudes and behaviour based on evidence from recent empirical inquiries into behavioural science.

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

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 to be provided;
- 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,² you declare on your honour not being in any of the below situations)

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;

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.

- 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.

Eligibility criteria

- Advanced university Degree in social and political sciences, development study, humanities or any other relevant field;
- Advanced knowledge of an evidence-based and results-focused project management approach and relevant working experience;
- Solid knowledge of international research practice, designing research projects, studies, evaluations and surveys, data analysis and report writing;
- Demonstrated ability to work in international and multi-cultural environments;
- Experience in working with international organizations, public institutions, and/or civil society organizations;
- At least 5 years of documented experience in international projects or programmes, implemented in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus or Central Asia would be considered as an asset;
- Demonstrated analytical, research, communication and presentation skills;
- Excellent oral and written English.

Award criteria

- Quality of the offer (80%), including:
 - Relevant experience in research in social and behavioural sciences;
 - Relevant experience in the field of international co-operation programmes;
- Financial offer (20%).

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with 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

Tenderers are invited to submit:

- **A completed and signed copy of the Act of Engagement³ (see attached)**
- 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);
- Registration documents, for legal persons only;
- A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
- A document describing the approach to the task (scope of the studies to be covered within the desk research, description of the toolkit design);
- List of published research and analytical documents relevant to the ToR.

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.

³ The Act of Engagement must be completed, signed, scanned in its entirety (i.e. including all the pages) and sent as a compiled document. For all scanned documents, .pdf files are preferred.

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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