**TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**(Competitive bidding procedure / One-off contract)**

**Purchase of consultancy services on external evaluation under the Project “Strengthening Democratic Culture in Basic Education” in Türkiye.**

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-2), 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.**

1. SCOPE OF THE TENDER PROCEDURE AND TENDER RULES

The Council of Europe is currently implementing a Project on “Strengthening Democratic Culture in Basic Education” (SCoD) that will continue until 2 November 2022, whose specific objectives are:

* Strengthening democratic values and practices in schools and school communities,
* Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders including policy makers, education administrators both in the ministry and at provincial level, inspectors, school principals, teachers, parents, and local civil society organisations (CSO) on democratic school culture,
* Raising awareness on democratic school culture in and beyond schools.

The Project expects to achieve the following main results:

**R.1.** Policy recommendations for a strategic action plan for the integration of competences for democratic culture with awareness of human rights and democracy into the basic education system and school practices are developed.

**R.2.** Education materials based on human rights, democracy and universal core values are developed for basic education institutions.

**R.3.** Basic education school teachers and education practitioners are equipped with competences for democratic culture.

**R.4.** Basic education institutions as well as school community and general public have an increased awareness and better understanding of democratic school culture.

Please visit project website for further details: [www.gelecek.bizim.org](http://www.gelecek.bizim.org)

In that context, the Provider has been chosen to provide consultancy services on evaluations/evaluation-related assignments to be requested by the Council on an as needed basis, in compliance with the ordering procedure defined in the Framework Contract.

The Council of Europe is looking for a Provider in order to support the implementation of the project with a particular expertise on evaluation. This specific tender procedure aims at concluding a **one-off contract** for the provision of the following deliverables:

**The maximum budget allocated for this evaluation is 11.500 Eur.**

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| Expected deliverables ▼ | Deadline ▼ |
| 1. An Evaluation Plan corresponding to the Evaluation Concept previously submitted by the bidder as part of the tendering process, including an evaluation methodology and calendar, as well as a plan for the collection of quantitative and/or qualitative data | 26.08.2022 |
| 1. Online/face to face interviews/focus group discussions | 15.09.2022 |
| 1. Submission of Draft Evaluation Report | 30.09.2022 |
| 1. Submission of Final Evaluation Report | 10.10.2022 |

**Purpose, Scope and Objectives**

The purpose of the final evaluation is to assess the project’s ambitions in terms of scope of its outreach, as well as progress towards its objectives and achieved results. As such, it will provide a detailed assessment of the Project’s outputs and outcomes in relation to the Project’s logical framework so far, but also reflect on strengths and weaknesses in the Project’s design which may have affected the measurement of Project’s success.

***The objective of the final evaluation is:***

* To assess the progress against the objectives and indicators of achievement at the end of the Project and recommendations to all partners for sustaining the results achieved by the Action and better implementation of future similar projects;
* To assess relevance and added value of the CoE in connection with the implementation of the Action;
* To assess the effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the Project;
* To provide directions/recommendations for the further implementation of the Action (i.e. any follow up project/intervention).

The intended users of the evaluation are the donor EU and the CoE’s services in charge of the project implementation and strategic programming (ODGP), as well as the beneficiary of the Project (Ministry of National Education).

**Proposed evaluation questions**

The evaluation should provide answers to the following questions:

***Relevance***

* To what extent did the Project address identified needs of target groups?
* To what extent did the Project take into account the needs of Pilot Schools in 10 pilot provinces (Adana, Aydın, Burdur, Çanakkale, Iğdır, Kars, Muğla, Sinop, Sivas, Yozgat) and the MoNE (Ministry of National Education?

***Added Value***

* Was there a substantial added value in the CoE implementing this Project when compared with activities carried out by other international organisations in this field or compared to non-intervention?

***Effectiveness***

* To what extent the Project achieved its expected results, bearing in mind the Project’s initial indicators? What are the reasons for the achievement and non-achievement of expected results?
* To what extent have adjustments during the implementation phase contributed to reaching better results?
* To what extent has the Project contributed to gender equality?

***Efficiency***

* Have the outputs been delivered in a timely manner to achieve the intervention purpose?
* To what extent alternative working methods led to the achievement of more qualitative or cost-effective results?
* To what extent has the Council of Europe’s organisational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the outputs?

***Potential Impact and Sustainability***

* To what extent the Project contributed to the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms by all individuals without discrimination in Türkiye?
* What changes have occurred among target groups as a result of the Project’s activities, particularly in connection with the Council of Europe’s standards? Has there been any negative or unintended effect of the Project?
* To what extent was the Project supported and owned by institutional Project partners,
* What is the likelihood that the benefits from the intervention will be maintained in the mid-term (3-5 years) after the end of the Project? What would be required to increase the sustainability of the results?

**Proposed methodology and timeline**

The final evaluation process will be performed by desk study and research, accompanied with online meetings/interviews with project partners and beneficiaries. The concrete evaluation approach is to be defined by Service Providers in a methodological brief (max. 5 pages) and which may propose or reformulate the above-mentioned evaluation questions as necessary.

The final evaluation process is planned to take place between **15 August – 10 October 2022.**

The evaluation methodology should also entail as a minimum:

* Desk research of the Project documents, including periodic and progress reports, expert reports, meeting reports, training modules, and administrative records;
* In-depth structured or semi-structured online or face-to-face interviews and/or focus group discussions with CoE Project managers, both in Türkiye and in Strasbourg, as well as with representatives of the EU as the main donor and the MoNE as the main beneficiary of the Project;
* Online/face-to-face interviews and/or focus group discussions with high-level representatives and resource-persons within The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the lead institution), the CFCU (contracting authority), the provincial directorates of the 10 pilot provinces of the Project (Adana, Aydın, Burdur, Çanakkale, Iğdır, Kars, Muğla, Sinop, Sivas, Yozgat), as well as with selected academics and civil society representatives, through field missions;
* Other modalities for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data pertaining to the Project’s indicators.

The evaluation should use a gender-responsive methodology, and comply with the Council of Europe Evaluation Guidelines (available online [here](https://rm.coe.int/evaluation-guidelines/16807945ab)).

The Draft and Final Evaluation Reports should include, *inter alia*:

* An executive summary;
* An introduction including the purpose and scope of the evaluation; Description of the intervention; Evaluation methodology incl. limitations; Difficulties encountered during the evaluation;
* Analysis and main findings from the evaluation including good practices;
* Lessons learned, Conclusions and recommendations;
* Annexes: list of people interviewed, data collection instruments, list of documents reviewed, etc.

The final report shall also fulfil the Quality Assurance Checklist provided in Annex 15 of the CoE Evaluation Guidelines (available online [here](https://rm.coe.int/evaluation-guidelines/16807945ab)). Furthermore the report shall be produced in a reader-friendly format illustrating the correlation between findings, conclusions and recommendations adequately.

**Logistical arrangements**

The consultant(s) will be responsible for disseminating any methodological tools such as questionnaires, and for organising and covering any costs related to office space, administrative support, telecommunications, or printing of documents for the entire duration of the evaluation process.

The Council of Europe Project team will assist with the scheduling of online interviews/meetings, and will organise and bear costs related to interpretation services during official meetings, and translation of documents, if necessary, to conduct the evaluation (for example, questionnaires).

A tender is considered valid for 120 calendar days as from the deadline for submission (see table below). The selection of tenderers will be made in the light of the criteria indicated under Section C 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** (scans) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject: SCoD - Consultancy services on external evaluation under the Project “Strengthening Democratic Culture in Basic Education” in Türkiye.** 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 2 (two) 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:** **Question – SCoD - Consultancy services on external evaluation under the Project “Strengthening Democratic Culture in Basic Education” in Türkiye.**

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| **Type of contract ►** | One-off contract |
| **Duration ►** | Until complete execution of the obligations of the parties (See Article 2 of the Legal conditions) |
| **Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►** | 08 August 2022 |
| **Email for submission of tenders/offers ►** | ankara.office@coe.int |
| **Email for questions ►** | ankara.office@coe.int |
| **Expected starting date of execution ►** | **10 August 2022** |

1. FEES

Tenderers shall 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 .

1. ASSESSMENT

*Exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interests* (See declaration in Appendix I)

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 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*

* At least 5 years of designing, managing and leading evaluations in the context of international cooperation;
* knowledge of, and experience in applying standard evaluation principles, qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods;

*Award criteria*

**Quality of the offer (70%), including:**

* proven competence in the field of education;
* knowledge of the Turkish context as applied to the implementation of internationally funded projects in the field of human rights (communication with interlocutors, typical challenges, political and operational context, etc..) will be an asset ;
* proficiency in English (proficiency in Turkish would be an asset) knowledge of the role of the Council of Europe and its programming tools;
* independence and absence of conflicts of interests.
* knowledge of applying the gender equality and human rights approach.

**Financial offer (30%).**

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

Tenderers are invited to submit:

* A completed and signed declaration on exclusion criteria (see Appendix I)
* A quote, describing their financial offer, in line with the requirements of Section B of the Tender File (see above);
* A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
* A motivation letter in English, demonstrating the tenderer’s interest in the Project and suitability for providing the above deliverables;
* A list of previous work completed by the tenderer (including, where relevant, a link to the produced outputs)

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. CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS

Tenderers will find below in the Appendix II a copy of the **Council of Europe’s** **standard Legal Conditions** for this type of contract.

Tenderers are invited to read these conditions, and to specify in their offer any of these clauses which they are unable to accept, together with a justification for this, and a proposal of alternative clause(s).

Alternatively, tenderers may provide a copy of their own standard legal conditions. However, tenderers should note that the capacity to meet the Council’s contractual requirements is one of the award criteria to be taken into account when the Council assesses tenderers’ offers. Tenderers should also note that any contract signed following this consultation will have to contain the following clauses: Article 3.6 (Disclosure of the terms of the contract), Article 3.7 (Use of name) and Article 12 (Disputes). Moreover, the Council reserves the right to ask for the contract proposed by the selected Provider to be amended in order to protect the Council’s interests, to meet the requirements of its status as an international organisation, and to keep a fair balance between the parties.

**\* \* \***

**Appendix I – Declaration on the exclusion criteria**

**Appendix II – Legal Conditions**

**Appendix I – Declaration on the exclusion criteria**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of the signatory ►** |  |
| **Name of the Provider ►** |  |
| **Full address**  **of the Provider ►** |  |

**I hereby declare[[2]](#footnote-3) that neither I, nor the company I represent:**

* 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 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)).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name ►** |  |
| **Date ►** |  |
| **Signature ►** |  |

**Appendix II – Legal Conditions**

**Article 1 – General provisions**

* 1. The Provider undertakes, on the conditions and in the manner laid down by common agreement hereafter excluding any accessory verbal agreement, to provide the list of Deliverables reproduced in the Terms of reference (see Section A above) related to the present contract and in the tender submitted by the Provider.
  2. The present contract is composed, by order of precedence, of:   
     a) the Act of Engagement, in its entirety (cover page, Sections A and B and the present Legal Conditions); and b) the tender submitted by the Provider.
  3. Any general purchasing terms and conditions of the Provider shall never prevail over these legal conditions. Any provision proffered by the Provider in its documents (general conditions or correspondence) conflicting with the clauses of these legal conditions shall be deemed void, except for any clauses which may be more favourable to the Council.
  4. For the purposes of this Contract:   
     a) “Contract” shall refer to the documents described in 1.2, above;   
     b) “Council” shall mean the Council of Europe;   
     c) “Deliverables” shall mean the services or goods as described in the Terms of reference;   
     d) “Parties” shall mean the Council and the Provider;   
     e) “Provider” shall mean the legal or physical person selected by the Council for the provision of the Deliverables. This person may equally be referred to as the “Service Provider” or the “Consultant”.

**Article 2 – Duration**

The contract is concluded until complete execution of the obligations of the parties and takes effect as from the date of its signature by both parties. The services shall be executed in accordance with the timeframe indicated in the Terms of reference or, by default, in the tender submitted by the Provider.

**Article 3 – Obligations of the Provider**

**3.1 General obligations**

1. The Provider bears sole responsibility for all the decisions made and the human, technical, logistic and material resources used in the context of the Contract in order to provide the Deliverables, with due respect for the Council of Europe’s needs and constraints, as contractually defined.
2. The Provider recognises that it is subject to a general obligation to provide advice, including, but not limited to, an obligation to provide any relevant information or recommendations to the Council. In this context, the Provider shall supply to the Council all the advice, warnings and recommendations necessary particularly in terms of quality of Deliverables, security and compliance with professional standards. The Provider also undertakes 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.

**3.2 Intellectual services**

1. The provisions of Articles 3.2.2 to 3.2.10 shall apply insofar as the contract concerns the provision of intellectual services.
2. Unless agreed otherwise by the Parties, any written documents prepared by the Provider under the contract shall be written in English and produced on a word processing file. In case the Parties agree that a written document shall be prepared in a language other than English or French, a summary in English or French shall be included in the said document.
3. Unless agreed otherwise by the Parties, all written documents of more than 1,500 words shall be preceded or accompanied by a text summarising the subject and main conclusions and shall not, unless specifically required, exceed 5,000 words.
4. The Provider guarantees that the Deliverables conform to the highest academic standards.
5. The Provider cedes irrevocably and exclusively to the Council throughout the entire world and for the entire period of copyright protection, all rights on the Deliverable(s) produced as a result of the execution of the present contract. Such rights shall include in particular the right to use, reproduce, represent, publish, adapt, translate and distribute – or to have used, reproduced, represented, published, adapted, translated and distributed - in any country, in any language, in any form and on any kind of support, including on a CD-ROM or the Internet, the said Deliverables, or any part thereof.
6. The Council reserves the right to exercise the above-mentioned rights for any purpose falling within its activities.
7. The Provider guarantees that use by the Council of the Deliverable(s) produced as a result of the execution of the present contract will not infringe the rights of third parties. However, should the Council incur liability as the result of any such infringement; the Provider will compensate it in full for any damage it may suffer in consequence.
8. Notwithstanding the provision in Article 3.2.5 above, the Council may, on prior application by the Provider, authorise the Provider to use the Deliverable(s) referred to above. When giving the Provider such authority, the Council will inform the Provider of any conditions to which such use may be subject.
9. Any intellectual property rights of the Provider over methods, knowledge and information which are in existence at the date of the conclusion of the Contract and which are comprised in or necessary for or arising from the performance of the Contract shall remain the property of the Provider. However, in consideration of the fees payable pursuant to the Contract the Provider hereby grants the Council a non-exclusive and free licence for the entire world and for the entire period of protection by the applicable intellectual property rights law for the use of such methods, knowledge and information insofar as they are an integral part of the Deliverable(s).
10. If the Deliverable(s) result(s) in the provision of a training session, and provided the training materials are not the property of the Council, the Provider shall grant the participants in the training a non-exclusive licence for the entire world and for the entire period of protection by the applicable intellectual property rights law for their own professional use of those training materials.

**3.3 Health and social insurance of the Provider or its employees**

The Provider shall undertake all necessary measures to arrange for health and social insurance during the entire contract. The Provider acknowledges and accepts in this regard that the Council shall not assume any responsibility for any health and social risks concerning illness, maternity or accident which might occur during the performance of work under the contract.

**3.4 Fiscal obligations**

The Provider undertakes to inform the Council about any change of its status with regard to VAT, to observe all applicable rules and to comply with its fiscal obligations in:

a) submitting a request for payment, or an invoice, to the Council in conformity with the applicable legislation;

b) declaring all fees received from the Council for tax purposes as required in his/her/its country of fiscal residence.

**3.5 Loyalty and confidentiality**

1. In the performance of the present contract, the Provider will not seek or accept instructions from any government or any authority external to the Council. The Provider undertakes to comply with the Council’s directives for the completion of the Deliverables and to refrain from any word or act that may be construed as committing the Council.
2. The Provider shall observe the utmost discretion in all matters concerning the contract, and particularly any matters or data that have been or are to be recorded that come to the Provider’s attention in the performance of the contract. Unless obliged to do so under the terms of the contract, or expressly authorised to do so by the Secretary General of the Council, the Provider shall refrain at all times from communicating to any person, legal entity, government or authority external to the Council any information which has not been made public and which has come to the Provider’s notice as a result of dealings with the Council. Nor shall the Provider seek to gain private benefit from such information. Neither the expiry of the contract nor its termination by the Council shall lift these obligations.

**3.6 Disclosure of the terms of the contract**

1. The Provider is informed and gives an authorisation of disclosure of all relevant terms of the contract, including identity and price, for the purposes of internal and external audit and to the Committee of Ministers and to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council with a view to these latter discharging their statutory functions, as well as for the purpose of meeting the publication and transparency requirements of the Council of Europe or its donors. The Provider authorises the publication, in any form and medium, including the websites of the Council of Europe or its donors, of the title of the contract/projects, the nature and purpose of the contract/projects, name and locality of the Provider and amount of the contract/project.
2. Whenever appropriate, specific confidentiality measures shall be taken by the Council to preserve the vital interests of the Provider.

**3.7 Use of the Council of Europe’s name**

The Provider shall not use the Council’s name, flag or logo without prior authorisation of the Council.

**3.8 Data Protection**

1. Without prejudice to the other provisions of this contract, the Parties undertake, in the execution of this contract, to comply at all times with the legislation applicable to each of them concerning the processing of personal data.
2. Where the Provider, pursuant to its obligations under this contract, processes personal data on behalf of the Council, it shall:
3. Process personal data only in accordance with written instructions from the Council;
4. Process personal data only to the extent and in such manner as is necessary for the execution of the contract, or as otherwise notified by the Council;
5. Implement appropriate technological measures to protect personal data against accidental loss, destruction, damage, alteration or disclosure. These measures shall be appropriate to the harm which might result from any unauthorised or unlawful processing, accidental loss, destruction, or damage while having regard to the nature of the personal data which is to be protected;
6. Take reasonable steps to ensure the reliability of the Provider’s employees having access to the personal data and to ensure that they have committed themselves to confidentiality or are under an appropriate statutory obligation of confidentiality and thus agree to comply with the data protection obligations set out in this contract;
7. Obtain written consent from the Council prior to any transfer of possession or responsibility for the personal data to any subcontractors. If the Council chooses to authorise subcontracting, the same data protection obligations as set out in this contract shall be imposed on the subcontractor by way of a contract. The Provider shall remain fully liable to the Council for the performance of that subcontractor’s obligations.
8. Notify the Council within five working days if it receives:   
   a. a request from a data subject to have access (including rectification, deletion and objection) to that person’s personal data; or   
   b. a complaint or request related to the Council’s obligations to comply with the data protection requirements.
9. Provide the Council with full assistance in relation to any such request or complaint and assist the Council to fulfil its obligation to respond to the requests for rectification, deletion and objection, to provide information on data processing to data subjects and to notify personal data breaches;
10. Allow for and contribute to checks and audits, including inspections, conducted or mandated by the Council or by any authorised third auditing person. The Provider shall immediately inform the Council of any audit not conducted or mandated by the Council;
11. Not process nor transfer personal data outside the jurisdiction of a Council of Europe Member State without the prior authorisation of the Council and provided that an adequate level of protection is guaranteed by law or by ad hoc or approved standardised safeguards (such as binding corporate rules) in the jurisdiction of the recipient;
12. Make available to the Council all information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the obligations under the contract in connection with the processing of personal data and the rights of data subjects;
13. Upon the Council’s request, delete or return to the Council all personal data and any existing copies, unless the applicable law requires storage of the personal data.

**3.9 Parallel Activities**

Where the Provider is a natural person who is employed in parallel to this Contract, they hereby confirm that they:

a) have been granted approval from their employer to perform paid services for the Council under this Contract, and/or

b) have been granted leave during the performance of their obligations under this Contract.

**3.10 Other obligations**

1. In the performance of the present contract, the Provider undertakes to comply with the applicable principles, rules and values of the Council.
2. The Staff Regulations and the rules concerning temporary staff members shall not apply to the Provider.
3. Nothing in this contract may be construed as conferring on the Provider the capacity of a Council of Europe staff member or employee.

**4.1 Fees**

1. In return for the fulfilment by the Provider of its obligations under the contract, the Council undertakes to pay the Provider the fees as indicated in their offer, in the currency specified in the Table of fees.
2. Amounts are final and not subject to review.

**4.2 VAT**

1. Should the Provider not be subject to VAT, the amount invoiced shall be net fixed amount. Should the Provider be subject to VAT, the amount shall be invoiced as indicated in Articles 4.2.2 to 4.2.5.
2. Should the deliverables be taxable in France, the amount invoiced shall be VAT inclusive.
3. Should the deliverables be taxable in another EU country, and unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, the Council will provide the Provider with an exemption certificate prior to the signature of the contract. The exemption certificate sent by the Council of Europe should be retained by the Provider and presented to the relevant tax authorities to justify tax-free invoicing. In accordance with Article 2 b) of Council Directive 2001/115/EC, the following should be stated in the invoice: “*Intra-Community sale/service to an exempted organisation: Articles 143 and 151 of Council Directive 2006/112/EC*” and should indicate the final total amount excluding VAT. In case the CoE will not be in a position to provide the said certificate, the Council will pay the invoice with VAT included.
4. Should the deliverables be taxable in a non-EU country, the amount invoiced will not include VAT if the local (national) legislation allows for it, or if the Council of Europe enjoys tax exemption through other means in the country concerned. Otherwise, it shall include VAT.
5. For the provision of “online services”, should the Provider be established either in an EU country (other than France) or in a non-EU country, the invoiced amount shall include French VAT at the applicable rate. The invoice shall indicate the total amount without taxes, the rate and the amount of the VAT and the total amount ‘all tax included’. The invoice shall also stipulate the following statement: “*Intra-community sale/service: French VAT collected by the Provider and paid to the Mini One-Stop shop in [Address/Country]*”.
   1. **Invoicing and payment**
6. Upon acceptance of the deliverable[s] by the Council, the Provider shall submit an invoice or a request for payment in triplicate and in the currency specified in the Table of fees, in conformity with the applicable legislation.
7. Before accepting the Deliverable(s), the Council reserves the right to ask the Provider to submit any other document or information that may serve the purpose of establishing that the Contract has been duly executed.
8. In the case of event organisation, the Provider shall in any case submit any document that proves that the event took place, including but not limited to an attendance sheet broken down into half days specifying the location, date(s) and time(s) of the event(s) or activity(ies), to be individually signed by each participant and the Provider.
9. The payment for the Deliverables to be paid by the Council shall be made within 60 calendar days of submission of the invoice described in Article 4.3.1, subject to the submission of the Deliverable(s) described in the Terms of reference and its/their acceptance by the Council.
10. In cases where an advance payment is foreseen, it shall be paid within 60 calendar days upon signature of the contract.

**4.4 Other expenses**

1. In the event of the Provider being required to travel for the purposes of the contract, and provided the Terms of reference do not stipulate that the fees already include travel and subsistence expenses, the Council undertakes, subject to its prior agreement, to reimburse travel and subsistence allowances in compliance with the Council’s applicable Rules.[[3]](#footnote-4)
2. Travel expenses referred to under 4.4.1 will be reimbursed on the basis of the rail fare (first class) or air fare (tourist class) upon presentation of an invoice on the letterhead of the relevant vouchers. Subsistence expenses (including travel expenses within the locality visited) will be reimbursed at the applicable daily rate.
3. In the event of the Provider being required to travel for the purposes of the contract, the duration of the Provider’s travel and stays will be covered by an insurance policy with the insurers CHARTIS (Policy No. 2.004.761). A telephone helpline is available in case of emergency (+ 32 (0)3 253 69 16). The said insurance will cover specific risks related to travel and stay of the Provider (including medical costs related to unforeseen illness or accident, repatriation, death, cancellation of journey or flight, theft or loss of personal possessions). The insurance policy does not cover persons over 75 years of age.

**Article 5 - Breach of contract**

1. In the event that:
2. the Provider does not satisfy the conditions laid down in this contract or those resulting from any modifications duly accepted in writing by both parties, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 below; or
3. the Deliverables provided as referred to under Article 1.1 do not reach a satisfactory level,
4. the Provider is in any of the situations listed in Article 11.2.

the Council may consider there to have been a breach of contract and may consequently refuse to pay to the Provider the amounts referred to in Article 4.1 and Article 4.4 above.

1. In the cases described in paragraph 5.1 above, the Council reserves further, at any moment and further to prior notification to the Provider, the right to terminate the contract in all or in part. In case of termination, the Council shall pay only the amount corresponding to the deliverables actually and satisfactorily provided at the time of termination of the contract and shall request reimbursement of the sums already paid for Deliverables not provided. In case of partial termination, the obligations of the parties shall endure for all deliverables which are not subject of the notification of termination.
2. The outstanding sums shall be paid to the Council’s bank account within 60 calendar days from the notification in writing by the Council to the Provider regarding the outstanding sums to be paid.

**Article 6 - Modifications**

1. The provisions of this contract cannot be modified without the written agreement of both parties. This agreement may take the form of an exchange of emails provided it is done using the contact details specified in Article 8.
2. Any modification shall not affect elements of the contract which may distort the initial conditions of the tendering procedure or give rise to unequal treatment between the tenderers.
3. This contract may not be transferred, in full or in part, for money or free of charge, without the Council’s prior authorisation in writing.
4. The Provider may not subcontract all or part of the Deliverables without the written authorisation of the Council. If authorised to subcontract by the Council, the Provider shall ensure compliance with all contractual conditions by all authorised subcontractors. The Provider shall remain fully liable to the Council for the performance of that subcontractor’s obligations.

**Article 7 - Case of force majeure**

1. In the event of force majeure, the parties shall be released from the application of this contract without any financial compensation. Force majeure is defined as including the following: major weather problems, earthquake, strikes affecting air travel, attacks, a state of war, health risks or events that would require the Council or the Provider to cancel the contract.
2. In the event of such circumstances each party shall be required to notify the other party accordingly in writing, within a period of 7 calendar days.

**Article 8 - Communication between the parties**

1. The Contact point within the Council of Europe is indicated on the cover page of the Act of Engagement (See page 1 above).
2. The Provider can be reached through the means indicated in the Act of Engagement (see page 1 above).
3. Any communication is deemed to have been made when it is received by the receiving party, unless the Contract refers to the date when the communication was sent.
4. Electronic communication is deemed to have been received by the receiving party on the day of successful dispatch of that communication, provided that it is sent to the addressees listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Dispatch shall be deemed unsuccessful if the sending party receives a message of non-delivery. In this case, the sending party shall immediately send again such communication to any of the other addresses listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. In case of unsuccessful dispatch, the sending party shall not be held in breach of its obligation to send such communication within a specified deadline, provided the communication is dispatched by another means of communication without further delay.
5. Mail sent to the Council using the postal services is considered to have been received by the Council on the date on which it is registered by the department identified in paragraph 1 above.
6. Formal notifications made by registered mail with return receipt or equivalent, or by equivalent electronic means, shall be considered to have been received by the receiving party on the date of receipt indicated on the return receipt or equivalent.

**Article 9 –Acceptance**

The provision of Deliverables referred to in this contract shall be the subject of a written acceptance procedure. If acceptance is refused, the Council shall inform the Provider accordingly, giving reasons, and may set new modalities for the provision of the Deliverables. If acceptance is refused again, the Council may terminate the Contract in whole or in part without previous notice and without paying any financial compensation.

**Article 10 – Consortium**

1. The Providers have full responsibility for carrying out and complying with the terms of the contract.
2. The Providers are jointly and severally liable. If a Provider fails to implement its part of the contract, the other Providers become responsible for the carrying out of the Deliverables, unless the Council expressly relieves them of this obligation.
3. In case of breach of contract, where applicable, the Council will claim back the amounts paid but that were not due under the contract. The coordinator of the consortium is fully liable for repaying the debts of the consortium; even if it has not been the final recipient of those amounts.
4. The internal roles and responsibilities of the Providers are divided as follows:
   * 1. The Providers must designate a coordinator.
     2. Each Provider must:
5. inform the coordinator immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the performance of the contract, change in legal status or technical, organisational or ownership situation, circumstances affecting the award of the contract or compliance with the requirements of the contract;
6. submit to the coordinator in good time:   
   - any other documents or information required by the Council under the contract, unless the contract requires the Provider to submit this information directly;   
   - any information requested by the coordinator in order to verify the state of performance of the Deliverables under the contract, the proper implementation of the contract and compliance with the other obligations under the contract.
7. give the other Providers access to any pre-existing industrial and intellectual property rights needed for the performance of the contract and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.
   * 1. The coordinator must:
8. monitor that the Deliverables are carried out timely and properly, in accordance with the terms of the contract;
9. act as the intermediary for all communications between the Providers and the Council (in particular, providing the Council with the information described in Article 10.4.2(ii) immediately), unless the agreed otherwise by the Parties;
10. request and review any documents or information required by the Council and verify their completeness and correctness before passing them on to the Council;
11. before starting performance of the contract, submit this list of pre-existing rights (Article 10.4.2(iii)) to the Council.
12. submit the Deliverables to the Council in accordance with the timing and terms of the contract;
13. Payments shall be made by the Council to the coordinator. Payments to the coordinator shall discharge the Council from its payment obligation. The coordinator must ensure that the distribution of the payments between the Providers are made without unjustified delay.

The coordinator may not subcontract the above-mentioned tasks.

1. The Providers must have internal arrangements regarding their operation and co-ordination to ensure that the action is implemented properly. These internal arrangements must be set out in a written ‘consortium agreement’ between the beneficiaries, which may cover:   
   - internal organisation of the consortium;   
   - distribution of the Council payment(s);   
   - additional rules on rights and obligations related to pre-existing rights and results (including intellectual and industrial property rights), specifying the owner any persons that have a right of use;   
   - settlement of internal disputes;   
   - liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the Providers.

The consortium agreement must not contain any provision contrary to the contract.

**Article 11 – Changes in the Provider’s situation or standing**

11.1. The Provider shall inform the Council without delay of any changes in their address or legal domicile or in the address or legal domicile of the person who may represent them.

* 1. The Provider shall also inform the Council without delay:

1. if they are involved in a merger, takeover or change of ownership or there is a change in their legal status;
2. where the Provider is a consortium or similar entity, if there is a change in membership or partnership.
3. if they are 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;
4. if they 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;
5. if they have received a judgment with *res judicata force*, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or serious professional misconduct;
6. If they 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 legal domicile;
7. If they are or are likely to be in a situation of conflict of interests;
8. If they 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)).

**Article 12 - Disputes**

12.1. Any dispute regarding this Contract shall - failing a friendly settlement between the Parties - be submitted to arbitration.

12.2. The Arbitration Board shall be composed of two arbitrators each selected by one of the parties, and of a presiding arbitrator, appointed by the other two arbitrators; in the event of no presiding arbitrator being appointed under the above conditions within a period of six months, the President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Strasbourg shall make the appointment.

12.3. Alternatively, the parties may submit the dispute for decision to a single arbitrator selected by them by common agreement or, failing such agreement, by the President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Strasbourg.

12.4. The Board referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article or, where appropriate, the arbitrator referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, shall determine the procedure to be followed.

* 1. If the parties do not agree upon the law applicable the Board or, where appropriate, the arbitrator shall decide ex aequo et bono having regard to the general principles of law and to commercial usage.
  2. The arbitral decision shall be binding upon the parties and there shall be no appeal from it.

**Article 13 - Addresses and bank details of the parties**

The bank details of the Provider are indicated in the Act of Engagement. The bank details of the Council of Europe are the following:

Bank address: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

Bank name: Société Générale Strasbourg

Code IBAN: FR76 30003 02360 001500 1718672

SWIFT Code: SOGEFRPP

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-2)
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;

   - 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)
3. CM/Del/Dec(2010)1089/11.3 appendix 9 <https://search.coe.int/intranet/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805ceb14> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)