**TENDER FILE / TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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

**Purchase of consultancy services for Monitoring of Action plans’ Implementation and Development of Cumulative report on Implementation of Action plans in 15 LSGs.**

***Contract N°* 4708/2022/76**

The Council of Europe is currently implementing joint European Union and Council of Europe Programme “Human Resources Management in Local Self-government - phase 2” (2019 -2022) (“Programme”) in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, which is based on the achievements and challenges of the phase 1 (2016-2017). The Programme is also built on the implementation of the Strategy of Public Administration Reform in the Republic of Serbia and its Action Plan and in accordance with the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. The Programme addresses the most relevant issues of human resources management (HRM) and human resource development (HRD) at local self-government level in the Republic of Serbia which are prescribed in the Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units, the Law on Salaries in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units and the Law on National Academy for Public Administration. The Programme started on 18 December 2018 and it will be completed on 18 December 2022.

Within the Programme activity **1.2.3 Implementation of Organizational MSPs (OMSP) in 15 LSGs, through provision of small grant scheme (sub-granting modality, with maximum amount of 30,000 EUR per grant) and technical assistance to up to 15 selected LSGs**, the technical support was provided to 15 LSGs to conduct the organisational-functional analysis, in order to identify the challenges in operational functioning in 15 LSGs. Based on their analyses, 15 LSGs developed Action plans, which presented activities necessary for overcoming the identified shortcomings. Finally, based on the recommendation of the analyses, 15 LSGs prepared project proposals and submitted them to the Council of Europe for the purpose of grant award, amounting to 30 000 EUR per LSG. The process of approval of project proposals is ongoing.

Developed Action plans contain the activities mostly related to the improvement of operational functioning in LSGs through amendments of internal legal acts, professional development and strengthening technical capacities. The activities that will be subject of monitoring are related only to the activities which are planned to be implemented until the end of 2022.

In that context, the Programme is looking for maximum 6 (six) consultants with local expertise for the provision of monitoring of Action plans’ implementation in 15 LSGs and/or development of the Cumulative report on implementation of Action plans in 15 LSGs to be requested by the Council of Europe on an as needed basis.

1. TENDER RULES

This tender procedure is a competitive bidding procedure. **In accordance with Rule 1395 of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe[[1]](#footnote-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.**

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

**The tenderer must be either a natural person, a legal person or 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 - Monitoring of Action plans’ Implementation.** 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 – Monitoring of Action Plans’ Implementation.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of contract ►** | Framework contract |
| **Duration ►** | Until 18 December 2022 |
| **Deadline for submission of tenders/offers ►** | **30 June 2022** |
| **Email for submission of tenders/offers ►** | **Lsg.serbia@coe.int** |
| **Email for questions ►** | Lsg.serbia@coe.int |
| **Expected starting date of execution ►** | 10 July 2022 |

1. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

**Background of the Project**

The Council of Europe is currently implementing the programme “Human Resources Management in Local Self-government” - phase 2 (the Programme), which is built on the implementation of the Strategy of Public Administration Reform in the Republic of Serbia and its Action Plan and in accordance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government’s principles, which provides a solid basis for setting-up strong and stable local authorities in the country. The Programme addresses the most relevant issues of human resources management (HRM) and human resources development (HRD) at local self-government level in the Republic of Serbia, which are prescribed in the Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units, the Law on Salaries in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units and the Law on National Academy for Public Administration. The Programme started on 18 December 2018 and will be completed on 18 December 2022.

The Council of Europe is looking for maximum 6 (six) consultants with local expertise (provided enough tenders meet the criteria indicated below) in order to conduct monitoring of Action plans’ implementation in 15 LSGs and/or develop Cumulative report on implementation of Action plans in 15 LSGs, with a particular expertise in monitoring the implementation of the activities within donor funded projects and drafting cumulative reports on achieved project results.

This Contract is currently estimated to cover monitoring of Action plans activities in designated LSGs which were planned to be completed until the end of 2022 and/or development of Cumulative report on implementation of Action plans in 15 LSGs in line with the monitoring results. Designation of LSGs will be made by the Programme team.

The programme activity is planned to be held by end of November 2022. 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 4 000 000 Euros and the total amount of the object of present tender **shall not exceed 55,000 Euros tax exclusive** for the whole duration of the Framework Contract. This information does not constitute any sort of contractual commitment or obligation on the part of the Council of Europe.

**Scope of the Framework Contract**

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

1. Monitor development of the Action Plan in designated LSG that will require:

* Verifying implemented activities throug submission of relevant documents by LSGs;
* Processing results of implemented activities (quality – check of deliverables);
* Preparing short report for each LSG on implementation of the Actions plan’s activity that will contain the status of implemented activity in line with the set deadlines, quality of deliverables, reasons for delays (if any), shortcomings that LSGs are facing in activities’ implementation, including the explanation of reasons for not carrieng out the activities, conclusions and proposals for the improvements.

1. One or more providers may be asked to develop Cumulative report on Action plans’ implementation for all 15 LSGs that will contain narrative part, statistical data, graphs, and other required tools in order to precisely reflect the monitoring results of Action plans’ implementation in all 15 LSGs. The Cumulative report will be based on the results presented in the short reports on the implementation of Action plans.

The above list is not considered exhaustive. The Council reserves the right to request deliverables not explicitly mentioned in the above list of expected services, but related to the field of expertise object of the present Framework Contract.

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 Serbian (see more on requirements for written documents in Articles 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 of the Legal Conditions in the Act of Engagement).]

1. FEES

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

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

1. HOW WILL THIS FRAMEWORK CONTRACT WORK? (Ordering PROCEDURE)

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

**Pooling**

For each Order, the Council will choose from the pool of pre-selected tenderers 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 quote[[2]](#footnote-3) (Pro Forma invoice) in line with the indications specified on each Order Form, and including:

- the Service Provider’s name and address;

- its VAT number;

- the full list of services;

- the fee per type of deliverables (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement, tax exclusive);

- the total amount per type of deliverables (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement, tax exclusive);

- the total amount (in the currency indicated on the Act of Engagement), tax exclusive, the applicable VAT rate, the amount of VAT and the amount VAT inclusive.

**Signature of orders**

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

1. ASSESSMENT

*Exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interests*

(by signing the Act of Engagement, you declare on your honour not being in any of the below situations)**[[3]](#footnote-4)**

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)).
* Are puclic administration servants employed in local, regional or national institutions.
* Participated in conduction of functional analysis or coordination of this Programme activity.
* Are public administration servants employed in central, regional and local institutions.

*Eligibility criteria*

* University degree in law, political science, economics, public administration, social sciences, or equivalent work experience (at least 5 years) related to public administration reforms at local level;
* Minimum 3 years of professional experience in field research and data analysis;
* Knowledge of the national legislation, public administration system, local self-governance system of the Republic of Serbia;
* Excellent knowledge of Serbian language (written and oral).

*Award criteria*

* Quality of the offer (90%), including:
* Proven work experience in monitoring the quality of project’s results;
* Proven work experience in reporting on EU funded projects or related donor projects at local level;
* Proven work experience in data processing by using corresponding assessment tools;
* Proven work experience in conducting analysis, writing cumulative reports related to the topics relevant for public administration reform at local level.
* Financial offer (10%).

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

Multiple tendering is not authorised.

1. NEGOTIATIONS

The Council reserves the right to hold negotiations with the bidders in accordance with Article 20 of Rule 1395.

1. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED

* A completed and signed copy of the **Act of Engagement[[4]](#footnote-5)** (See attached);
* A detailed CV, preferably in Europass Format, demonstrating clearly that the tenderer fulfils the eligibility criteria;
* A list of all owners and executive officers, for legal persons only;
* Motivation letter clearly indicating fulfilment of award criteria;
* Legal Persons and Consortia of Legal persons are also obliged to submit CVs and Motivation Letters of proposed consultants, apart from the Company’s or Consortia’s portfolio and motivation letter.

**All documents shall be submitted in English or Serbian, failure to do so will result in the exclusion of the tender.**

**If any of the documents listed above are missing, the Council of Europe reserves the right to reject the tender.**

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

1. The activities of the Council of Europe are governed by its [Statute](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680306052) and its internal Regulations. Procurement is governed by the Financial Regulations of the Organisation and by [Rule 1395 of 20 June 2019 on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe](https://search.coe.int/intranet/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168094853e). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask tenderers, at a later stage, to supply the following supporting documents:

   An extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country of incorporation, indicating that the first three and sixth above listed exclusion criteria are met;

   A certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of incorporation indicating that the fourth criterion is met;

   For legal persons, an extract from the companies register or other official document proving ownership and control of the Tenderer;

   For natural persons (including owners and executive officers of legal persons), a scanned copy of a valid photographic proof of identity (e.g. passport). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The Act of Engagement must be completed, signed and scanned in its entirety (i.e. including all the pages). The scanned Act of Engagement may be sent page by page (attached to a single email) or as a compiled document, although a compiled document would be preferred. For all scanned documents, .pdf files are preferred. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)