

TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Restricted consultation procedure / Framework Contract)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Purchase of consultancy services

The Council of Europe is currently implementing the Project to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe VC1840 (the Project). In that context, it is looking for Provider(s) for the provision of research and drafting services to be requested by the Council on an as needed basis.

A. TENDER RULES

This tender procedure is a restricted consultation procedure. **In accordance with Rule 1333 of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe¹, the Organisation shall invite to tender at least three potential providers for any purchase between €2,000 (or €5,000 for intellectual services) and €55,000 tax exclusive.**

This specific tender procedure aims at concluding a **framework contract** for the provision of deliverables described in the Act of Engagement (See attached). A tender is considered valid for 120 calendar days as from the closing date for submission. The selection of tenderers will be made in the light of the criteria indicated below. All tenderers will be informed in writing of the outcome of the procedure.

The tenderer must be either a natural person, or a duly registered company under sole proprietorship of a natural person, or equivalent, provided that the signatory of the Act of Engagement is individually liable for all obligations undertaken by the entity, and is the owner of the moral rights in any creations of the entity. If contracted by the Council of Europe, the signatory of the Act of Engagement shall provide the deliverables personally, in accordance with the terms as provided in the current Tender File, Act of Engagement and future Order Forms (see Section D below on ordering procedure).

Tenders shall be submitted **by email only** (with attachments) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject: CRD/VC1840/EndOCSEA@Europe(2019)FC01**. 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 CRD/VC1840/EndOCSEA@Europe(2019)FC01**

Type of contract ►	Framework contract
Duration ►	Until 31 December 2020
Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►	06 March 2019
Email for submission of tenders/offers ►	Children.endOCSEA@coe.int
Email for questions ►	Children.endOCSEA@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ►	08 March 2019

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 1333 of 29 June 2011 on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe](#).

B. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Background of the Project

The Council of Europe Project to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe (the Project) supports member States to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The project, which is implemented in the framework of the [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#), includes 3 mutually reinforcing components, each aimed at:

- 1) setting up enabling environments for cross-sector, multidisciplinary collaboration at national and regional levels, through strengthening national governance structures and conducting situation analysis of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) risks and responses in national and pan-European contexts;
- 2) supporting legislative and procedural reforms, training and improved capacities of law enforcement officials, judiciary and prosecutors and promoting multi-disciplinary interagency cooperation for end to end victims' support;
- 3) addressing societal capabilities with emphasis on awareness-raising, education of key target groups and empowerment of children.

The Project will be implemented in co-operation with ten countries namely: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

The Project duration is 30 months from July 2018 to December 2020.

In this context the Council of Europe will undertake a baseline mapping of COE member states to identify current trends, promising practices and challenges faced. The baseline mapping will include a comparative review of existing mechanisms for collective action to prevent and combat OCSEA at pan-European level and recommendations on how to strengthen responses to OCSEA at European level.

The Council of Europe is looking for a maximum of *number of 8 Providers* (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to support the implementation of these activities with a particular expertise on preventing and combatting OCSEA, online violence or child sexual exploitation and abuse.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover up to 3 *activities*, to be completed by 31 December 2020. 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 849,040 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.

Scope of the Framework Contract

Throughout the duration of the Framework Contract, pre-selected Providers may be asked to provide the deliverables listed in the Act of Engagement (See Section A – Terms of reference). This list is considered exhaustive.]

In terms of **quality requirements**, the pre-selected Service Providers must ensure, *inter alia*, that:

- The services are provided to the highest professional/academic standard;
- Any specific instructions given by the Council – whenever this is the case – are followed.

In addition to the orders requested on an as needed basis, the Provider shall keep regular communication with the Council to ensure continuing exchange of information relevant to the project implementation. This involves, among others, to inform the Council as soon as it becomes aware, during the execution of the Contract, of any initiatives and/or adopted laws and regulations, policies, strategies or action plans or any other development related to the object of the Contract (see more on general obligations of the Provider in Article 3.1.2 of the Legal Conditions in the Act of Engagement).

Unless otherwise agreed with the Council, written documents produced by the Provider shall be in English (see more on requirements for written documents in Articles 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 of the Legal Conditions in the Act of Engagement).]

C. FEES

Tenderers are invited to indicate their fees, by completing and sending the table of fees, as attached in Section A to the Act of Engagement. These fees are final and not subject to review. Tenders proposing fees above the exclusion level indicated in the Table of fees will be **entirely and automatically** excluded from the tender procedure.

The Council will indicate on each Order Form (see Section D below) the global fee corresponding to each deliverable, calculated on the basis of the unit fees, as agreed by this Contract.

D. HOW WILL THIS FRAMEWORK CONTRACT WORK? (ORDERING PROCEDURE)

Once this consultation and the subsequent selection are completed, you will be informed accordingly. Deliverables will then be delivered on the basis of Order Forms submitted by the Council to the selected Provider (s), by post or electronically, on **an as needed basis** (there is therefore no obligation to order on the part of the Council).

Pooling

For each Order, the Council will choose from the pool of pre-selected tenderers the Provider who demonstrably offers best value for money for its requirement when assessed – for the Order concerned – against the criteria of:

- quality (including as appropriate: capability, expertise, past performance, availability of resources and proposed methods of undertaking the work);
- availability (including, without limitation, capacity to meet required deadlines and, where relevant, geographical location); and
- price.

Each time an Order Form is sent, the selected Provider undertakes to take all the necessary measures to send it **signed** to the Council within 2 (two) working days after its reception. If a Provider is unable to take an Order or if no reply is given on his behalf within that deadline, the Council may call on another Provider using the same criteria, and so on until a suitable Provider is contracted.

Providers subject to VAT

The Provider, **if subject to VAT**, shall also send, together with each signed Form, a quote² (Pro Forma invoice) in line with the indications specified on each Order Form, and including:

- the Service Provider's name and address;
- its VAT number;
- the full list of services;
- the fee per type of deliverables (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement, tax exclusive);
- the total amount per type of deliverables (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement, tax exclusive);
- the total amount (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement), tax exclusive, the applicable VAT rate, the amount of VAT and the amount VAT inclusive .

Signature of orders

An Order Form is considered to be legally binding when the Order, signed by the Provider, is approved by the Council, by displaying a Council's Purchase Order number on the Order, as well as by signing and stamping the Order concerned. Copy of each approved Order Form shall be sent to the Provider, to the extent possible on the day of its signature.

E. ASSESSMENT

Exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interests

(by signing the Act of Engagement, you declare on your honour not being in any of the below situations)³

Tenderers shall be excluded from participating in the tender procedure if they:

- have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering;
- are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- have received a judgment with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or serious professional misconduct;
- do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of their country of incorporation, establishment or residence;
- are or are likely to be in a situation of conflict of interests.

Eligibility criteria

- University degree, or other professional qualification, in law or political science, children's rights, with proven experience, knowledge and practical understanding of the international standards in the area of OCSEA;

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

³ The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask tenderers, at a later stage, to supply an extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country of incorporation, indicating that the first three above listed exclusion criteria are met, and a certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of incorporation indicating that the fourth criterion is met.

- Proven knowledge and understanding of at least two of the following areas: the international standards applicable to OCSEA, trends and prevalence of OCSEA in the Council of Europe member States, the challenges for prevention, investigation and prosecution, child-friendly procedures for victims, witnesses and perpetrators of OCSEA in the context of investigations at national, regional and international levels, the rules on electronic evidence;
- Minimum of 5 years professional experience working in an area related to OCSEA at national or international level;
- Ability to work in an international environment;
- Demonstrated drafting and writing skills in English;
- Availability to travel and speak at Project events to present findings of baseline mapping (location, dates and times to be agreed).

Award criteria

- Quality of the offer (90%), including:
 - Quality of the draft outline methodology submitted as part of this tender;
 - Capacity to undertake research and contribute substantively to the drafting of the baseline mapping;
 - Capacity to evaluate legislative and policy frameworks in place in Council of Europe member states;
 - Capacity to present and share findings at relevant events.
- Financial offer (10%).

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with eligible tenderers.

Multiple tendering is not authorised.

F. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

- A completed and signed copy of the **Act of Engagement**⁴ (See attached);
- A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
- A draft outline methodology proposal for the baseline mapping (maximum 2 pages);

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 tender will not be considered.

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

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⁴ The Act of Engagement must be completed, signed and scanned in its entirety (i.e. including all the pages). The scanned Act of Engagement may be sent page by page (attached to a single email) or as a compiled document, although a compiled document would be preferred. For all scanned documents, .pdf files are preferred.