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| Logo of the European Commission | EUROPEAN COMMISSIONDIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENTDirectorate C. Strategy, simplification and Policy Analysis **C.4. Monitoring and Evaluation** |

**European Commission**

**Call for tenders**

**"Preparatory action - Smart rural areas**

**in the 21st century"**

**AGRI-2019-EVAL-04**

**Open procedure**

**TENDER SPECIFICATIONS**

**Part 1: Administrative specifications**

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# Scope and description of the procurement

## Contracting authority: who is the buyer?

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| This call for tenders is launched and managed by the European Commission, referred to as the *Contracting authority* for the purposes of this call for tender, assisted by its Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. |

## Subject: what is this call for tenders about?

The subject of this call for tenders is Preparatory action on Smart Rural areas in the 21st century.

## Lots: is this call for tenders divided into lots?

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| This call for tenders is not divided into lots. |

## Description: what do we want to buy through this call for tenders?

The services that are the subject of this call for tender, including any minimum requirements, are described in detail in the document *Tender Specifications – part 2: Technical specifications,* hereafter referred to as *Technical specifications*.

Variants (alternatives to the model solution described in the Tender Specifications) are not allowed. The *Contracting authority* will disregard any variants described in a tender.

## Place of performance: where will the contract be performed?

The services will be performed at the following locations:

* the location(s) indicated under Heading II.2.3 of the contract notice.

## Nature of the contract: how will the contract be implemented?

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| The procedure will result in the conclusion of a direct contract  |
| In direct contracts all the terms governing the provision of the services, supplies or works are defined at the outset. Once signed, they can be implemented directly without any further contract procedures. |
| ☝ Tenderers need to take full account of the provisions of the Draft contract as the latter will define and govern the contractual relationship(s) to be established between the *Contracting authority* and the successful tenderer(s). Special attention is to be paid to the provisions specifying the rights and obligations of the contractor, in particular those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits. |

## Volume and value of the contract: how much do we plan to buy?

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| The estimated total amount of all purchases under this contract is indicated under Heading II.1.5 of the contract notice. The quantities to be purchased over the total duration of the contract are specified in the Technical specifications document (Tender specifications – part 2).  |

## Duration of the contract: how long do we plan to use the contract?

The details of the initial contract duration and possible renewals are set out in Article I.3 of the Draft contract.

## Electronic exchange system: can exchanges under the contract be automated?

For all exchanges with the contractor during the implementation of the contract as well as for future possible subsequent proceedings for the purposes of EDES ([European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm)) the *Contracting authority* may use an electronic exchange system meeting the requirements of Article 148 of [Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.193.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:193:TOC) 1. At the request of the *Contracting authority* the use of such a system shall become mandatory for the contractor(s) at no additional cost for the *Contracting authority*. Details on specifications, access, terms and conditions of use will be provided in advance.

# General information on tendering

## Legal basis: what are the rules?

This call for tenders is governed by the provisions of [Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.193.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:193:TOC) (the Financial Regulation)[[1]](#footnote-2).

The *Contracting authority* has chosen to award the contract resulting from this call for tenders through an open procedure pursuant to Article 164(1) (a) of the Financial Regulation. In an open procedure any interested economic operator (any natural or legal person who offers to supply products, provide services or execute works) may submit a tender.

## Rules on access to procurement: who may submit a tender?

Participation in this call for tenders is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the [Treaties](https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_en), as well as to international organisations.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country which has a special agreement with the European Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement. Where the Agreement on Government Procurement[[2]](#footnote-3) concluded within the World Trade Organisation applies, the participation to this call for tenders is open to all natural and legal persons established in the countries that have ratified this Agreement, on the conditions laid down therein.

The rules on access to procurement do not apply to subcontractors. Subcontracting may not be used with the intent to circumvent the rules on access to procurement.

To enable *the Contracting authority* to verify the access, each tenderer must indicate its country of establishment (and in case of joint tender – the country of establishment of each group member) and must present the supporting evidence normally acceptable under the law of that country/-ies. The same document(s) could be used to prove country/-ies of establishment and the delegation(s) of the authorisation to sign as described in **Section 4.3**.

 *☝ For tenderers established in the United Kingdom:*

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 tenderers from the UK depending on the terms of any Withdrawal Agreement. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in force tenderers from the UK could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

## Registration in the Participant Register: why register?

Any economic operator willing to submit a tender for this call for tenders must be registered in the [Participant Register](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register) - an online register of organisations and natural persons participating in European Commission's calls for tenders or proposals (participants).

On registering each participant obtains a Participant Identification Code (PIC, 9-digit number) which acts as its unique identifier in the Participant Register. A participant needs to register only once – the information provided can be further updated or re-used by the participant in other European Commission's calls for tenders or calls for proposals.

At any moment during the procurement procedure the Research Executive Agency Validation Services (hereafter *the* *EU Validation Services)* may contact the participant and ask for supporting documents on legal existence and status and financial capacity. The requests will be made through the register's messaging system to the e-mail address of the participant's contact person indicated in the register. It is the responsibility of the participant to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly.

The documents that may be requested by *the EU Validation Services* are listed in the [EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/lev/h2020-rules-lev-lear-fvc_en.pdf).

**☝ Please note that a request for supporting documents by the *EU Validation Services* in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**

## Ways to submit a tender: how can economic operators organise themselves to submit a tender?

Economic operators can submit a tender either as a sole tenderer or as a group of tenderers. In either case subcontracting is permitted.

In order to fulfil the selection criteria set out in ***Section 3.2*** the tenderer can rely on the capacities of subcontractors or other entities (not subcontractors).

The role of each entity involved in a tender (hereafter referred to as *involved entity*) must be clearly specified: sole tenderer, member of a group or Group leader, subcontractor or an entity on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria[[3]](#footnote-4). This applies also where the *involved entities* belong to the same economic group.

### Joint tenders

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group (with or without legal form) of economic operators regardless of the link they have between them. The group as a whole is considered a tenderer[[4]](#footnote-5).

All members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the *Contracting authority* for the performance of the contract as a whole.

Group members must appoint a *Group leader* and a single point of contact authorised to act on their behalf in connection with the submission of the tender and all relevant questions, clarification requests, notifications, etc., that may be received during the evaluation, award and until the contact signature. The model power of attorney attached in ***Annex 3*** is to be used**.**

The joint tender must clearly indicate the role and tasks of each member and of the *Group leader* who will act as the *Contracting authority*'s contact point for the contract's administrative or financial aspects and operational management. The *Group leader* will have full authority to bind the group and each of its members during contract execution. If the joint tender is successful, the *Contracting authority* shall sign the contract with the Group leader, authorised by the other members to sign the contract on their behalf via power of attorney drawn up in the model attached in ***Annex 3***.

Changes in the composition of the group during the procurement procedure (after the submission deadline and before contract signature) shall lead to rejection of the tender except in case of a merger or takeover of a member of the group (universal succession), provided that the new entity has access to procurement (see ***Section 2.2***) and is not in an exclusion situation (see ***Section 3.1***).

In any case the selection criteria must be still fulfilled by the group and the terms of the originally submitted tender may not be altered substantially, i.e. all the tasks assigned to the former entity must be taken over by the new entity member of the group, the change must not make the tender non-compliant with the Tender specifications, and the evaluation of award criteria of the originally submitted tender may not be modified.

### Subcontracting

Subcontracting is the situation where the contractor enters into legal commitments with other economic operators which will perform part of the contract on its behalf. The contractor retains full liability towards the *Contracting authority* for performance of the contract as a whole.

The following shall not be considered subcontracting:

1. Use of workers posted to the contractor by another company owned by the same group and established in a Member State (“intra-group posting” as defined by Article 1, 3, (b) of [Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A31996L0071)).
2. Use of workers hired out to the contractor by a temporary employment undertaking or placement agency established in a Member State (“hiring out of workers” as defined by Article 1, 3, (c) of [Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A31996L0071)).
3. Use of workers temporarily transferred to the contractor from an undertaking established outside the territory of a Member State and that belongs to the same group (“intra-corporate transfer” as defined by Article 3, (b) of [Directive 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32014L0066)) .
4. Use of staff without employment contract (“self-employed persons working for the contractor”) to perform substantially the same tasks as the staff with employment contract (“employees”), without the tasks of the self-employed persons being particular well-defined parts of the contract.
5. Use of suppliers and/or transporters by the contractor, in order to perform the contract at the place of performance, unless the economic activities of the suppliers and/or the transporting services are within the subject of this call for tender (see ***Section 1.4***).
6. Performance of part of the contract by members of an EEIG (European Economic Interest Grouping), when the EEIG is itself a contractor or a group member.

The persons mentioned in points a), b), c) and d) above will be considered as “personnel” of the contractor as defined in the contract.

All contractual tasks may be subcontracted unless the *Technical specifications* expressly reserve the execution of certain critical tasks to the sole tenderer itself, or in case of a joint tender, to a member of the group.

By filling in the form available in Annex 4, tenderers are required to give an indication of the proportion of the contract that they intend to subcontract, as well as to identify and describe briefly the envisaged contractual roles/tasks of subcontractors meeting any of these conditions (hereafter referred to as *identified subcontractors*):

* on whose capacities the tenderer relies upon to fulfil the selection criteria as described under **Section 3.2**;
* whose individual share of the contract, known at the time of submission, is above 10 %.

Any such subcontractor must provide the tenderer with a commitment letter drawn up in the model attached in ***Annex 5.1*** and signed by its authorised representative.

Changes concerning subcontractors identified in the tender (withdrawal/replacement of a subcontractor, additional subcontracting) during the procurement procedure (after the submission deadline and before contract signature) require the prior written approval of the *Contracting authority* subject to the following verifications:

* any new subcontractor is not in an exclusion situation;
* the tenderer still fulfils the selection criteria and the new subcontractor fulfils the selection criteria applicable to it individually, if any;
* the terms of the originally submitted tender are not altered substantially, i.e. all the tasks assigned to the former subcontractor are taken over by another involved entity, the change does not make the tender non-compliant with the Tender specifications, and the evaluation of award criteria of the originally submitted tender is not modified.

Subcontracting to subcontractors identified in a tender that was accepted by the *Contracting authority* and resulted in a signed contract, is considered authorised.

### Entities on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria

In order to fulfil the selection criteria a tenderer may also 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 that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment letter in the model attached in ***Annex 5.2,*** signed by the authorised representative of such an entity, and the supporting evidence that those other entities have the respective resources.

If the contract is awarded to a tenderer intending to rely on another entity to meet the minimum levels of economic and financial capacity, the *Contracting authority* may require the entity to sign the contract or, alternatively, to provide a joint and several first-call financial guarantee for the performance of the contract.

With regard to technical and professional selection criteria, a tenderer may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the works or services for which these capacities are required (i.e. the latter will assume the role of subcontractors).

☝ Relying on the capacities of other entities is only necessary when the capacity of the tenderer is not sufficient to fulfil the required minimum levels of capacity. Abstract commitments that other entities will put resources at the disposal of the tenderer will be disregarded.

# Evaluation and award

The evaluation of the tenders that comply with the submission conditions will consist of the following elements:

* Check if the tenderer has access to procurement (see ***Section 2.2***);
* Verification of administrative compliance (if the tender is drawn up in one of the official EU languages and signed by duly authorised representative(-s) of the tenderer);
* 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 defined in the Tender specifications;
* Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria.

The *Contracting authority* will evaluate the abovementioned elements in the order that it considers to be the most appropriate. If the evaluation of one or more elements demonstrates that there are grounds for rejection, the tender will be rejected and will not be subjected to further full evaluation. The unsuccessful tenderers will be informed of the ground for rejection without being given feedback on the non-assessed content of their tenders. Only tenderer(s) for whom the verification of all elements did not reveal grounds for rejection can be awarded the contract.

The evaluation will be based on the information and evidence contained in the tenders and, if applicable, on additional information and evidence provided at the request of the *Contracting authority* during the procedure. If any of the declarations or information provided proves to be false, the *Contracting authority* may impose administrative sanctions (exclusion or financial penalties) on the entity providing the false declarations/information.

For the purposes of the evaluation related to exclusion and selection criteria *the Contracting authority* may also refer to publicly available information, in particular evidence that it can access on a national database free of charge.

## Exclusion criteria

The objective of the exclusion criteria is to assess whether the tenderer is in any of the exclusion situations listed in Article 136(1) of the Financial Regulation.

As evidence of non-exclusion each tenderer needs to submit with its tender a Declaration on Honour[[5]](#footnote-6) in the model available in *Annex 2*.[[6]](#footnote-7) The declaration must be signed by an authorised representative of the entity providing the declaration.

The initial verification of non-exclusion of tenderers will be done on the basis of the submitted declarations and consultation of the [European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm). The documents mentioned as supporting evidence in the Declaration on Honour need to be provided whenever requested and where this is necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the procedure within a deadline given by the Contracting authority[[7]](#footnote-8).

*Annex 1* specifies which of the *involved entities* participating in a tender need to provide the Declaration on Honour and, when requested by *the Contracting authority,* the supporting evidence.

Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

## Selection criteria

The objective of the selection criteria is to assess whether the tenderer has the legal, regulatory, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

The selection criteria for this call for tenders, including the minimum levels of capacity, the basis for assessment and the evidence required, are specified in the following subsections.

Tenders submitted by tenderers not meeting the minimum levels of capacity will be rejected.

When submitting its tender each tenderer shall declare on honour that it fulfils the selection criteria for the call for tender. The model Declaration on Honour available in ***Annex 2*** shall be used.

The initial assessment of whether a tenderer fulfils the selection criteria will be done on the basis of the submitted declaration(s).

The subsections below specify which selection criteria evidence must be provided with the tender or may be requested later, at any time during the procurement procedure**[[8]](#footnote-9)**. In any case, to the extent that there is no ground for a waiver, the evidence must be provided,upon request and within a deadline given by the Contracting authority*.* The evidence must be provided in accordance with the applicable basis for assessment of each criterion: in case of a consolidated assessment – only by the *involved* *entities* who contribute to the fulfilment of the criterion, and in case of individual assessment – by each *involved entity* to whom the criterion applies individually.

### Legal and regulatory capacity

Tenderers must prove that they have legal capacity to perform the contract and the regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity necessary to carry out the work subject to this call for tenders. In case of a joint tender, this criterion applies to at least one of the members of the group.

The legal and regulatory capacity shall be proven with the tender by the evidence listed below:

* Proof of enrolment in a relevant trade or professional register
* Proof of authorisation that the tenderer is authorised to perform the contract in its country of establishment
* Proof that the tenderer is a member of a specific professional organisation

### Economic and financial capacity

Tenderers must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform the contract.

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| Criterion F1 |
| Minimum level of capacity  | The combined turnover of the last two financial years shall be above EUR 3,000,000.  |
| Basis for assessment | 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. |
| Evidence | Copy of the profit and loss accounts and balance sheet for the last two years for which accounts have been closed from each concerned *involved entity*, or, failing that, appropriate statements from banks. The most recent year must have been closed within the last 18 months. |

☝The evidence of economic and financial capacity does need not be provided with the tender but may be requested by the *Contracting authority* or the *EU Validation Services* at any time during the procedure. **Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**

### Technical and professional capacity

Tenderers must comply with the following selection criteria in order to prove that they have the necessary technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

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| Criterion T1 |
| The tenderer must prove experience and/or its knowledge of techniques, tools in the field of analytical methodologies for evaluations regarding the Common Agricultural Policy in conformity with the state of the art. |
| Minimum level of capacity | At least two similar (in size and complexity) projects completed in the last five years preceding the tender submission deadline. |
| Basis for assessment | This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole. |
| Evidence | A list of projects meeting the minimum level of capacity. The list shall include details of their start and end date, total project amount and scope, role and amount invoiced. In case of projects still on-going only the portion completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration.  |

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| Criterion T2 |
| The tenderer must prove experience and/or its knowledge of techniques, tools in the field of providing assistance to local communities in relation to at least two of the following topics: (i) Sharing and collaborative economy, (ii) Bioeconomy[[9]](#footnote-10), (iii) Latest technology in smart farming technologies, (iv) Social and healthcare aspects. |
| Minimum level of capacity | At least two projects completed in the last five years preceding the tender submission deadline. |
| Basis for assessment | This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole. |
| Evidence | A list of projects meeting the minimum level of capacity. The list shall include details of their start and end date, total project amount and scope, role and amount invoiced. In case of projects still on-going only the portion completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration.  |

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| Criterion T3 |
| The tenderer should set up a team with the adequate professional skills and experience in order to carry out to the highest quality standards all the services required by the present contract. The team delivering the service should include a project manager. |
| Minimum level of capacity | The project manager should have at least 10 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 and coverage, with experience in management of team. |
| Basis for assessment | This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole. |
| Evidence | CV  |

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| Criterion T4 |
| The tenderer should set up a team with the adequate professional skills and experience in order to carry out to the highest quality standards all the services required by the present contract. |
| Minimum level of capacity | Collectively the team should have knowledge of 22 EU languages (level C1 in the Common European Framework for Reference for Languages[[10]](#footnote-11)). |
| Basis for assessment | This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole. |
| Evidence | CV |

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| Criterion T5 |
| The tenderer should set up a team with the adequate professional skills and experience in order to carry out to the highest quality standards all the services required by the present contract. The team delivering the service should include at least one expert in establishing and maintaining digital platforms. |
| Minimum level of capacity | The expert should have either a relevant higher degree and at least 5 years' professional experience in the field or at least 8 years’ professional experience in the field |
| Basis for assessment | This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole. |
| Evidence | CV |

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| Criterion T6 |
| The tenderer should set up a team with the adequate professional skills and experience in order to carry out to the highest quality standards all the services required by the present contract. The team delivering the service should include at least three experts in organising conferences and capacity building events. |
| Minimum level of capacity | These experts should have either a relevant higher degree and at least 5 years' professional experience in the field or at least 8 years’ professional experience in the field |
| Basis for assessment | This criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole. |
| Evidence | CV |

☝The evidence of technical and professional capacity does need not be provided with the tender but may be requested by the *Contracting authority* at any time during the procedure. **Please note that a request for evidence in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.**

☝ Involved entities must not be subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance. Where the *Contracting authority* has established such conflicting interests, it may conclude that the tenderer or an involved entity does not possess the required professional capacity to perform the contract to an appropriate quality standard.

The presence of conflicting interests shall be examined during the evaluation phase based on the statements made through the Declarations on Honour and, where applicable, the commitment letters (***Annex 5.1 and Annex 5.2)***. ]

## Compliance with the minimum requirements of the Tender specifications

By submitting a tender a tenderer commits to perform the contract in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the procurement documents for this call for tender. Particular attention is drawn to the minimum requirements specified in the Technical specifications (Tender specifications – part 2) and to the fact that tenders must comply with applicable data protection, 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/EU.

The minimum requirements shall be observed throughout the entire duration of the contract. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory and cannot be subject to any assumptions, limitations, conditions, or reservations on the part of a tenderer.

**☝ Tenders that are not compliant with the applicable minimum requirements shall be rejected.**

## Award criteria

The objective of the award criteria is to evaluate the tenders with a view to choosing the most economically advantageous tender.

Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria and their weighting:

1. Price – 40%

The price considered for evaluation will be the total price of the tender, covering all the requirements set out in the Tender Specifications.

1. Quality – 60%

The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

The maximum total quality score is 100 points.

QC 1: General approach to achieve the objectives of the preparatory action (20 points – minimum score 50%)

Tenderers will describe their approach of the services to be provided and the work necessary to be performed in view of achieving the objectives of the preparatory action. The tenderers will describe the envisaged arrangements for ensuring the coverage of the scope and should demonstrate how the set of proposed methods and tools will contribute to achieving the objectives of the preparatory action.

The tenderer should also demonstrate how they intend to handle effectively the mobilisation of local actors, working with local communities, dealing with different governance models.

Finally, the capacity to derive conclusions on the applicability and adaptability of the general concept of smart villages under different circumstances and the capacity to provide support in view of the design of future CAP strategic plans shall also be demonstrated.

QC 2: Proposed methodology for selecting smart villages (15 points – minimum score 50%)

The tenderer shall demonstrate the suitability of the approach used for pre-selecting five villages to start the project with as well as for the selection of the additional villages. It shall also describe the features that shall be considered to ensure that the combination of these villages will contribute effectively to achieving the objectives of this preparatory action.

The five pre-selected villages must be willing and demonstrate their capacity to work on topics such as digital solutions across the whole value chain (including smart farming technologies and quality management), new market outlets to the bio-economy, circular economy, social, education, mobility services and healthcare, enhancing rural-urban links and knowledge management. For each of these villages, the tender shall describe their characteristics as well as the criteria applied for their selection.

As regards the additional villages, the tenderer shall also define criteria and methodology for selecting these villages based on their potential to become a functioning smart village and their evidenced willingness to participate in this action. The baseline for participating smart villages is that the villages already possess a sufficient capacity (e.g. level of connectivity, access to ICT tools and dedicated people) to implement such a project. However, additional features shall be defined to comply with the scope defined for such action, including the relevance of the selection for remote places and marginalised villages. The participating villages must be different from the ones selected and promoted in the pilot-project on Smart Eco-Social villages.

**QC 3: Approach to communication and raising awareness, establishing and maintaining the on-line platform and organising workshops and conference** (**30 points–** minimum score 50%)

QC 3.1 communication and raising awareness, including guidance material (10 points)

The tenderers should provide a synthetic and exhaustive description of the approaches and methodology(ies) they intend to follow, with references as appropriate to the task description in section 1.3 of the technical specifications. The reason(s) to propose them should be motivated, the envisaged tools and work packages should be explained. In this context, the tenderers will also describe how the envisaged activities and outputs (e.g. the guidance material), will be creating a multiplier effect in the context of raising awareness.

While providing the list of tools they envisage to use, tenderers shall explain their function, including the associated concepts or theories. They should demonstrate in particular the suitability and added value of these tools for the implementation of the proposed methodology.

QC 3.2 On-line platform (10 points)

The tenderers should provide a synthetic and exhaustive description of the approaches and methodology(ies) they intend to follow, with references as appropriate to the task description in section 1.3 of the technical specifications (eg. language regime, act as central tool, arrangements for transfer, etc.). The reason(s) to propose them should be motivated, the envisaged tools and work packages should be explained. In this context, the tenderers will also describe how the envisaged arrangements will ensure that the on-line platform will effectively contribute to engaging people in the process of transforming rural places into functioning smart villages.

While providing the list of tools they envisage to use, tenderers shall explain their function, including the associated concepts or theories. They should demonstrate in particular the suitability and added value of these tools for the implementation of the proposed methodology.

QC 3.3 Regional workshops and conference (10 points)

The tenderers should provide a synthetic and exhaustive description of the approaches and methodology(ies) they intend to follow, with references as appropriate to the task description in section 1.3 of the technical specifications. The reason(s) to propose them should be motivated, the envisaged tools and work packages should be explained. In this context, the tenderers will describe the envisaged activities regarding the implementation of the projects as well as the envisaged arrangements for ensuring involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the workshops and conference.

While providing the list of tools they envisage to use, tenderers shall explain their function, including the associated concepts or theories. They should demonstrate in particular the suitability and added value of these tools for the implementation of the proposed methodology.

QC 4: Technical support and testing (25 points – minimum score 50%)

The tenderers should provide a synthetic and exhaustive description of the approaches and methodology(ies) they intend to follow, with references as appropriate to the task description in section 1.3 of the technical specifications. The reason(s) to propose them should be motivated, the envisaged tools and work packages should be explained.

In this context, the tender should pay appropriate attention to the envisaged approach for developing strategies in close cooperation with local stakeholders of the participating villages. Detailed description of the approaches chosen to develop the roadmaps, how assistance to the participating villages in concluding their projects shall be provided.

Furthermore, the tenderers will describe the process and methodology that will be applied for the selection of at least two villages to witness the full implementation of the strategies and each of its building blocks needed to become a smart village. The proposed approach should also ensure that the effect of innovative actions undertaken through the smart village strategy will be illustrated. In this context, the tenderer will have to elaborate criteria that will be used for the selection of these villages as well as provide the rationale behind these criteria demonstrating their suitability.

QC 5: Organisation of the work and resources (10 points – minimum score 50%)

Tenderers should provide a synthetic and exhaustive description of the approaches they intend to use towards the project management. The description should provide details on how the roles and responsibilities of the proposed team and of the economic operators (in case of joint tenders, including subcontractors if applicable) are distributed for each task. It should also describe the global allocation of time and resources to the project and to each task and the rationale behind the choice of this allocation. Moreover quality assurance mechanisms should be explained in detail.

In addition, this description should explain how the quality of services will be ensured when performing the various tasks related to the work, including the application of the graphic requirements, inter-institutional style guide and operational aspects linked to the implementation of the case studies in different socio-demographic, legal and cultural context.

Tenders must score minimum 50% for each criterion and minimum 60 % in total. Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality levels will be rejected and will not be ranked.

## Award (ranking of tenders)

Tenders shall be ranked according to the best price-quality ratio in accordance with the formula below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Score for tender X | = | Cheapest price | \* | 40 | + | Quality of tender X | \* | 60 |
| Price of tender X | 100 |

☝ The contract shall be awarded to the tender ranked first, which complies with the Tender Specifications and is submitted by a tenderer having access to procurement, not in an exclusion situation and fulfilling with the selection criteria.

# Form and content of the tender

## Form of the tender: how to submit the tender?

Tenders are to be submitted via the e-Submission application according to the instructions laid down in the Invitation to tender letter and the [e-Submission Quick Guide](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/esubmission/assets/documents/manual/quickGuide_en.pdf).

☝ Make sure you prepare and submit your electronic tender in e-Submission early enough to ensure it is received within the deadline specified under Heading IV.2.2 of the contract notice. A tender received after this deadline will be rejected.

## Content of the tender: what documents to submit with the tender?

The documents to be submitted with the tender in e-Submission are listed in ***Annex 1.***

The following requirements apply to the technical and financial offer (to be uploaded as Technical tender and Financial tender in e-Submission):

* *Technical offer.*

The technical offer must provide all the information needed to assess the compliance with the Technical specifications document (Tender specifications – part 2) and the award criteria. Tenders deviating from the minimum requirements or not covering all the requirements may be rejected on the basis of non-compliance and not evaluated further.

* *Financial offer.*

A complete financial offer, including the breakdown of the price needs to be uploaded. For this purpose, the Financial Model in *Annex 6* shall be completed, duly signed and uploaded in e-Submission.

It is the responsibility of each tenderer to ensure that the total amount of the tender inserted in the relevant field of the e-Submission application corresponds to the amount indicated in the uploaded financial offer. In case of discrepancies, only the amount indicated in the financial offer will be taken into account.

The financial offer shall be:

* expressed in euros. 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.
* quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, i.e. also free of VAT. The tenderer may indicate the amount of VAT but it must be shown separately.

☝ The European Union Institutions are exempt from such charges in the EU under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union of 8 April 1965 annexed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Exemption is granted to the Commission by the governments of the Member States, either through refunds upon presentation of documentary evidence or by direct exemption.

For those countries where national legislation provides an exemption by means of a reimbursement, the amount of VAT must be shown separately. In case of doubt about the applicable VAT system, it is the tenderer's responsibility to contact his or her national authorities to clarify the way in which the European Union is exempt from VAT.

## Signature policy: how can documents be signed?

Where a document needs to be signed, the signature must be hand-written (see Section 1 of the Invitation to tender).

All documents must be signed by the signatories (when they are individuals) or by their duly authorised representatives.

For the following documents, when signed by representatives, tenderers must provide evidence for the delegation of the authorisation to sign:

* The Tender report;
* The Declaration on Honour of the tenderer (in case of joint tender – the Declarations on Honour of all group members);
* (If applicable – in the case of joint tender) the power(s) of attorney drawn up using the model attached in ***Annex 3***).

The delegation of the authorisation to sign on behalf of the signatories (including, in the case of proxy(-ies), the chain of authorisations) must be evidenced by appropriate written evidence (copy of the notice of appointment of the persons authorised to represent the legal entity in signing contracts (together or alone), or a copy of the publication of such appointment if the legislation which applies to signatory requires such publication or a power of attorney). A document that the Contracting authority can access on a national database free of charge does not need to be submitted if the Contracting authority is provided with the exact internet link and, if applicable, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document.

## Confidentiality of tenders: what information and under what conditions can be disclosed?

Once the *Contracting authority* has opened a tender, it becomes its property and shall be treated confidentially, subject to the following:

* For the purposes of evaluating the tender and, if applicable, implementing the contract, performing audits, benchmarking, etc., the *Contracting authority* is entitled to make available (any part of) the tender to its staff and the staff of other Union institutions, agencies and bodies, as well to other persons and entities working for the *Contracting authority* or cooperating with it, including contractors or subcontractors and their staff provided that they are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
* After the signature of the award decision tenderers whose tenders were received in accordance with the submission modalities, who have access to procurement, who are not found to be in an exclusion situation referred to in Article 136(1) of the FR, who are not rejected under Article 141 of the FR, whose tenders are not found to be incompliant with the procurement documents, and who make a request in writing will be notified of the name of the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded, the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender and the price of the offer and/or contract value. The *Contracting authority* may decide to withhold certain information that it assesses as being confidential, in particular where its release would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators or might distort fair competition between them. Such information may include, without being limited to, confidential aspects of tenders such as unit prices included in the financial offer, technical or trade secrets[[11]](#footnote-12).
* The *Contracting authority* may disclose the submitted tender in the context of a request for public access to documents, or in other cases where the applicable law requires its disclosure. Unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure[[12]](#footnote-13), the *Contracting authority* may refuse to provide full access to the submitted tender, redacting the parts (if any) that contain confidential information, the disclosure of which would undermine the protection of commercial interests of the tenderer, including intellectual property.

☝ The *Contracting authority* will disregard general statements that the whole tender or substantial parts of it contain confidential information. Tenderers need to mark clearly the information they consider confidential and explain why it may not be disclosed. The *Contracting authority* reserves the right to make its own assessment of the confidential nature of any information contained in the tender.

# Appendix: List of references

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Award criteria*** | See Section 3.4 |
| ***Contracting authority*** | See Section 1.1 |
| ***Entities on whose capacities the tenderer relies to fulfil the selection criteria*** | See Section 2.4.3 |
| ***EU Validation services*** | See Section 2.3[EU Grants and Tenders Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR appointment and Financial Capacity assessment](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/lev/h2020-rules-lev-lear-fvc_en.pdf) |
| ***Exclusion criteria*** | See Section 3.1 |
| ***Financial Regulation*** | [Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.193.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:193:TOC) |
| ***Group leader*** | See Section 2.4.1 |
| ***Identified subcontractors*** | See Section 2.4.2 |
| ***Involved entities*** | See Section 2.4 |
| ***Joint tender*** | See Section 2.4.1 |
| ***Participating entities*** | See Section 1.1 |
| ***Participant Register*** | See Section 2.3https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register |
| ***Selection criteria*** | See Section 3.2 |
| ***Sole tenderer*** | See Section 2.4 |
| ***Subcontracting/subcontractor*** | See Section 2.4.2 |
| ***Treaties*** | The EU Treaties: <https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_en> |

# Annexes

## Annex 1. List of documents to be submitted with the tender or during the procedure

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Sole tenderer** | **Joint tender** | **Identified Subcontractor** | **Entity on whose capacity is being relied** | **When and where to submit the document?** | **Instructions for uploading in eSubmission (if applicable)** |
| Group leader | Member of the group | How to name the file? | Where to upload? |
| 1. **Identification and information about the tenderer.**

*eSubmission view* |
| **Declaration on Honour on Exclusion and Selection Criteria** (see Section 3.1)model in Annex 2. Declaration on Honour on exclusion and selection criteria | ☒ | **☒** | **☒** | **☒** | **☒** | With the tender in e-Submission | 'Declaration on Honour' | With the concerned entity under 'Parties' 🡪'Identification tenderer' 🡪'Attachments'🡪'Decla-ration on Honour'. |
| **Evidenc**e that the person signing the documents is **an authorised representative** of the entity[[13]](#footnote-14) | ☒ | **☒** | **☒** |  |  | With the tender in e-Submission | 'Authorisation to sign' documents'. | With the concerned entity under 'Parties' 🡪'Identification tenderer' 🡪'Attachments'🡪'Other documents'. |
| **Power of attorney** (see Section 2.4.1)model in Annex 3. Power of attorney |  |  | ☒ |  |  | With the tender in e-Submission | 'Power of attorney' | In the Group leader's section under 'Parties' 🡪'Identification tenderer' 🡪'Attachments'🡪'Other documents'. |
| **Commitment letter** (see Section 2.4.2 and 2.4.3) |  |  |  | **☒**(model in Annex 5.1) | **☒**(model in Annex 5.2) | With the tender in e-Submission | 'Commitment letter' | With the concerned entity under 'Parties' 🡪'Identification tenderer' 🡪'Attachments'🡪'Other documents'. |
| **Evidence of non-exclusion** (see Section 3.1) | ☒ | **☒** | ☒ | **☒** |  | Only upon request by *the Contracting authority* At any time during the procedure  | n.a. | n.a. |
| **Evidence of legal existence and status** | ☒ | **☒** | ☒ |  |  | Only upon request by *the EU Validation services*At any time during the procedure In the Participant Register | n.a. | n.a. |
| **Evidence of legal capacity** (see Section 3.2.1) In case of a joint tender, this criterion applies to at least one of the members of the group | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |  |  | With the tender in e-Submission  | ‘Evidence of legal capacity’ | n.a. |
| **Evidence of economic and financial capacity F1**(see Section 3.2.2) | **The documents must be provided****only by the *involved* *entities*** **who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level** **for criterion F1**  | Only upon request by *the Contracting authority* - *the EU Validation services*At any time during the procedure  | n.a. | With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' 🡪'Identification tenderer' 🡪'Attachments'🡪'Econo-mic and financial capacity'. |
| Evidence of technical and professional capacity T1 to T4 (see Section 3.2.3) | **The documents must be provided****only by the *involved* *entities*** **who contribute to reaching the minimum capacity level** **for criterion T1 to T4** | Only upon request by *the Contracting authority* At any time during the procedure  |  | With the Group leader or the sole tenderer under 'Parties' 🡪'Identification tenderer' 🡪'Attachments'🡪'Tech-nical and professional capacity'. |
| 1. **Tender data.**

***Failure to upload the following documents in eSubmission will lead to rejection of the tender.*** |
| **Technical offer** (see Section 4.2) | ☒ | ☒ |  |  |  | With the tenderin e-Submission | 'Technical tender' | Under section 'Tender Data' 🡪'Technical Tender' |
| **Financial offer** (see Section 4.2) | ☒ | ☒ |  |  |  | With the tenderin e-Submission | 'Financial tender' | Under 'Tender Data' 🡪'Financial Tender' |
| 1. **Tender report.**

Once all information and documents have been encoded and uploaded in the e-Submission application and you consider that the tender is complete, the application will require you to download the Tender Report generated by the e-Submission application. It will have to be signed (hand signature or electronic signature) and uploaded, as explained in the [**eSubmission Quick Guide**](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/esubmission/assets/documents/manual/quickGuide_en.pdf).i |
| **Tender report** | ☒ | ☒ |  |  |  | With the tenderin e-Submission | 'Tender report' | Under section 'Tender report' |

## Annex 2. Declaration on Honour on exclusion and selection criteria

**Declaration on honour on
exclusion criteria and selection criteria**

The undersigned [*insert name of the signatory of this form*], representing:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (*only for natural persons*) himself or herself | (*only for legal persons*) the following legal person:  |
| ID or passport number: (‘the person’) | Full official name:Official legal form: Statutory registration number**:** Full official address: VAT registration number: (‘the person’) |

The person is not required to submit the declaration on exclusion criteria if the same declaration has already been submitted for the purposes of another award procedure of the same contracting authority[[14]](#footnote-15), provided the situation has not changed, and that the time that has elapsed since the issuing date of the declaration does not exceed one year.

In this case, the signatory declares that the person has already provided the same declaration on exclusion criteria for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date of the declaration** | **Full reference to previous procedure** |
|  |  |

I – Situation of exclusion concerning the person

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. declares that the above-mentioned person is in one of the following situations:
 | YES | NO |
| 1. it is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under Union or national law;
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the person is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the person is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the person belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibity where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
 |  |
| (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the performance of a contract or an agreement; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (ii) entering into agreement with other persons with the aim of distorting competition; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (iii) violating intellectual property rights; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure*;*  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. it has been established by a final judgement that the person is guilty of any of the following:
 |  |
| (i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (ii) corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or active corruption within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, as well as corruption as defined in other applicable laws; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (iii) conduct related to a criminal organisation, as referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing, within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (v) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| (vi) child labour or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council; | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. it has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of a contract or an agreement financed by the Union’s budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by a contracting authority, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or the Court of Auditors;
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. (*only for legal persons*) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person has been created with the intent provided for in point (g).
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. for the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) above the person is subject to:
2. facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by the European Public Prosecutor's Office after its establishment, the Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or the internal auditor, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body;
3. non-final judgments or non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics;
4. facts referred to in decisions of entities or persons being entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks;
5. information transmitted by Member States implementing Union funds;
6. decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of Union competition law or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or
7. decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  |

II – Situations of exclusion concerning natural or legal persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the legal person and beneficial owners

***Not applicable to natural persons, Member States and local authorities***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. declares that a natural or legal person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the above-mentioned legal person, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to the above-mentioned legal person (this covers e.g. company directors, members of management or supervisory bodies, and cases where one natural or legal person holds a majority of shares), or a beneficial owner of the person (as referred to in point 6 of article 3 of Directive (EU) No 2015/849) is in one of the following situations:
 | YES | NO | N/A |
| Situation (c) above (grave professional misconduct) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (d) above (fraud, corruption or other criminal offence) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (e) above (significant deficiencies in performance of a contract ) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (f) above (irregularity) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (g) above (creation of an entity with the intent to circumvent legal obligations) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (h) above (person created with the intent to circumvent legal obligations) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (i) above | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

III – Situations of exclusion concerning natural or legal persons assuming unlimited liability for the debts of the legal person

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. declares that a natural or legal person that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the above-mentioned legal person is in one of the following situations:
 | YES | NO | N/A |
| Situation (a) above (bankruptcy) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Situation (b) above (breach in payment of taxes or social security contributions) | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

IV – Grounds for rejection from this procedure

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. declares that the above-mentioned person:
 | YES | NO |
| Was previously involved in the preparation of the procurement documents used in this award procedure, where this entailed a breach of the principle of equality of treatment including distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise.  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

V – Remedial measures

If the person declares one of the situations of exclusion listed above, it must indicate measures it has taken to remedy the exclusion situation, thus demonstrating its reliability. This may include e.g. technical, organisational and personnel measures to prevent further occurrence, compensation of damage or payment of fines or of any taxes or social security contributions. The relevant documentary evidence which illustrates the remedial measures taken must be provided in annex to this declaration. This does not apply for situations referred in point (d) of this declaration.

VI – Evidence upon request

Upon request and within the time limit set by the contracting authority the person must provide information on natural or legal persons that are members of the administrative, management or supervisory body or that have powers of representation, decision or control, including legal and natural persons within the ownership and control structure and beneficial owners.

It must also provide the following evidence concerning the person itself and the natural or legal persons on whose capacity the person intends to rely, or a subcontractor and concerning the natural or legal persons which assume unlimited liability for the debts of the person:

For situations described in (a), (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h), production of a recent extract from the judicial record is required or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of establishment of the person showing that those requirements are satisfied.

For the situation described in point (b), production of recent certificates issued by the competent authorities of the State concerned are required. These documents must provide evidence covering all taxes and social security contributions for which the person is liable, including for example, VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions. Where any document described above is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn statement made before a judicial authority or notary or, failing that, a solemn statement made before an administrative authority or a qualified professional body in its country of establishment.

The person is not required to submit the evidence if it has already been submitted for another award procedure of the same contracting authority[[15]](#footnote-16). The documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and must still be valid at that date.

The signatory declares that the person has already provided the documentary evidence for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Document** | **Full reference to previous procedure** |
| *Insert as many lines as necessary.* |  |

VII – Selection criteria

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. declares that the above-mentioned person complies with the selection criteria applicable to it individually as provided in the tender specifications:
 | YES | NO | N/A |
| 1. It has the legal and regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity needed for performing the contract as required in section 3.2.1 of the tender specifications;
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. It fulfills the applicable economic and financial criteria indicated in section 3.2.2 of the tender specifications;
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| 1. It fulfills the applicable technical and professional criteria indicated in section 3.2.3 of the tender specifications.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. if the above-mentioned person is the sole tenderer or the leader in case of joint tender, declares that:
 | YES | NO | N/A |
| 1. the tenderer, including all members of the group in case of joint tender and including subcontractors if applicable, complies with all the selection criteria for which a consolidated asseessment will be made as provided in the tender specifications.
 | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

VIII – Evidence for selection

The signatory declares that the above-mentioned person is able to provide the necessary supporting documents listed in the relevant sections of the tender specifications and which are not available electronically upon request and without delay.

The person is not required to submit the evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure of the same contracting authority[[16]](#footnote-17). The documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and must still be valid at that date.

The signatory declares that the person has already provided the documentary evidence for a previous procedure and confirms that there has been no change in its situation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Document** | **Full reference to previous procedure** |
| *Insert as many lines as necessary.* |  |

***The above-mentioned person must immediately inform the contracting authority of any changes in the situations as declared.***

***The above-mentioned person may be subject to rejection from this procedure and to administrative sanctions (exclusion or financial penalty) if any of the declarations or information provided as a condition for participating in this procedure prove to be false.***

Full name Date Signature

## Annex 3. Power of attorney

|  |
| --- |
| Call for tenders: **AGRI-2019-EVAL-02** **“Evaluation of Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed protected in the EU”****POWER OF ATTORNEY**The undersigned:– Signatory (Name, Function, Company, Registered address, VAT Number) having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of his/her company,HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:1. To submit a joint tender as a member of a group of tenderers (the Group), constituted by Company 1, Company 2, Company N (Group members), and led by Company 1 (Group leader), in accordance with the conditions specified in the Tender specifications and the terms specified in the tender to which this Power of attorney is attached.
2. If the Contracting authority awards the contract resulting from this call for tenders to the *Group* on the basis of the joint tender to which this power of attorney is attached, all *Group members* shall be considered parties to the contract in accordance with the following conditions:
3. All *Group members* shall be jointly and severally liable towards the Contracting authority for the performance of the contract.
4. All *Group members* shall comply with the terms and conditions of the contract and ensure the proper delivery of their respective share of the services and/or supplies subject to the contract.
5. Payments by the Contracting authority related to the services and/or supplies subject to the Contract shall be made through the bank account of the *Group leader*: [Provide details on bank, address, account number].
6. The *Group members* grant to the *Group leader* all the necessary powers to act on their behalf in the submission of the tender and the conclusion of the contract, including:
7. The *Group leader* shall submit the tender on behalf of all *Group members* and indicate in the "Tender Contact Info" section in e-Submission the name and e-mail address of an individual - single point of contact authorised to communicate officially with the Contracting authority in connection with the submitted tender on behalf of all *Group members,* including in connection with all relevant questions, clarification requests, notifications, etc., that may be received during the evaluation, award and until the contract signature.
8. The *Group leader* shall sign any contractual documents — including the contract, and amendments thereto — and issue any invoices related to the performance of the contract on behalf of all *Group members*.
9. The *Group leader* shall act as a single contact point with the Contracting authority in the delivery of the services and/or supplies subject to the contract. It shall co-ordinate the delivery of the services and/or supplies by the *Group* to the Contracting authority, and shall see to a proper administration of the contract.

Any modification to the present Power of attorney shall be subject to the Contracting authority’s express approval. This Power of attorney shall expire when all the contractual obligations of the *Group* have ceased to exist. The parties cannot terminate it before that date without the Contracting authority’s consent.Place and date:Name (in capital letters), function, company and signature: |

## Annex 4. List of identified subcontractors

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Identification details | Roles/tasks during contract execution | Proportion of subcontracting (% of contract volume) |
| *[Full official nameRegistered addressStatutory registration numberVAT registration number]* |  |  |
| *[Full official nameRegistered addressStatutory registration numberVAT registration number]* |  |  |
| *[REPEAT AS MANY TIMES AS THE NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED SUBCONTRACTORS]* |  |  |
| Other subcontractors that do not need to be identified under Section 2.4.2 |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL % of subcontracting** | 0,00% |

## Annex 5.1. Commitment letter by an identified subcontractor

[Letterhead, if any]

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Call for tenders Ref. AGRI-2019-EVAL-04

Attn:

*[Insert date]*

Commitment letter by identified subcontractor

I, the undersigned,

Name:

Function:

Company:

Registered address:

VAT Number:

having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of the company *[insert name of the entity]* hereby confirm that our company agrees to participate as subcontractor in the offer of *[insert name of the tenderer]* for the Call for Tenders *AGRI-2019-EVAL-04* – “Preparatory action - Smart rural areas in the 21st century”.

In the event that the tender of the aforementioned tenderer is successful, *[insert name of the subcontractor]* commits itself to make available the resources necessary for performance of the contract as a subcontractor and to carry out the services that will be subcontracted to it in compliance with the terms of the contract. It further declares that it is not subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance and that it accepts the general conditions attached to the Tender Specifications for the above call for tender, in particular the contractual provisions related to checks and audits.

Done at:

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Annex 5.2. Commitment letter by an entity on whose capacities is being relied

[Letterhead, if any]

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Call for tenders Ref. AGRI-2019-EVAL-04

Attn:

*[Insert date]*

Commitment letter by an entity on whose capacity is being relied

I, the undersigned,

Name:

Function:

Company:

Registered address:

VAT Number:

having the legal capacity required to act on behalf of the company *[insert name of the entity]* hereby confirm that our company authorises the *[insert name of the tenderer]* to rely on its financial and economic capacity in order to meet the minimum levels required for the Call for Tenders AGRI-2019-EVAL-04 – “Preparatory action - Smart rural areas in the 21st century”.

In the event that the tender of the aforementioned tenderer is successful, ***[insert name of the entity]*** commits itself to make available the resources necessary for performance of the contract. It further declares that it is not subject to conflicting interests which may negatively affect the contract performance, and that it accepts the general conditions attached to the Tender Specifications for the above call for tender, in particular the contractual provisions related to checks and audits.

Done at:

Name:

Position:

Signature:

## Annex 6. Financial offer form

**Prices should be all-inclusive; the European Commission will not pay expenses for any additional costs incurred from the execution of the contract.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Tenderer:**  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL COST OF ASSIGNMENT (in EURO),** **INCLUDING ALL ASSOCIATED EXPENSES****AND EXCLUDING VAT :** | **EUR**  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:****(of the Tenderer or authorised representative)** | **Signature:** | **Date:** |

1. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193 of 30.07.2018, p.1). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_E/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Such an entity is not considered a subcontractor, see Section 2.4.3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. References to *tenderer* or *tenderers* in this document shall be understood as covering both sole tenderers and groups of economic operators submitting a joint tender. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) may not be used yet in European Commission's calls for tenders. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Unless the same declaration has already been submitted for the purposes of another award procedure of the European Commission, the situation has not changed, and the time elapsed since the issuing date of the declaration does not exceed one year. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The obligation to provide the supporting evidence will be waived in the following situations:

if the same documents have already been provided in a previous award procedure of the European Commission, have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the *Contracting authority* and are still valid at that date;

if such evidence can be accessed by the *Contracting Authority* on a national database free of charge, in which case the economic operator shall provide *the Contracting authority* with the internet address of the database and, if needed, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document;

if there is a material impossibility to provide such evidence. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. The obligation to provide the supporting evidence will be waived in the following situations:

if the same documents have already been provided in a previous award procedure of the European Commission, have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the *Contracting authority* and are still valid at that date;

if such evidence can be accessed by the *Contracting Authority* on a national database free of charge, in which case the economic operator shall provide the *Contracting authority* with the internet address of the database and, if needed, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/index.cfm?pg=policy&lib=strategy> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. See <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Cadre1_en.asp> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. For the definition of trade secrets please see Article 2 (1) of DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/943 on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. See Article 4 (2) of the REGULATION (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. A document that the Contracting authority can access on a national database free of charge does not need to be submitted if the Contracting authority is provided with the exact internet link and, if applicable, the necessary identification data to retrieve the document. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. The same EU institution, agency, body or office. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. The same institution or agency. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. The same institution of agency. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)