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CALL FOR TENDERS

Blue economy development framework

EASME/2019/OP/0008 - EASME/EMFF/2018/1.3.1.11 - Blue Economy

Lot 1 and Lot 2

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

Open Procedure

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EASME/2019/OP/0008 - EASME/EMFF/2018/1.3.1.11 - Blue Economy Lot 1 and Lot 2**Blue economy development framework****1. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS****1.1. INTRODUCTION**

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (henceforth “EASME” or “the Contracting Authority”)¹, acting under the powers delegated by the European Commission (henceforth “the Commission”), is launching this call for tender in two lots for two studies, the first of which to identify and analyse unsustainable finance in the blue economy; and the second of which to develop sustainability criteria for blue economy activities.

The present call is based on Regulation (EU) N°508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) N°2328/2003, (EC) N°861/2006, (EC) N°1198/2006 and (EC) N°791/2007 and Regulation (EU) N°1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

More specifically, it is based on the Commission Implementing Decision of 8 December 2017 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and the financing decision for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, C(2017)8146 final.

EASME is launching this call for tenders divided in two lots:

Lot 1 “Unsustainable finance in the blue economy: Where does the money come from?”

Lot 2 “Sustainability criteria for the Blue Economy.”

1.2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

Sustainable development aims to meet the needs of present generations without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It requires a comprehensive approach bringing together economic, social and environmental considerations in ways that mutually reinforce each other. Sustainable finance refers to a process of taking due account of environmental and social considerations in investment decision-making, leading to a shift of capital towards sustainable activities.

The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries seeks to support such a shift in finance away from unsustainable marine and maritime activities; and an increase in investment in the sustainable blue economy. In order to do so, it is necessary to identify and characterise current financial flows into the blue economy; and to develop a clear set of criteria for sustainable activities.

In 2015, landmark international agreements were established with the adoption of the Paris Climate Agreement² and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³. The Paris Agreement, in

¹ EASME was set up by Commission Implementing Decision (2013/771/EU) of 17 December 2013 establishing the “Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises” and repealing Decisions 2004/20/EC and 2007/372/EC (OJ L 341 of 18.12.2013). EASME replaces and supersedes former Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

particular, includes the commitment to align financial flows with a pathway towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. The shifting of capital to finance the transition to a low-carbon, more resource-efficient and sustainable economy has the potential to create significant economic growth and jobs.

In this context, the European Commission has taken initiatives and tabled proposals aiming to align the financial system with sustainable development⁴. More concretely, in October 2018, the European Commission launched the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative⁵, an initiative to make sure that investment fosters a sustainable blue economy.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified conservation and sustainable use of the oceans as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14⁶). The European Union is committed to the implementation of the SDGs. SDG 14 promotes a sustainable blue economy that is consistent with maritime spatial planning; the conservation of biological resources and the achievement of good environmental status; the prohibition of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing; and the elimination of subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. These outcomes should be reached by 2020.

The sustainability agenda has been the driver of the European Commission's action in the blue economy, an economy that encompasses all sectoral and cross-sectoral economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It is clear that we need a sustainable blue economy that takes care of marine resources and the environment and ensures they last far into the future. The sustainability and business agenda should go hand in hand.

PART I: Lot 1 “Unsustainable finance in the blue economy: Where does the money come from?”

1.3. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT – LOT 1

Despite the strengthened regulatory frameworks governing ocean resources and the declared will of the international community to use the ocean in a sustainable way⁷, an estimated 70% of the world's ocean is affected by unsustainable practices. These unsustainable practices are not only damaging for marine natural resources but they also have an economic cost.

For instance, while illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is negatively influencing marine ecosystems, such activities are also commonly associated with other crimes like bribery, fraud, trafficking or tax evasion⁸. According to a report published in 2016⁹, if the subsidies that are currently exacerbating overfishing and illegal fishing were redirected to the protection of the ocean, it would be possible to raise USD 18 billion per year. Some studies estimate the economic losses due to overfishing at approximately USD 83 billion a year – the “sunken billions”¹⁰.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance_en

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/pioneering-global-framework-sustainable-ocean-finance-launched-our-ocean-global-summit_en & https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/befp_en

⁶ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

⁷ See for instance the outcomes of the SDG 14 Conference, New York, June 2017 and the G7 Charlevoix Blueprint for healthy oceans, seas and resilient coastal communities, June 2018.

⁸ Victor Galaz and co, “Tax Havens and global environmental degradation”, article in Nature, Ecology and Evolution, August 2018. Online at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-018-0497-3>

⁹ Commission Océan Mondial, rapport sur « L'avenir de notre océan – prochaines étapes et priorités », 2016: https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/GOC_2016_Report_FRENCH.FINAL_.pdf

¹⁰ World Bank report, ‘The Sunken billions revisited – progress and challenges of global marine fisheries’, 2017: <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Topics/Environment/Sunken%20Billions%20Revisited-web-2.pdf>

Unsustainable practices exist in all blue economy sectors. Tourism may have harmful consequences on marine ecosystems and local communities. Construction of infrastructure (ports, industrial plants, aquaculture farms, etc.) at the coast may harm or destroy ecosystems such as wetlands or mangroves, removing valuable carbon sinks and biodiversity. Such coastal ecosystems are currently in decline. The major role of ships in the introduction of non-native species and harmful organisms has been recognised. As international trade is expected to grow rapidly, shipping emissions may grow by 50 to 250 percent by 2050. This would exacerbate ocean acidification, eutrophication and hypoxia.

The impacts of unsustainable blue economy practices have been estimated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Overall they cost the global economy at least USD 350 billion – USD 940 billion every year¹¹. If only a portion of this money was spent on the implementation of the SDGs, and notably SDG 14, it could set the path for a win-win scenario: more marine resources, greater food safety, economic and social benefits.

The following are some examples of unsustainable practices in blue economy sectors:

Fisheries

Three out of the 12 most financially rewarding transnational criminal activities are environmental crimes. These include the illicit trafficking in wildlife (with an estimated annual value of USD 7.8 to 10 billion); timber (with an estimated annual value of USD 7 billion) and fish (with an estimated annual value of USD 4.2 to 9.5 billion). Glass eel traffickers earned more than EUR 37 million from illegal exports to Asia.

Illegal catches comprise up to 31 percent of the global fish catch. The EU has introduced stricter controls but illegally caught fish still end up on European plates.

Aquaculture

Asia is the number one producer of aquaculture products, accounting for nearly 90% of the industry and a large source of EU imports. In some countries, services for disease control and product quality are still limited and insufficient to manage risks, while some farmers rely heavily on antibiotics.

In Vietnam shrimp farming has boomed as an industry but it can be poorly planned and inadequately regulated, causing destruction of coastal environments (such as mangrove forests).

Exploitation of other marine organisms and ecosystems

Coral reef degradation is occurring due to many factors, such as rising water temperatures, ocean acidification, overfishing, the use of cyanide or dynamite in fishing and general pollution. The coral reef wildlife trade further damages and destroys not only the coral reefs themselves, but also other vulnerable marine species. Tourism may also be a source of harm to fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs.

Coastal infrastructure (offshore platforms, pipelines, ports, shipyards, etc.)

Around the world, many important industrial centres are situated on estuaries and near urban areas and ports. Many industrial activities have major effects on coastal areas including, among others, the chemical and petrochemical industries, paper mills, vehicle factories, shipbuilding, power plants and food processing (including fish).

Offshore activities – such as dredging, pipelines, data and energy cables buried in the seabed – may destroy natural habitats and ecosystems.

¹¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1752Catalysing%20Ocean%20Finance%20-%20UN%20Expert%20Group%20Mtg%20Oceans%2018-19%20April%202013.pdf>

Significant investments will be made in the near future in coastal areas and offshore to develop maritime infrastructure and to adapt to sea level rises and other effects of climate change. There is a significant risk that such investments may not be sustainable.

Tourism, marinas and yachting

Cruise tourism can cause risks to environmental and social sustainability.

Over the last 20 years, tourism infrastructure developments have dramatically altered the natural dynamics of Mediterranean coastal ecosystems. For example, more than half of the 46 000km coastline is now urbanised, mainly along the European shores. This infrastructure is one cause of habitat loss in the region.

Shipping

The maritime transport industry faces uncertainty with freight rates at historically low levels causing consolidation in the industry. Overcapacity, with more ships being built than cargo volumes can fill, is one of the reasons. This is exacerbated by funding schemes in some markets that distort supply and demand and contribute to downward trends.

1.4. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1.4.1 General objectives

This call for tender will result in a service contract for a study on “Unsustainable finance in the blue economy: Where does the money come from?” in line with the European Commission policy on sustainable finance¹². The general objective is to support a shift in finance away from unsustainable marine and maritime activities and increased investment levels in sustainable activities. The study shall raise awareness and increase transparency on:

The financial flows that support economic activities with a negative impact on the development of a sustainable blue economy.

The need for financial and corporate actors and regulators to mitigate sustainability risks arising from economic activities through appropriate governance measures.

The study shall also contribute to the European Commission initiative on investment in the blue economy. The Study to support investment for the sustainable development of the blue economy (EASME/EMFF/2017/038) identified finance gaps in the blue economy and set out recommendations for a Blue Economy Investment Platform to channel blended public and private funding into the identified activities where gaps were perceived¹³. The Assistance Mechanism for blue economy investment¹⁴ will provide support to facilitate access to funding for maritime ventures from financial institutions and other relevant sources.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this call for tenders are to:

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance_en

¹³ See “Study to support investment for the sustainable development of the blue economy”, <https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/general-publications/publications>

¹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/tender/10556/assistance-mechanism-investment-blue-economy>

Conduct research to examine the funding and investment sources of those maritime activities that risk leading to unsustainable outcomes.

Identify and describe the financial practices in the blue economy that support unsustainable activities, in particular those which harm the ocean environment and local communities; and which expose companies, financial institutions and investors from the private and public sector to stranded assets, reputational risks and economic losses.

Provide recommendations to investors and policy-makers to steer blue economy investments from such unsustainable activities to sustainable ones that can foster economic development of the blue economy in a responsible manner.

Contribute to bringing together international and national public and private financial institutions around a joint agenda and common principles for funding and investing in a sustainable blue economy.

Support implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by encouraging alignment of financial flows with a pathway towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

1.5. TASKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

1.5.1 Tasks

The study shall include the following tasks:

Task 1: Establish a Peer Review group

The Contractor shall establish a Peer Review group. This group shall provide advice on the implementation of tasks, review all draft deliverables and provide comments for incorporation in the final deliverables. In addition, it may provide to the Contractor any information, advice, documentation and instructions deemed relevant for the study.

The Peer Review group shall be composed of relevant experts and representatives of appropriate national and international organisations, including from industry and finance. The composition of the Peer Review group must reflect the international scope of the study. The Contracting Authority will participate as a member of the Peer Review group.

The Tender shall include at least as a minimum requirement:

- a. a preliminary list of experts and representatives who will compose the Peer Review group; and
- b. a proposed method for working with the group.

Task 2: Define unsustainable finance in the blue economy

The Contractor shall gather evidence by conducting research, interviews and an analytical data/ literature review on unsustainable finance in the blue economy.

In their offers, Tenderers are requested to include a preliminary list of data sources.

The Contractor shall develop a working definition of unsustainable finance in the blue economy and will explain the criteria applied to qualify an investment as unsustainable. The EU will propose to use the definition to frame future international level discussions on this issue.

The research shall cover all of the examples provided in point 1.3 and others, as relevant. The research will include a critical review of available data and literature and will investigate:

The mechanisms (i.e. financial engineering), regulatory context, local conditions and economic actors that make possible the financing of unsustainable activities in the blue economy.

The origins of the funding flows and identification of the countries, regions, private and public stakeholders involved.

Identification of the blue economy sectors most affected, both directly and indirectly, by these practices.

Identification of concrete examples in the sectors covered.

The Contractor shall take into account the international scope of the study and shall ensure the research and resulting deliverables cover the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

The findings shall be reported in an interim report on the problem of unsustainable finance in the blue economy.

Task 3: Select case studies

Based on the review, research and interviews undertaken in Task 2, the Contractor will select at least 15 of the most significant cases of unsustainable finance in the blue economy. The selection of cases will take into account their level of incidence, the extent of their impact and their economic importance. Each 'case' may focus on an individual activity; a number of examples within one sector; or otherwise related examples across sectors, as is appropriate based on the findings of Task 2.

The set of 15 case studies must include at least two in each of the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

The Contractor must produce:

- a) a draft list of cases and explanation of the reasons for their selection, which shall be presented to the Contracting Authority and subject to its approval.
- b) a draft template for the case studies, that shall be presented to the Contracting Authority and subject to its approval.

Task 4: Prepare case studies

The Contractor will complete at least 15 case studies, as per the list approved by the Contracting Authority in Task 3, of the most significant instances of unsustainable finance in the blue economy.

The case studies shall at least:

Include an introductory section describing the case, the factors giving rise to it and reasons for its selection as part of the study.

Include a minimum of one relevant concrete example that illustrates the case.

Identify the countries, regions, private and public stakeholders involved; and map the finance flows.

Identify the blue economy sectors most affected, both directly and indirectly, by the featured practices.

Estimate the revenues generated by the unsustainable finance case (the calculation methodology and data sources used must be clearly explained).

Estimate the investment gap for innovative and sustainable business opportunities in the sector/ sectors covered (the calculation methodology and data sources used must be clearly explained).

Be presented in an individual fiche format, to professional quality standards of graphic design.

Include maps and illustrative graphics.

Include a list of all data sources and references.

Task 5: Develop recommendations for investors and regulators

The Contractor will research current regulatory and non-regulatory measures and frameworks influencing investment decisions in the blue economy. Based on this research, and the results of Tasks 2-4, the Contractor shall formulate two sets of recommendations, which must be practical and presented in detail, as below:

- a) Recommendations to investors: The recommendations shall encourage recognition of unsustainable finance; discourage risky investments; and support development of Corporate Social Responsibility policies that increase investment in sustainable blue economy activities.
- b) Recommendations to regulators: The recommendations shall include policy and legal measures that can redirect the financial flows to support the sustainable development of the blue economy.

The set of recommendations shall take into account the current regulatory frameworks and, if relevant, shall propose new regulatory actions. The recommendations must be practical and able to be readily implemented in the region(s) concerned in each case.

1.5.2 Geographical scope of the tasks

The scope of the study is international and it must cover blue economy activities in the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

1.6. GENERAL GUIDANCE ON METHODOLOGY

The Tenderer shall propose a methodology in their tender. This will be updated and further refined in a methodological report to be submitted 15 days after the start date of the contract.

The proposed methodology shall at least and non-exhaustively include:

- a. The proposed methods to create a Peer Review group and to use effectively its expertise in carrying out the study tasks and deliverables. In their offers, tenderers are requested to suggest a list of potential Peer Review group members.
- b. A method to provide a comprehensive and critical review of the current literature and data available on unsustainable finance in the blue economy. This shall include data from the European Commission initiative on sustainable finance and in particular its proposal for the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment¹⁵. This proposal is under negotiation with the European Parliament and the Council.

Open data sources shall be used, such as listed companies, vessel registrations filed with regional fisheries management organisations and annual reports of bodies including those listed below in point 1.6.c.

In their offers, tenderers are requested to suggest a list of possible sources that will be used to carry out the research tasks of the study.

- c. The proposed means of identifying, preparing and conducting interviews with experts, including:

¹⁵ COM(2018)353 final : <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2018/EN/COM-2018-353-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

The members of INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group¹⁶

The members of the INTERPOL Project Scale, focusing on identifying, deterring and disrupting transnational fisheries crime¹⁷.

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime¹⁸

The Environmental Crime Network hosted by Europol¹⁹

EUROJUST²⁰

Relevant UN bodies

The above list is non-exhaustive. Tenderers are expected to propose additional interviews; and possible other methods to compensate for the lack of data and publicly available documents, where required.

- d. A method to analyse the evidence gathered and to select the cases on which the study will focus. Contractors must consider the most significant cases and the geographical scope of the study.
- e. A proposal for analysis and formulation of potential measures, to recommend to investors and regulators, to shift finance from unsustainable to sustainable blue economy activities.
- f. A method for quality control of the deliverables.

1.7. PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The quality of the service will be measured by the following criteria.

Peer Review group:

Number and relevance of participants in the group.

Number of Peer group meetings and written contributions from group members.

Level of input of group members to the study tasks and deliverables.

Documentation of, and reporting on, Peer group inputs and their incorporation into study tasks and deliverables.

Interim report:

Number and relevance of data sources listed.

Number and relevance of interviews conducted.

Adequate and balanced coverage of the geographical scope of the study.

¹⁶ <https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Committee-and-Working-Groups/Fisheries-Crime-Working-Group>

¹⁷ <https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-Scale>

¹⁸ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/icwc.php>

¹⁹ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/environmental-crime>

²⁰ <http://eurojust.europa.eu/Pages/home.aspx>

Adequate coverage of all points listed under the description of Task 2, in section 1.5.1, and sectors provided as examples in section 1.3.

Coherence of the main findings.

Number and relevance of concrete examples included.

Clarity and appropriateness of structure.

Case studies:

Adequate justification for the selection of case studies.

Clarity and appropriateness of the case study structure.

Adequate coverage of all points listed under the description of Task 4, in section 1.5.1.

Encompassing the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

Adequate demonstration of the credibility of the data presented.

Number and relevance of data sources listed.

Quality of presentation and graphic design.

Final report:

Thoroughness of initial assessment of current regulatory and non-regulatory measures and frameworks influencing investment decisions in the blue economy.

Adequate explanation for each recommendation proposed.

Consistency between the case study findings and the recommendations proposed.

Demonstration of a sound understanding of the constraints and challenges to implementation of the proposed recommendations.

Clarity and appropriateness of structure.

1.8. STARTING DATE OF THE CONTRACT AND DURATION

The contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party. The duration of the tasks shall not exceed eight months from that date. The execution of the tasks must not start under any circumstances before the contract has been signed.

Work will follow the timetable detailed in point 1.10.

1.9. VALUE OF THE MARKET

The estimated maximum amount for the execution of all the tasks referred to in this call for tenders is EUR 275 000, including all charges and expenses and excluding any renewals. Any received tender above this amount will be rejected.

1.10. PLANNING, OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The Contractor must provide the required deliverables, reports and documents in accordance with the conditions of the service contract. Where requested in the contract the deliverables reports and documents will be supported by the invoices for payments.

Each deliverable/ report/ document will be submitted in electronic format compatible with Word in English. All deliverables must conform to professional quality standards of written communication and graphic design.

The deliverables and their corresponding payment schedule will be organised in three phases, in addition to overarching project management by the Contractor. The time is indicated by Month (M), from 1 to 8.

- Phase 1 from Month M0 to Month M1
- Phase 2 from M2 to M4
- Phase 3 from M5 to M8

1.10.1 Preliminary outputs and deliverables

Phase 1 (M0 to M1)

As part of the overall contract management, the Contractor must participate in a kick off meeting in the 15 days after the starting date of the contract. Contract management shall include the following deliverables in the first phase:

- **Deliverable 1 - Inception report**

This must be a concise report of no more than four A4 pages, setting out the Contractor's approach to organising the work and proposed timeline (e.g. Gantt chart).

- **Deliverable 2 - Methodology report**

This must be a concise report of no more than eight A4 pages describing the methods and techniques for completion of each of the tasks and deliverables, as well as for quality control of the outputs. The report must comply with the general guidelines on methodology in point 1.6.

The methodology report must include a proposal for a Peer Review group. This must list proposed group members, with justification for their selection. The proposal must describe how members will be recruited to the group and how the Contractor will get input from members that shall be of benefit to the study results, including the proposed working methods for the group.

1.10.2 Intermediate outputs and deliverables

Phase 2 (M2 to M4)

An interim meeting shall take place within 15 days of the submission of an interim report and additional deliverables, as follows:

- **Deliverable 3 – Interim report on unsustainable finance in the blue economy**

The report must synthesise and provide an overview of the findings of the research and interviews conducted under Task 2 (see point 1.5.1). It must provide a clear definition of unsustainable finance in the blue economy, illustrated by concrete examples. The report must include available quantitative data, particularly figures to illustrate the scale in economic terms of the problems identified at global level.

The report must cover all of the points listed in the description of Task 2 (see point 1.5.1) and at least all of the sectors provided as examples in section 1.3.

A list of data sources and relevant literature must be provided in Annex to the report. This Annex shall be introduced by a short synopsis highlighting and describing the most relevant and rigorous data sources; as well as gaps in available data.

A second Annex must list all interviewees, including a short biography of each, and include transcripts of the interviews. In addition the Contractor must provide a list of experts who consent to being potentially contacted by the Contracting Authority, for the purposes of consultation and information gathering on the topic of finance in the blue economy.

An Appendix (no more than four A4 pages) must report on:

The work completed to date.

Any problems or issues encountered, and planned remedial measures.

Any deviations from the initial work plan or methodology.

The report (excluding the Appendix) shall be no longer than 25 A4 pages. The report findings may be presented at the sixth Our Ocean Conference that will take place in Oslo, Norway, from 23-24 October 2019.

- **Deliverable 4 – Draft case study list and template**

The Contractor must submit a list of the proposed minimum of 15 cases of unsustainable finance in the blue economy that will be the subjects of case studies (as described in Tasks 3 and 4, point 1.5.1). The list must be accompanied by an Explanatory Note to justify the choice of proposed case studies and must provide a brief outline of each. The final list will be subject to the approval of the Contracting Authority.

The Contractor must also submit a proposed template demonstrating the format and presentation of the case studies. This must be submitted together with one draft completed case study for one of the proposed incidences of unsustainable finance.

1.10.3 Final outputs and deliverables

Phase 3 (M5 to M8)

A final meeting shall take place within 15 days of the submission of draft outcomes and deliverables, approximately in M7. The following deliverables are included in this phase:

- **Deliverable 5 – Case studies**

The Contractor must complete at least 15 case studies on incidences of unsustainable finance, based on the list agreed with the Contracting Authority (Deliverable 4). The case studies must conform to the format agreed by the Contracting Authority in phase 2.

Each case study must cover at least all of the points listed in the description of Task 4 (point 1.5.1). The portfolio of case studies must cover the geographical scope of the study in a balanced way, with at least two of the individual case studies covering each of the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

The draft case studies shall be submitted in M7 and discussed at the final study meeting. Final case studies, incorporating all requested changes, must be submitted by the end of M8.

- **Deliverable 6 – Recommendations report**

The recommendations report must include the findings of the interim report (Deliverable 3) and must report on the research carried out in Task 5 (point 1.5.1) on current regulatory and non-regulatory measures and frameworks influencing investment decisions in the blue economy. It must include an additional chapter, in two parts, providing 8 – 10 recommendations each to investigators and regulators. The report must demonstrate clearly the justification for each recommendation, consistent with the findings of the interim report (Deliverable 3) and case studies (Deliverable 5). The recommendations must cover all points listed in the description of Task 5 (point 1.5.1).

The case studies (Deliverable 5) shall form Appendices to the report.

A further Appendix (no more than 4 A4 pages) shall report on:

The work completed to date.

Any problems or issues encountered, and planned remedial measures.

Any deviations from the initial work plan or methodology.

The draft recommendations report shall be submitted in M7 and discussed at the final study meeting. A final recommendations report, incorporating all requested changes, must be submitted by the end of M8.

The report must include infographics, charts, maps and other visuals, as appropriate, to make it more readable and engaging.

The report (excluding its Appendices) shall be no longer than 40 A4 pages. Please see further requirements under point 2.1.

The report must be submitted together with:

An Executive Summary (see also point 2.1.2) which shall be aimed at the wider maritime community and serve as a stand-alone complement to the recommendations report. It must be written in a reader-friendly and journalistic style, highlighting the main findings of the study.

A slide presentation that summarises, in a highly visual manner using minimal text, the study findings and recommendations.

An explanatory video (animation) to promote and disseminate the main findings of the study and recommendations. The video shall raise awareness of unsustainable finance in the blue economy among a broad audience. It will be used by the Contracting Authority in public events and on social media. The animation must be no longer than 4 minutes. The storyboard and other technical information shall be approved by the Contracting Authority before submission of the final video.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that all necessary permission/ agreements concerning photography or filming of persons and locations have been obtained.

Timetable (months/weeks/days)	Meetings	Actions/Deliverables
<i>Reference date (T0)</i>		<i>Start date of the contract</i>
<i>Month M0+ 15 days</i>	Kick off meeting with the Contracting Authority	<i>Inception report (Deliverable 1)</i> <i>Methodology report (Deliverable 2)</i>
<i>Month M4</i>		<i>Interim report (Deliverable 3)</i>

		<i>Draft case study list and template (Deliverable 4)</i>
<i>Month M4 + 15 days</i>	Interim meeting with the Contracting Authority	
<i>Month M7</i>		<i>Draft case studies (Deliverable 5)</i> <i>Draft recommendations report (Deliverable 6)</i>
<i>Month M7 + 15 days</i>	Final meeting with the Contracting Authority	
<i>Month M8</i>		<i>Final case studies (Deliverable 5)</i> <i>Final recommendations report (Deliverable 6)</i>

Terms of approval of deliverables

Submission of all deliverables linked to each phase, as described above.

Deliverables must meet the quality requirements set out in section 1.7.

The Commission shall have 14 days from receipt to approve or reject deliverable(s)

The Contractor shall have 14 days in which to submit additional information or a new deliverable.

PART II: Lot 2 "Sustainability criteria for the Blue Economy"

1.11. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT – LOT 2

The global blue economy (a term used here synonymously with “ocean economy”), measured in terms of the ocean-based industries’ contribution to economic output, is of significant size. Preliminary calculations on the basis of the OECD Ocean Economy Database²¹ very conservatively value the ocean economy’s contribution in 2010 at USD 1.5 trillion, or approximately 2.5% of world gross value added (GVA). Different countries are making efforts to measure, monitor and analyse the evolution of their blue economy. The European Commission published in 2018 its first annual economic report on the EU blue economy.²²

According to the OECD²³, economic activity in the ocean is expanding rapidly, driven primarily by developments in global population, economic growth, trade and rising income levels, climate and environmental factors, and technological advances. The OECD finds that, looking to 2030, many ocean-based industries have the potential to outperform the growth of the global economy as a whole, both in terms of value added and employment. The projections suggest that between 2010 and 2030, on a “business-as-usual” scenario basis, the ocean economy could more than double its contribution to global value added, reaching over USD 3 trillion.

²¹ OECD: The Ocean Economy in 2030 - <http://www.oecd.org/environment/the-ocean-economy-in-2030-9789264251724-en.htm>

²² <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/79299d10-8a35-11e8-ac6a-01aa75ed71a1>

²³ Idem footnote 13

Particularly strong growth is expected in marine aquaculture, offshore wind, fish processing, and shipbuilding and repair.

Investment in the blue economy and in coastal and offshore infrastructure and facilities is also expected to increase considerably, driven both by the intention to grow seaborne transport, logistics, seafood production, tourism and other ocean-based economic activities; and by the need to adapt to sea-level rise and other effects of climate change.

The future health of our oceans will depend to a considerable extent on whether the development of the blue economy follows a sustainable path. Unsustainable practices are not only damaging for the marine environment, they also have an economic cost. There are several examples of sustainable versus unsustainable outcomes, including:

Overfishing is still depleting fish stocks in many parts of the world, but sustainable fishing can grow stocks.

Renewable marine energies can be part of a sustainable blue economy, while oil and gas exploitation and energy generation has harmful consequences for the oceans.

Tourism may cause harmful effects on marine ecosystems and local communities but can respect and enrich both, if organised well.

Construction of infrastructure (ports, industrial plants, aquaculture farms, etc.) at the coast may harm or destroy ecosystems such as wetlands or mangroves, removing valuable carbon sinks and biodiversity. Conversely, sustainable investments in coastal areas and offshore infrastructures can have the potential to solve environmental problems and create sustainable economic opportunities.

An investment and financing framework for the blue economy that can secure sustainable outcomes and avoid harm to our oceans must be driven by appropriate public policy based on a clearly defined and measurable definition of sustainable blue economy activities.

For example, the standard of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is internationally accepted as a means to identify and catalogue overfishing. Such a standard also serves to determine what activities in fisheries may be considered to be sustainable. MSY standards are therefore necessary to take action against misdirected fisheries subsidies that contribute to fleet overcapacity and overfishing, which is one of the objectives of SDG 14.

Similar issues arise mutatis mutandis for other activities in the blue economy, which have the potential to harm the ocean environment or, conversely, to preserve our oceans if investment flows are directed towards sustainable activities.

The purpose of this study is therefore to identify criteria for assessing sustainable outcomes across the blue economy. Once such criteria are established, they can help inform public policy and investment decisions.

1.12. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1.12.1 General objectives

This call for tenders will result in concluding a service contract for a study on “Sustainability criteria for the blue economy.” In line with the European Commission policy on sustainable finance²⁴, the study will facilitate the establishment of a common understanding at international level of activities that result in sustainable or unsustainable outcomes for the blue economy. The study will further raise awareness of the potential economic and non-economic gains from sustainable investments, thus making the case for an international sustainable blue economy investment framework.

²⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance_en

1.12.2 Specific objectives

More specifically the purpose of this study is to:

Define a sustainable blue economy.

Identify activities, or parts of activities, that can lead to sustainability risks for the blue economy.

Develop sustainability criteria that can be applied to blue economy activities.

Demonstrate the environmental, social and economic costs of unsustainable blue economy activities; and compare them to the environmental, social and economic benefits from comparable, but sustainable activities.

Promote the application of such sustainability criteria at international level.

1.13 TASKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

1.13.1 Tasks

The study will include the following tasks:

Task 1: Establish a Peer Review group

The Contractor shall establish a Peer Review group. This group will provide advice on the implementation of tasks, review all draft deliverables and provide comments to be incorporated in the final deliverables. In addition, it may provide to the Contractor any information, advice, documentation and instructions deemed relevant for the study.

The Peer Review group will be composed of relevant experts and representatives of appropriate national and international organisations, including from industry, academia, public sector, research, environmental protection and sustainability. The composition of the Peer Review group must reflect the international scope of the study. The Contracting Authority will participate as a member of the Peer Review group.

The Tenderer will have to produce at least:

- a) In their offers, tenderers are requested to include a preliminary list of experts and representatives who will compose the Peer Review group; and
- b) a proposed method for working with the group.

Task 2: Define the sustainable blue economy and identify the main sectors at global level

The Contractor will research current references to the sustainable blue economy in official reports, websites and other publications of the European Commission, World Bank, OECD and other relevant international bodies. Taking these into account, the Contractor shall propose a working definition of the sustainable blue economy for the purposes of the study exercise, and that may be used by the EU in future initiatives and dialogues at the international level.

On the basis of a comprehensive literature review and analysis, the Contractor will identify the maritime and land-based activities that pose the greatest threat to economic, social and environmental sustainability in the global blue economy. The activities will be categorised according to the level of risk they present.

The Contractor will take as a starting point the following sectors analysed in the European Commission's 2018 annual economic report on the EU blue economy.

Established sectors:

Marine living resources

Marine extraction of oil and gas

Ports, warehousing and water projects

Maritime transport

Shipbuilding and repair

Coastal tourism

Emerging sectors:

Marine renewable energy

Blue Bioeconomy

Desalination

Deep-seabed mining

Coastal and environmental protection

The Contractor shall review economic studies and reports by other organisations, government departments, agencies and policy makers (national and international) to broaden the list of sectors and ensure it is representative also of other global economies and regions. The Contractor shall compile a list of the selected sectors; justify the selection; and describe the economic, social and environmental sustainability risks they each present.

Task 3: Critical review of existing frameworks for sustainability management

The Contractor shall propose a working definition of the sustainable blue economy. The proposed definition shall take into account current references to the sustainable blue economy in official reports, websites and other publications of the European Commission, the World Bank, OECD and other relevant international bodies and organisations.

The Contractor shall carry out a broad literature and data review, interviews (where appropriate) and critical analysis of the most used existing benchmarks and frameworks for sustainability management/governance of economic activities. The analysis shall consider effectiveness of the identified frameworks. The Contractor shall assess the relevance of existing frameworks for blue economy activities.

In their offers, tenderers are requested to include a preliminary list of data sources.

Task 4: Develop a set of sustainability criteria for the blue economy

Based on the review in Task 3, the Contractor shall define a new set of sustainability criteria specific to the main blue economy activities identified in Task 2. The Contractor shall define the appropriate indicators, benchmarks and metrics; and assign a suitable weighting to each, taking into account variations and differentiation at a sectoral level, or in different geographical regions. The results shall be presented in a report that shall include as an introduction the results of the research in Task 2; a summary of the findings of the research in Task 3; explain in detail the chosen sustainability criteria and the reasons behind their selection.

The sustainability criteria shall cover as minimum and non-exhaustively:

Environmental indicators (such as emissions, raw material use, geographical spread, impact on ecosystems and natural habitats, etc.)

Social indicators (such as effects on local population, job creation, etc.)

Governance indicators (such as environmental assessments, monitoring mechanisms, enforcement instruments, reporting obligations, etc.)

Risk (such as risks of stranded assets, etc.)

Estimation of long-term impacts.

Task 5: Comparative case studies – Step one

The Contractor shall research examples of blue economy activities that comply with the sustainability criteria developed in Task 4. The research shall focus on the most relevant maritime and land-based activities identified in Task 2. The Contractor shall identify at least 10 concrete examples of sustainable activities and complete a case study for each. The set of case studies shall be representative and reflect the broad geographical scope of the study and the range of sectors identified in Task 2. The final selection of case studies shall be established based on a draft list provided by the Contractor and approved by the Contracting Authority. The draft case study template shall also be subject to prior approval by the Contracting Authority.

The case studies shall, as a minimum and non-exhaustively:

Include an introductory chapter describing the chosen example.

Demonstrate clearly why the example meets the sustainability criteria.

Estimate the benefits, in quantitative and qualitative terms, of the sustainable practice identified. This should capture both immediate and future consequences.

Be presented in an individual fiche format, to professional quality standards of graphic design.

Include maps and illustrative graphics.

Include a list of data sources and references.

Task 6: Develop comparative case studies – Part 2

The Contractor shall complete the case studies started in Task 5 through the addition of data on cases where the same, or similar, activities are carried out in an unsustainable way. This will allow for comparison and shall demonstrate the net gains from compliance with the sustainability criteria.

The Contractor shall research and select one unsustainable example that is comparable to each of the minimum of 10 case studies selected in Task 5. Data on these examples shall be added to the case studies. The addition of data shall include:

An introductory section describing the chosen example.

Clear justification why the example can be considered comparable to the sustainable example identified in Task 5.

Clear demonstration why the example is considered not to meet the sustainability criteria.

An estimation of the impacts, in quantitative and qualitative terms, of the unsustainable practice identified. This should capture both immediate and future consequences.

Task 7: Make recommendations to facilitate the uptake of sustainability criteria and promote a sustainable blue economy investment framework

The Contractor shall draft clear guidelines on the application of the sustainability criteria defined in Task 4 that would allow their use in different sectors and in different geographical regions. The Contractor shall further demonstrate how the sustainability criteria can be used in the development of a blue economy investment framework at international level.

In addition, the Contractor will shall identify policy levers, other actions and processes that can achieve or facilitate the implementation of sustainable activities, such as those identified in Task 5. The Contractor shall draft recommendations to regulators on how such policy levers and actions can be used to secure and promote sustainable investment in the blue economy.

1.13.2 Geographical scope

The scope of the study is international and the tasks and deliverables must cover blue economy activities in the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

1.14 GENERAL GUIDANCE ON METHODOLOGY

The Tenderer must propose a methodology in their tender. This methodology shall be updated and further refined in a methodological report to be submitted 15 days after the start date of the contract.

The proposed methodology must include as a minimum and non-exhaustively:

- a) The proposed methods to create a Peer Review group and to use effectively its expertise in carrying out the study tasks and deliverables. In their offers, tenderers must suggest a list of potential Peer Review group members.
- b) A method to identify the global blue economy sectors that are most relevant for the purposes of this study. This should consider the sectors analysed in the European Commission's 2018 annual economic report on the EU blue economy, assess the relevance of these sectors at global level and determine others that should be included.

In their offers, tenderers are requested to suggest a list of possible sources that will be used to carry out the research tasks of the study.

- c) A method to define and validate a new set of sustainability criteria to be applied to blue economy activities. This will take into account the most used existing frameworks and benchmarks.
- d) The proposed means of identifying, preparing and conducting interviews with experts, where necessary.
- e) The approach to select case study examples of sustainable/ unsustainable activities; and method to quantify and qualify the benefits/ negative impacts.
- f) An approach to actively promote the uptake of the sustainability criteria as part of a blue economy investment framework at international level.
- g) A method for quality control of all deliverables.

1.15 PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The quality of the service will be measured by the following criteria.

Peer Review group:

Number and relevance of participants in the group.

Number of Peer group meetings and written contributions from group members.

Level of input of group members to the study tasks and deliverables.

Documentation of, and reporting on, Peer Group inputs and their incorporation into study tasks and deliverables.

Interim report:

Number and relevance of data sources consulted.

Number and relevance of interviews conducted.

Clear justification of the sectors chosen.

Relevance of existing frameworks and benchmarks analysed.

Soundness of the justification for the chosen new sustainability criteria.

Coverage of all points listed in the description of Tasks 2 – 4, point 1.13.1.

Clarity and appropriateness of report structure.

Case studies:

Adequate justification for the selection of case studies.

Clarity and appropriateness of the case study structure.

Coverage of all points listed under the description of Tasks 5 and 6 in section 1.13.1.

Coverage of the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

Demonstration of the credibility of the data presented.

Number and relevance of data sources listed.

Quality of presentation and graphic design.

Final report:

Adequate explanation for each recommendation proposed.

Consistency between the case study findings and the recommendations proposed.

Demonstration of a sound understanding of the constraints and challenges to implementation of the proposed recommendations.

Clarity and appropriateness of report structure.

1.16 STARTING DATE OF THE CONTRACT AND DURATION

The contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party. The duration of the tasks shall not exceed eight months from that date. The execution of the tasks must not start under any circumstances before the contract has been signed.

Work will follow the timetable detailed below in point 1.18.

1.17 VALUE OF THE MARKET

The estimated maximum amount for the execution of all the tasks referred to in this call for tenders is EUR 275 000 including all charges and expenses and excluding any renewals. No contract offer above this amount will be considered.

1.18 PLANNING, OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The Contractor must provide the required deliverables, reports and documents in accordance with the conditions of the draft service contract. When requested in the contract the deliverables reports and documents must accompany the invoices for payments.

Each report/ document/ deliverable shall be submitted in electronic format compatible with Word in English.

The contract shall be organised in three phases, in addition to overarching project management:

- Phase 1 from Month (M) 0 or M0 to Month (M) 1 or M1
- Phase 2 from M2 to M4
- Phase 3 from M5 to M8

1.18.1 Initial outputs and deliverables

Phase 1 (M0 to M1)

As part of the overall contract management, the Contractor must participate in a kick off meeting in the 15 days after the starting date of the contract. Contract management must include the following deliverables in the first phase:

- **Deliverable 1 - Inception report**

This must be a concise report of no more than four A4 pages, setting out the Contractor's approach to organising the work and proposed timeline (e.g. Gantt chart).

- **Deliverable 2 - Methodology report**

This must be a concise report of no more than six A4 pages describing the methods and techniques for completion of each of the tasks and deliverables, as well as for quality control of the outputs. The report must comply with the general guidelines on methodology in point 1.14.

The methodology report must include a proposal for a Peer Review group. This must list proposed group members, with justification for their selection. The proposal must describe how members shall be recruited to the group and how the Contractor shall get input from members that shall be of benefit to the study results, including the proposed working methods for the group.

1.18.2 Intermediate outputs and deliverables

Phase 2 (M2 to M4)

An interim meeting shall take place within 15 days of the submission of an interim report. The following deliverables are included in this phase. The interim deliverables may be presented at the sixth Our Ocean Conference that will take place in Oslo, Norway, from 23-24 October 2019.

- **Deliverable 3 – Interim report**

The interim report must include the results of Tasks 2 – 4, as described in section 1.13.1. The report must include the following sections:

An introductory section summarising the findings of the research in Task 2. This must set out, and explain, the Contractor's chosen definition of a sustainable blue economy. It must list, and briefly describe, the maritime and land-based activities and sectors selected as the focus of the study. For each selected activity, the report must explain the countries or regions where the activity is currently undertaken; and its economic, social and environmental impacts.

A section summarising the results of the research in Task 3. This must present the most used existing benchmarks and frameworks for sustainability management/ governance of economic activities. It must describe how and by whom they are used; and make a critical analysis of their adequacy and relevance for blue economy activities.

A section setting out the new sustainability criteria specific to the blue economy, to be developed by the Contractor. The criteria must cover at least all of the points mentioned in the description of Task 4. The Contractor must define the appropriate indicators and assign a suitable weighting to each, taking into account variations and differentiation at sectoral level, or in different geographical regions. This section must further include a clear explanation of the reasons for the chosen criteria. A comprehensive list of data sources must be provided in Annex.

An Appendix (of no more than four A4 pages) reporting on:

- a. The work completed to date.
- b. Any problems or issues encountered, and planned remedial measures.
- c. Any deviations from the initial work plan or methodology.

1.18.3 Final outputs and deliverables

Phase 3 (M5 to M8)

A final meeting with the Contracting Authority shall take place following the submission of draft final deliverables in M7.

- **Deliverable 4 – Comparative case studies**

The Contractor must prepare a minimum of 10 case studies on different blue economy activities. A draft list of case studies, and case study template, shall be presented to the Contracting Authority for its approval in M5. The chosen case studies must correspond to the most relevant activities and sectors, as identified in Task 2 (see point 1.13.1). The selection must prioritise those activities with the biggest sustainability impacts. The selection must reflect the international scope of the study and must include a minimum of one case study in each of the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans.

The case studies shall serve to illustrate the benefits of conducting blue economy activities in a sustainable manner. Each case study must include a concrete example in which the activity complies with the blue economy sustainability criteria (Deliverable 4); and a concrete example where the same, or a similar, economic activity is carried out in a way that is not sustainable. The analysis of each example and its impacts must be both qualitative and quantitative. Each case study must cover all of the points in the descriptions of Tasks 5 and 6, in point 1.13.1.

The case studies must be presented in a highly visual manner including, where relevant, graphics, charts and maps.

All data sources must be listed in Annex.

The draft case studies shall be submitted in M7 and discussed at the final study meeting. Final case studies, incorporating all requested changes, must be submitted by the end of M8.

- **Deliverable 5 – Final report with recommendations**

The Contractor must develop recommendations to facilitate the uptake of the sustainability criteria and promote a sustainable blue economy investment framework, in line with the description in Task 7, point 1.13.1. The recommendations shall target economic operators, investors and policy-makers at international level.

The recommendations must be presented as a section of the final study report, which must compile – updating, where necessary – the interim report (Deliverable 4). The case studies (Deliverable 6) shall form Appendices to the final report.

An additional Appendix (of no more than four A4 pages) must report on:

The work completed to date.

Any problems or issues encountered, and planned remedial measures.

Any deviations from the initial work plan or methodology.

The report (excluding its Appendices) shall be no longer than 40 A4 pages. Please see further requirements under point 2.1.

The report must be submitted together with:

An Executive Summary (see also point 2.1.2) which shall be aimed at the wider maritime community and serve as a stand-alone complement to the final report. It must be written in a reader-friendly and journalistic style, highlighting the main results of the study.

A slide presentation which summarises, in a highly visual manner using minimal text, the study findings and recommendations.

The draft final report shall be submitted in M7 and discussed at the final study meeting. The final report, incorporating all requested changes, must be submitted by the end of M8.

Timetable (months/weeks/days)	Meetings	Actions/Deliverables
<i>Reference date (T0)</i>		<i>Start date of the contract</i>
<i>Month M0+ 15 days</i>	Kick off meeting with the Contracting Authority	<i>Inception report (Deliverable 1)</i> <i>Methodology report (Deliverable 2)</i>
<i>Month M4</i>		<i>Interim report (Deliverable 3)</i>
<i>Month M4 + 15 days</i>	Interim meeting with the Contracting Authority	
<i>Month M7</i>		<i>Draft case studies (Deliverable 4)</i> <i>Draft final report (Deliverable 5)</i>
<i>Month M7 + 15 days</i>	Final meeting with the Contracting Authority	

Month M8		<i>Final case studies (Deliverable 4)</i> <i>Final report (Deliverable 5)</i>
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Terms of approval of deliverables

Submission of all deliverables (reports) linked to each phase, as described above.

Deliverables must meet the quality requirements set out in section 1.15.

The Commission shall have 14 days from receipt to approve or reject deliverable(s)

The Contractor shall have 14 days in which to submit additional information or a new deliverable.

1.19 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The following clauses apply to Lots 1 and 2 without exception.

The intellectual property rights related to the services/ studies are set out in clauses **I.10, I.14, I.15 and II.13** of the service contract.

A list of all pre-existing rights to the results or parts of the results or a declaration stating that there are no such pre-existing rights must be submitted by the Contractor with the interim and final deliverables.

If the results are not fully created for the purpose of the contract this should be clearly pointed out in the tender. Information should be provided about the scope of pre-existing materials, their source and when and how the rights to these materials have been or will be acquired.

Additionally, according to Article II.13.5, the Contractor warrants that it possesses rights to transfer to the European Commission pre-existing rights and has fulfilled all its responsibilities to the relevant rights holders.

Plagiarism in the tender

In the tender all quotations or information originating from other sources and to which third parties may claim rights have to be clearly marked (source publication including date and place, creator, number, full title, etc.) in a way allowing easy identification.

2 CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE DELIVERABLES

The Contractor must deliver the final report by the end of the contract (M8). The final report must include in a consolidated form all the information requested for the interim report and deliverables.

2.1 CONTENT

2.1.1 Final study report

The final study report must also include:

an abstract of no more than 200 words and a publishable executive summary of maximum 6 pages, both in English and French;

specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;

the following disclaimer:

“The information and views set out in this study are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of EASME or of the Commission. Neither EASME, nor the Commission can guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither EASME, nor the Commission or any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.”

2.1.2 Publishable executive summary

The publishable executive summary must be provided in both in English and French and must include:

specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;

the following disclaimer:

“The information and views set out in this study are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of EASME or of the Commission. Neither EASME, nor the Commission can guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither EASME, nor the Commission or any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.”

2.1.3 Requirements for publication on Internet

EASME is committed to making online information as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities, and those not having the latest technologies. EASME supports the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the W3C.

For full details on the Commission policy on accessibility for information providers, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index_en.htm

For the publishable versions of the study, abstract and executive summary, the contractor must respect the W3C guidelines for accessible pdf documents as provided at:

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/>.

2.1.4 Graphic requirements

The contractor must deliver the study and all publishable deliverables in full compliance with the corporate visual identity of the European Commission, by applying the graphic rules set out in the European Commission's Visual Identity Manual, including its logo. The graphic rules, the Manual and further information are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/index_en.htm

The contractor must apply the rules set out in Visual Identity Manual for the graphic design of both the cover page and the internal pages of the study. The professional font (EC Square Sans Pro) to be used for the study will be made available to the contractor free of charge upon acceptance of the terms and conditions of its use after contract signature. The use of templates for studies is exclusive to EASME contractors. No template will be provided to tenderers while preparing their tenders.

3 INFORMATION ON TENDERING

3.1 PARTICIPATION

Participation in this procurement procedure is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties, as well as to international organisations.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country that has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement.²⁵

States covered by the Public Procurement Agreement concluded within the World Trade Organisation are not included in this call for tenders as the Executive Agencies are not signatories of the Agreement.

In the case of a joint tender (see section 3.4), each member of the group must have access to this procurement procedure.



For British candidates or tenderers:

Please be aware that after the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the rules of access to EU procurement procedures of economic operators established in third countries will apply to candidates or tenderers from the UK depending on the outcome of the negotiations. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in force, candidates or tenderers from the UK could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

3.2 CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS

The tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the draft contract, which specifies the rights and obligations of the contractor, particularly those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits.

3.3 COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW

The tender must comply with applicable environmental, social and labour law obligations established by Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or the international environmental, social and labour conventions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU²⁶.

Information about the environmental policy of EASME is provided in Annex 9 to these specifications.

3.4 JOINT TENDERS

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group of economic operators (natural or legal persons). Joint tenders may include subcontractors in addition to the members of the group.

²⁵ Third countries with a special agreement in the field of public procurement that have been given access to procurement procedures of the Union institutions, agencies and bodies regardless of the value of the purchase are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway and Liechtenstein and Serbia.

²⁶ Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65).

In case of joint tender, all members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the Contracting Authority for the performance of the contract as a whole, i.e. both financial and operational liability. Nevertheless, tenderers must designate one of the economic operators as a single point of contact ("the leader") for the Contracting Authority for administrative and financial aspects as well as operational management of the contract.

After the award, the Contracting Authority will sign the contract either with all members of the group, or with the leader on behalf of all members of the group, authorised by the other members via powers of attorney.

3.5 SUBCONTRACTING

Subcontracting is the situation where a contract has been or is to be established between the contracting authority and a contractor/ tenderer only and where the contractor or tenderer, in order to carry out that contract, enters into legal commitments with other entities for performing parts of the contract. The contracting authority has no direct legal commitment with the subcontractor(s). In practice, any third party involved in the contract implementation which has no legal link with the contracting authority but with the contractor will be considered as subcontractor (e.g. any other company which does not participate in the contract execution but provides financial capacity).

Subcontracting is permitted but the contractor will retain full liability towards the contracting authority for performance of the contract as a whole. The rules of access to EU public procurement (Section 3.1) do not apply to subcontractors.

Tenderers are required to identify all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10% or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

3.6 COSTS

Tenderers themselves will bear the costs of drawing up their tenders and EASME will not be liable to pay any compensation if a tender is rejected or if it decides not to select any tender.

3.7 CONTENT OF THE TENDER

The tenders must have the following structure:

Part A: Identification of the tenderer (see Section 3.8)

Part B: Non-exclusion (see Section 4.2)

Part C: Selection (see Section 4.3)

Part D: Technical offer (including Annex 6)

The technical offer must cover all minimum requirements and tasks required in the tender specifications and provide all the information needed to apply the award criteria. Offers deviating from the requirements or not covering all minimum requirements may be rejected on the basis of non-compliance with the tender specifications and will not be evaluated.

For the evaluation, the written submission shall include a clear and detailed description of the organisation, resources and methodology proposed. The tenderers will provide a practical and detailed description of the resources and services proposed to achieve the objectives and results set out in Sections 1.4 and 1.10 (for Lot 1); and 1.12 and 1.17 (for Lot 2) above.

Part E: Financial offer (Annex 7)

The price for the tender must be quoted in euro. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate movements. It is for the tenderer to bear the risks or the benefits deriving from any variation.

Prices must be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, including VAT, as the European Union is exempt from such charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Union. The amount of VAT may be shown separately.

The quoted prices must be a fixed amount which includes all charges (including travel and subsistence). Travel and subsistence expenses are not refundable separately.

3.8 IDENTIFICATION OF THE TENDERER

The tender must include a cover letter (letter of submission of tender - Annex 2) presenting the name of the tenderer (including all entities in case of joint offer) and identified subcontractors if applicable, and the name of the single point of contact (leader) in relation to this procedure.

In case of joint tender, the cover letter must be signed either by an authorised representative for each member, or by the leader authorised by the other members with powers of attorney (Annex 4). The signed powers of attorney must be included in the tender as well. Subcontractors that are identified in the tender must provide a letter of intent (Annex 5) signed by an authorised representative stating their willingness to provide the services presented in the tender and in line with the present tender specifications.

The tenderer (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) must declare whether it is a Small or Medium Size Enterprise in accordance with Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC²⁷. This information is used for statistical purposes only.

In the course of this tender procedure the EU Validation Services may contact tenderers via the *Participant Register* and ask for supporting documents with respect to the legal existence and status. Please note that a request for supporting documents in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Authority may ask, in the course of the procedure, for complementary supporting documents, other than those requested by the EU Validation Services. Such complementary documents may be requested in order to complete the checks on the compliance of successful entities with the selection criteria and/ or to ensure that the entity is not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in this call for tenders.

4. EVALUATION AND AWARD

4.1 EVALUATION STEPS

The evaluation is based solely on the information provided in the submitted tender. It involves the following:

Verification of non-exclusion of tenderers on the basis of the exclusion criteria.

Selection of tenderers on the basis of selection criteria.

Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements set out in these tender specifications.

Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria.

The Contracting Authority may reject abnormally low tenders, in particular if it established that the tenderer or a subcontractor does not comply with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law.

²⁷ OJ L 124/36, 20.5.2003

The Contracting Authority will assess these criteria in no particular order. The successful tenderer must pass all criteria to be awarded the contract.

4.2 VERIFICATION OF NON-EXCLUSION

All tenderers must provide a declaration on honour (Annex 3), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed in that declaration on honour.

In case of joint tender, each member of the group must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

In case of subcontracting, subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10%, or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria, must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to verify whether the successful tenderer is in one of the situations of exclusion by requiring the supporting documents listed in the declaration of honour.

The successful tenderer must provide the documents mentioned as supporting evidence in the declaration on honour before signature of the contract and within a deadline given by the Contracting Authority. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10%, or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

The obligation to submit supporting evidence does not apply to international organisations.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the Contracting Authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge.

4.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

Tenderers must prove their legal, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to carry out the work subject to this procurement procedure.

The tenderer may rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links it has with them. It must in that case prove to the Contracting Authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

The tender must include the proportion of the contract that the tenderer intends to subcontract.

4.3.1 Declaration and evidence

The tenderers (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide the declaration on honour (see Annex 3), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they fulfil the selection criteria applicable to them. In case of joint tender or subcontracting, the criteria applicable to the tenderer as a whole will be verified by combining the various declarations for a consolidated assessment.

This declaration is part of the declaration used for exclusion criteria (see Section 4.2) so only one declaration covering both aspects should be provided by each concerned entity.

The Contracting Authority will **evaluate selection criteria on the basis of the declarations on honour (Annex 3) and the information included in the tables in Annex 2.1 and Annex 2.2, fully completed.**

After contract award, the successful tenderer will be required to provide the necessary evidence before signature of the contract and within a deadline given by the Contracting Authority. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge.

4.3.2 Economic and financial capacity criteria

The tenderer must have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform this contract until its end. In order to prove its capacity, the tenderer must comply with the following criterion:

Its average annual turnover for the last two years for which the accounts have been closed²⁸ shall amount to at least one and a half times the volume of the market as specified in point II.1.5 of the contract notice; this criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacity of all members of a group in case of a joint tender and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil this criterion.

To this effect, the following should be provided with the tender in eSubmission from all tenderers and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the combined capacity:

Statement of Turnover in accordance with Annex 2.1 of these tender specifications completed with the information requested.

For tenderers (including all members of the group) except subcontractors:

In the course of this tender procedure the EU Validation Services may contact tenderers via the *Participant Register* and ask for supporting documents with respect to their economic and financial capacity. Please note that a request for supporting documents in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Authority may ask, in the course of the procedure, for complementary supporting documents, other than those requested by the EU Validation Services. Such complementary documents may be asked so as to complete the checks on the compliance of successful entities with the selection criteria.

For subcontractors:

Subcontractors contributing to the combined financial and economic capacity of tenderers should submit with the tender the following documents in eSubmission:

²⁸ In the case of joint tender or identified sub-contractors, the turnover must be provided for the same two years for all the partners/subcontractors.

Copy of the Profit and Loss accounts for the last two years for which the accounts have been closed from each concerned legal entity;

Failing that,

Appropriate statements from banks;

Or

Evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance.

If, for some exceptional reason which the Contracting Authority considers justified, a tenderer is unable to provide one or other of the above documents, it may prove its economic and financial capacity by any other document which the Contracting Authority considers appropriate. In any case, the Contracting Authority must at least be notified of the exceptional reason and its justification. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to request any other document enabling it to verify the tenderer's economic and financial capacity.

4.3.3 Technical and professional capacity criteria and evidence

Tenders must provide in their tender the table in Annex 2.2 of these tender specifications, exhaustively completed with all the necessary information.

The evidence mentioned below must be provided only on request, except evidences B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6 and B7 (CV) that should be a part of the submitted offer.

A. Criteria relating to tenderers:

Tenderers (in case of a joint tender the combined capacity of all members of the group and identified subcontractors) must comply with the criteria listed below.

The project references indicated below consist in a list of relevant services provided in the past three years, with the sums, dates and clients, public or private, accompanied by statements issued by the clients.

Criteria	Evidence
✓ <i>Criterion A1: The tenderer must prove experience in maritime policy and the blue economy.</i>	✓ Evidence A1: The tenderer must provide references for at least two projects delivered in maritime policy and the blue economy in the last three years, of a minimum value for each project of € 100 000.
✓ <i>Criterion A2: The tenderer must prove experience in the sustainability (economic, environmental and social) of economic activities.</i>	✓ Evidence A1: The tenderer must provide references for at least two projects covering sustainable economic activity delivered in the last three years, of a minimum value for each project of €100 000.
✓ <i>Criterion A3 (for Lot 1 only): The tenderer must prove experience in finance and investment in business and innovation.</i>	✓ Evidence A3 (for Lot 1 only): The tenderer must provide references for at least two projects delivered in finance and investments in business and innovation in the last three years, of a minimum value for each project of €100 000.
✓ <i>Criterion A4 (for Lot 2 only): The tenderer must prove</i>	✓ Evidence A4 (for Lot 2 only): The tenderer must

<i>experience in defining or applying sustainability measurement frameworks to economic activities.</i>	provide references for at least one project involving defining or application of sustainability measurement frameworks to economic activities in the last three years, of a minimum value for each project of €100 000.
✓ <i>Criterion A5: The tenderer must prove capacity to complete studies of an international scope.</i>	✓ Evidence A5: The tenderer must provide references for one project covering at least 3 countries; and one project encompassing at least two continents, of a minimum value for each project of €100 000.
✓ <i>Criterion A6: The tenderer must prove capacity in survey techniques, data collection, statistical analysis, drafting reports and recommendations.</i>	✓ Evidence A6: The tenderer must provide references for at least two projects involving surveys, data collection, statistical analysis, drafting reports and recommendations. The projects must have been delivered in the last three years and be of a minimum value each of €100 000.
✓ <i>Criterion A7: The tenderer must prove capacity to draft reports in English.</i>	✓ Evidence A7: The tenderer must provide one document of at least 10 pages (report, study, etc.) in English that it has drafted and published or delivered to a client in the last three years. The verification will be carried out on five pages of the document.

Any tenderer with a professional conflict of interest will be rejected on the basis not fulfilling selection criteria for professional capacity.

B. Criteria relating to the team delivering the service:

The team delivering the service should include, as a minimum, the following profiles.

Evidence will consist of the CVs of the team responsible to deliver the service. Each CV should indicate the intended function in the delivery of the service.

Criteria	Evidence
✓ <i>B1 - Project Manager. The Project Manager must have at least 8 years of experience in project management, including overseeing project delivery, quality control of delivered service, client orientation and conflict resolution experience in project of a similar size (at least €100 000) and geographical coverage (at least 3 countries covered), with experience in management of team of at least 10 people.</i>	✓ Evidence B1 - CV
✓ <i>B2 - Language quality check. At least half of the members of the team should have at least C1 level in the Common European Framework for Reference for Languages in English.</i>	✓ Evidence B2 - A language certificate for at least half of the team members or references to publications delivered in English to

	the required level in the last three years.
✓ <i>B3 - Expert in maritime policy and blue economy. The expert must have at least 10 years of professional experience; or relevant higher education degree and at least 5 years of professional experience in the field.</i>	✓ Evidence B3 - CV
✓ <i>B4 - Expert in sustainability (environmental/ economic/ social). The expert must have at least 8 years of professional experience; or relevant higher education degree and at least 5 years of professional experience in the field.</i>	✓ Evidence B4 - CV
✓ <i>B5 (for Lot 1 only) - Expert in finance and investments. The expert must have at least 8 years of professional experience; or relevant higher education degree and at least 5 years of professional experience in the field. The expert should specifically demonstrate thorough knowledge on financing of blue economy activities through previous work in this specific domain.</i>	✓ Evidence B5 (for Lot 1 only) – CV
✓ <i>B6 (for Lot 2 only) – Expert in measurement of sustainability performance of economic activities. The expert must have at least 8 years of professional experience in developing or applying sustainability criteria; or a relevant higher education degree and at least 5 years of professional experience in the field.</i>	✓ Evidence B6 (for Lot 2 only) – CV
✓ <i>B7 - Team for data collection. The team must include at least three members with proven experience of five years in data collection techniques; and with a proficient level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) in English.</i>	✓ Evidence B7 – CV for all team members; and a language certificate for at least three of the team members, or references to publications delivered in English to the required level in the last three years.
✓ <i>B8 – Expert in graphic design (including infographics, charts, maps, etc.) and in the main tools and applications used in this field. He/ she should possess at least a bachelor’s level or equivalent qualification in a relevant field (Level 6 of European Qualifications Framework – EQF) and have at least 3 years of relevant professional experience.</i> <i>For Lot 1 only, the expertise must cover also the creation of animations and use of the necessary tools.</i>	✓ Evidence B8 – CV and 2-3 portfolio samples

4.4 AWARD CRITERIA

The contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender, according to the ‘best price-quality ratio’ award method. The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria. The maximum total quality score is 100 points.

Tenders that receive less than 60% of the maximum possible mark for the whole quality evaluation or less than 50% for each of the quality criteria will be eliminated and their final score will not be calculated. Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality levels will be rejected and will not be ranked.

Criteria	Points
<p>✓ <i>Quality of the proposed methodology</i></p> <p><i>This criterion will assess:</i></p> <p><i>Sub-criterion 1 (5 points) – the relevance, appropriateness and complementarity of the proposed Peer Review group members' profiles.</i></p> <p><i>Sub-criterion 2 (5 points) – the relevance and adequacy of the provisional list of proposed main data sources. See points 1.5.1, Tasks 1 and 2 (for Lot 1) and 1.13.1, Tasks 1 and 2 (for Lot 2).</i></p> <p><i>Sub-criterion 3 – the approach and method proposed to complete the study tasks and deliverables and to meet the overall study objectives (30 points). This will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Methods to conduct a literature review.</i> - <i>Methods for data collection.</i> - <i>Approach to identify suitable examples and case studies.</i> - <i>Interview protocol.</i> - <i>Analytical methods – quantitative and qualitative.</i> <p><i>Sub-criterion 4 – specific methodological approaches for each Lot (15 points). This will include:</i></p> <p>For Lot 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The method to identify and define instances of unsustainable finance.</i> - <i>The approach to formulate recommendations for investors and regulators.</i> <p>For Lot 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The approach to identify appropriate indicators for, and to define, sustainability criteria for blue economy activities.</i> - <i>The method to make a comparative analysis of blue economy activity that is conducted in a sustainable versus an unsustainable way.</i> 	55 points

<p>✓ <i>Organisation of the work and resources</i></p> <p><i>This criterion will assess the overall project management, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>A detailed timetable.</i> - <i>Organisation of the work into tasks/ work packages.</i> - <i>Allocation of roles and responsibilities between the proposed team members and of the different economic operators (in the case of joint tenders, including subcontractors where applicable).</i> - <i>Global allocation of time and resources to the project and to each task or deliverable. NB: Justification of the allocation of resources must be provided in the technical offer.</i> 	30 points
<p>✓ <i>Quality of deliverables</i></p> <p><i>This criterion will assess the quality control system proposed, which will include at least:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>A language quality check.</i> - <i>Validation of study findings.</i> - <i>Measures to ensure continuity of the service and adherence to deadlines in case of absence of a team member and management of other risks.</i> - <i>Measures to ensure deliverables meet the required standards of graphic design and presentation.</i> <p><i>The quality system should be detailed in the tender and specific to the tasks at hand; a generic quality system will result in a low score.</i></p>	15 points

4.5 RANKING OF TENDERS

The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender, i.e. the tender offering the best price-quality ratio determined in accordance with the formula below. A weight of 60% is given to quality and 40% to price.

score for tender X	=	$\frac{\text{cheapest price}}{\text{price of tender X}}$	*	100	*	price weighting (40 %)	+	total quality score (out of 100) for all award criteria of tender X	*	quality criteria weighting (60 %)
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The tender ranked first after applying the formula will be awarded the contract.

4.6 INFORMATION TO TENDERERS ON THE FINAL EVALUATION

EASME will inform tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or to recommence the procedure.

EASME will inform all rejected tenderers of the reasons for their rejection and all tenderers submitting an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the selected tender and the name of the successful tenderer.

However, certain information may be withheld where its release would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

5. ANNEXES

The following documents are annexed to these specifications and form an integral part of them:

Annex 1: Draft contract (for information)

Annex 2: Letter of submission of tender (to be filled in and signed by the tenderer)

- Annex 2.1. – Statement of turnover
- Annex 2.2. – Technical capacity

Annex 3: Declaration on honour (exclusion and selection criteria)

Annex 4: Power of attorney

Annex 5: Letter of intent for sub-contractors

Annex 6: Technical tender form

Annex 7: Financial offer (price and breakdown of costs)

Annex 8: Checklist for Submission

Annex 9: EASME's Environmental Policy