

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

Purchase of consultancy services 2742/2020/1

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe is implementing the project "Reinforcing the culture of dialogue and consultation of local authorities in the Republic of Moldova" within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Moldova 2017-2020. In that context, it is looking for a Provider for the provision of consultancy services for conducting the baseline assessment of the institutional position of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) (see Section A of the Act of Engagement).

A. TENDER PROCEDURE RULES

This tender procedure is a competitive bidding procedure. **In accordance with Rules 1395 and 1401 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 **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 a legal person except consortia.

The tenderer will engage a national consultant(s) to provide expert support in the Republic of Moldova. The tenderer will cover the organisational costs of missions to the Republic of Moldova, including international and local travel, interpretation, and include travel and subsistence expenses.

Tenders shall be submitted **by email only** (with attachments) **to the email address indicated in the table below, with the following reference in subject: Baseline Assessment CALM.** 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: Inquiry Baseline Assessment CALM.**

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 ▶	09 June 2020
Email for submission of tenders/offers ▶	congress.cooperation@coe.int
Email for questions ▶	congress.cooperation@coe.int
Expected starting date of execution ▶	15 July 2020

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 and Rule 1401 of 20 June 2019 on the procurement procedures of the Council of Europe](#).

B. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

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

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;
- 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

- Minimum five years of proven experience in the assessment of the organisational capacities and institutional position of non-profit organisations, analytical research and evaluation;
- Excellent oral, written, communication and reporting skills of the international team members, all having professional proficiency in English;
- Being a registered company (legal person) specialised in evaluation, assessment and related fields;
- Understanding of the Moldovan context, or work with local non-governmental organisations, and/or local national authorities in the country;
- Experience in working in the field of local governance or with associations of local and regional authorities;
- Experience in the Eastern Partnership or Balkan countries;
- International team members: Higher education in the field of political science, economics, project management, or related fields;
- National consultant: excellent knowledge of local governance issues in the Republic of Moldova; Professional fluency in Romanian is essential.

Award criteria

- Quality of the offer (80%), including:
 - The methodology proposed for the assessment of the institutional position of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM);
 - Qualifications of the proposed evaluation team (international consultants' knowledge of Romanian or Russian and national consultants' knowledge of Russian are considered assets);
 - Capacity to meet the deadlines indicated in the Terms of reference;
 - Capacity to adapt to the context.
- Financial offer (20%).

² 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.

The Council reserves the right to hold interviews with eligible 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;
- CVs of international and national experts to be engaged for the assessment;
- A document describing the methodology proposed (maximum 2 pages);
- Contact details of 3 (three) references.

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.

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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.