



CHISINAU CITY HALL

February 8, 2023

Our ref: MILL/S/EV/2023

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION SERVICES

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that *your firm / the consortium led by you* is invited to take part in the simplified procedure for the above contract. The complete tender dossier is attached to this letter. It includes:

- A. Instructions to tenderers and contract notice**
- B. Draft contract agreement and special conditions with annexes:**
 - I. General conditions for service contracts
 - II. Terms of reference
 - III. Organisation and methodology (to be submitted by the tenderer using the template provided)
 - IV. Key experts (certified auditors, including summary list of key experts and their CVs)
 - V. Budget (to be submitted by the tenderer as the financial offer using the template provided)
 - VI. Forms and other supporting documents
- C. Other information:**
 - I. List of entities invited to submit a tender
 - II. Administrative compliance grid
 - III. Evaluation grid
- D. Tender submission form and declaration of honour on exclusion and selection criteria**

For full details of the tendering procedures, please see the **practical guide and its annexes** (PRAG2019), which may be downloaded from the following website:

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>

We look forward to receiving your tender which has to be sent no later than the deadline set in point 8 of the Instructions to Tenderers. Please send it to the address and with the requirements given in point 8. By submitting a tender, you accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means. If you decide not to submit a tender, we would be grateful if you could inform us in writing, indicating the reasons for your decision.

Yours sincerely,
Ilie CEBAN
Deputy Mayor

**A. Instructions to tenderers
and contract notice**

INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS

REFERENCE: MILL/S/EV/2023

When submitting their tenders, tenderers must follow all instructions, forms, terms of reference, contract provisions and specifications contained in this tender dossier. Failure to submit a tender containing all the required information and documentation within the deadline specified may lead to the rejection of the tender.

These instructions set out the rules for submitting, selecting and implementing contracts financed under this call for tenders, in conformity with the practical guide (PRAG 2019), (available on the internet at this address: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>).

1. Services to be provided

The services required by the contracting authority are described in the terms of reference. They are set out in Annex II to the draft contract, which forms Part B of this tender dossier.

2. Timetable

	DATE	TIME*
Deadline for requesting clarification from the contracting authority	< February 22, 2023 >	15:00
Last date for the contracting authority to issue clarification	< March 3, 2023 >	-
Deadline for submitting tenders	< March 15, 2023 >	15:00
Interviews (if any)	Not applicable	-
Completion date for evaluating technical offers	< March 30, 2023 > [□]	-
Notification of award	< April 14, 2023 > [□]	-
Contract signature	< May 2, 2023 > [□]	-
Start date	< May 2, 2023 > [□]	-

* All times are in the time zone of the country of the contracting authority

[□] Provisional date

3. Participation, experts and subcontracting

- a) Participation in this tender procedure is open only to the invited tenderers. For the eligibility, please see point 10 of the contract notice.
- b) Natural or legal persons are not entitled to participate in this tender procedure or be awarded a contract if they are in any of the situations mentioned in Sections 2.4. (EU restrictive measures), 2.6.10.1.(exclusion criteria) or 2.6.10.1.1. (rejection from a procedure) of the **practical guide**. Should they do so, their tender will be considered unsuitable or irregular respectively.
- c) In the cases listed in Section 2.6.10.1.1. of the **practical guide** tenderers may be excluded from EU financed procedures and be subject to financial penalties up to 10%

of the total value of the contract in accordance with the Financial Regulation in force. This information may be published on the Commission website in accordance with the Financial Regulation in force.

- d) The contract between the tenderer/contractor and its experts shall contain a provision that it is subject to the approval of the partner country. It is furthermore recommended that this contract contains a dispute resolution clause.
- e) Subcontracting is allowed but the contractor will retain full liability towards the contracting authority for performance of the contract as a whole. If the tenderer intends to subcontract one or more parts of the contracted services, this must be clearly stated in the organisation and methodology and the tender submission form.
- f) All subcontractors must be eligible for the contract.
- g) Subcontractors cannot be in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide.

4. Content of tenders

Offers, all correspondence and documents related to the tender exchanged by the tenderer and the contracting authority must be written in English.

Supporting documents and printed literature furnished by the tenderer may be in another language, provided they are accompanied by a translation into the language of the procedure. For the purposes of interpreting the tender, the language of the procedure has precedence.

The tender must include a technical offer and a financial offer, which must be submitted in separate envelopes (see clause 8). Each technical offer and financial offer must contain one original, clearly marked '**Original**', and one (for environmental reasons, double sided printing, preferably degradable material for folders) copy, marked '**Copy**'. Failure to fulfil the requirements in clauses 4.1, 4.2 and 8 will constitute an irregularity and may result in rejection of the tender.

4.1. Technical offer

The technical offer must include the following documents:

- (1) **Tender submission form** (see Part D of this tender dossier) including:
 - a) Signed statements of exclusivity and availability (using the template included with the tender submission form), one for each key expert, the purpose of which are as follows:
 - The key experts proposed in this tender must not be part of any other tender submitted for this tender procedure. They must therefore commit themselves exclusively to the tenderer.
 - Each key expert must also undertake to be available, able and willing to work for the whole period scheduled for his/her input to implement the tasks set out in the terms of reference and/or in the organisation and methodology.

Note that non-key experts must not be asked to sign statements of exclusivity and availability.

Any expert working on an EU/EDF-financed project, where the input from his/her position to that contract could be required on the same dates as his/her activities under this contract, must not be proposed as a key expert for this contract under any circumstances. Consequently, the dates included by a key expert in his/her statement of exclusivity and availability in your tender must not overlap with dates on which he/she is committed to work as a key expert on any other contract.

The expert may participate in parallel tender procedures but must inform the contracting authority of these in the statement of exclusivity and availability. Furthermore, the expert is expected to notify the tenderer immediately if he/she is successful in another tender procedure and he/she is expected to accept the first engagement offered to him/her chronologically.

If a key expert is proposed as a key expert by more than one tenderer with the agreement of the key expert, the corresponding tenders may be rejected. The same applies if the key expert proposed has been involved in the preparation of the project. The expert concerned will be excluded from this tender procedure and may also be excluded from other EU/EDF-financed contracts.

Having selected a firm partly on the basis of an evaluation of the key experts presented in the tender, the contracting authority expects the contract to be executed by these specific experts. However, after the award letter, the selected tenderer may propose replacements for the key experts under certain conditions (for further information see point 14).

- b) A signed **declaration** together with a signed "Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria"¹ from each legal entity identified in the tender submission form, using the format attached to the tender submission form.
 - c) A completed **financial identification form** (see Annex VI to the draft contract) to indicate the bank account into which payments should be made if the tender is successful. (If the tenderer has already signed another contract with the European Commission, it may provide instead either its financial identification form number or a copy of the financial identification form provided on that occasion, unless it has changed in the meantime).
 - d) The **legal entity file** and supporting documents (if the tenderer has already signed another contract with the European Commission, it may provide instead either its legal entity number or a copy of the legal entity file provided on that occasion, unless it has changed its legal status in the meantime).
 - e) Duly authorised signature: an official document (statutes, power of attorney, notary statement, etc.) proving that the person who signs on behalf of the company/joint venture/consortium is duly authorised to do so.
- (2) **Organisation and methodology** (will become Annex III to the contract), to be drawn up by the tenderer using the format in Annex III to the draft contract.
- (3) **Key experts** (to become Annex IV to the contract). The key experts are those whose involvement is considered to be instrumental to achieve the contract objectives.

Annex IV to the draft contract contains the templates that tenderers must use, including:

¹ See PRAG 2.6.10.1.3 A)

- a) a list of the names of the key experts;
- b) the CV of each of the key experts. Each CV should be no longer than 3 pages. Note that the CVs of non-key experts must not be submitted.

Tenderers must provide the following documents for any key experts proposed:

- a copy of the diplomas mentioned in their CVs,
- a copy of employer certificates or references or signed copies of consultancy or labour contracts proving the professional experience indicated in their CVs. The admissibility of any other supporting documents to prove the work experience indicated in the CV will be subject to the discretion of the contracting authority.

Only diplomas and documented experience will be taken into account. Previous experience which would have led to breach of contract and termination shall not be used as reference.

- (4) Non key experts may also be instrumental to achieve the contract objectives. However, they are not subject to evaluation by the evaluation committee. Their positions and responsibilities may be defined in Section 6.1.2 of the terms of reference in Annex II to the draft contract.
- (5) Documentary proof or statements required under the law of the country in which the company (or each of the companies for consortia) is effectively established, to show that it is not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide. This evidence, documents or statements must be dated, no more than one year before the date of submission of the tender. In addition, a statement must be furnished stating that the situations described in these documents have not changed since then.

If the nature of your entity is such that it cannot fall into the exclusion situations and/or cannot provide the documents indicated above (for instance, national public administrations and international organisations), please provide a declaration explaining this situation.

The contracting authority may waive the obligation of any tenderer to submit the documentary evidence referred to above based on a risk assessment, or if such evidence has already been submitted for the purposes of another procurement procedure, provided that the issue date of the documents does not exceed one year and that they are still valid. In this case, the tenderer must declare on his/her honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure and confirm that his/her situation has not changed.

- (6) No documentary evidence of the selection criteria in point 16 of the contract notice shall be submitted but no pre-financing will be granted.

If the documentary evidence submitted is not written in one of the official languages of the European Union, a translation into the language of the procedure must be attached. Where the documents are in an official language of the European Union other than the one of the procedure, it is however strongly recommended to provide a translation into the language of the procedure, in order to facilitate the evaluation of the documents. Documentary proof or statements may be in original or copy. If copies are submitted, the originals must be available to send to the contracting authority upon request.

Tenderers are reminded that the provision of false information in this tender procedure may lead to the rejection of their tender and to their exclusion from EU-funded procedures and contracts.

The electronic version of the technical offer must be included with the printed version in the separate envelope in which the technical offer is submitted. If there are any discrepancies between the electronic version and the original, printed version, the latter has precedence.

4.2. Financial offer

The financial offer must be presented as an amount in Euro² and must be submitted using the template for the global-price version of Annex V to part B of this tender dossier. The electronic version of this document 'B8 — Budget for a global-price contract' can be found on the website

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>.

The global price may be broken down by outputs if required from the terms of reference.

Tenderers are reminded that the maximum budget available for this contract, as stated in the contract notice, is EUR 18,000.00. Payments under this contract will be made in the currency of the tender (except residents).

The applicable tax and customs arrangements are as follows:

Exemption of taxes

The European Commission and the Republic of Moldova have agreed in Framework Agreement regarding technical assistance, signed in Brussels on 11 May 2006, ratified through Law no. 426-XVI of 27 December 2006, to exempt from: VAT, customs duties, excise duties and customs procedure taxes in the Contracting Authority's country as per Annex 2 of the Government Decision no. 246 dated 8 April 2010.

5. Variant solutions

Tenderers are not authorised to tender for a variant in addition to this tender.

6. Period during which tenders are binding

Tenderers are bound by their tenders for 90 days after the deadline for submitting tenders or until they have been notified of non-award.

The selected tenderer must maintain its tender for a further 60 days. A further period of 60 days is added to the validity period irrespective of the date of notification. This period can be further extended when the contracting authority is required to obtain the recommendation of the panel referred to in Section 2.6.10.1.1 of the practical guide, up to the adoption of that recommendation.

7. Additional information before the deadline for submitting tenders

The tender dossier should be clear enough to avoid tenderers having to request additional information during the procedure. If the contracting authority, either on its own initiative or in

² The currency of the tender is the currency of the contract and the currency of payment (except residents).

response to a request from a tenderer, provides additional information on the tender dossier, it must send such information in writing to all the tenderers at the same time.

Tenderers may submit questions in writing to the following address up to 21 days before the deadline for submission of tenders, specifying the publication reference and the contract title:

Contact name: Ms. Ruxandra MACARI

Address: office 25, 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

E-mail: macari.ruxandra@pmc.md
procurement@mill.md

All updates referring to this tender procedure can be accessed on the:

- https://www.chisinau.md/ro/expenditure-verification-20903_273148.html
- <https://mill.md/tender/>

The contracting authority has no obligation to provide clarification after this date.

Any tenderer seeking to arrange individual meetings with the contracting authority and/or the government of the partner country and/or the European Commission concerning this contract during the tender period may be excluded from the tender procedure.

No information meeting or site visit is foreseen.

8. Submission of tenders

Tenders must be sent to the contracting authority before **March 15, 2023, 15:00 (local time)**. They must include the requested documents in clause 4 above and be sent:

- **EITHER** by post or by courier service, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip³, to:

Address of contracting authority

City Hall of Chisinau Municipality

office 25, 83 Ştefan cel Mare și Sfânt Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

- **OR** hand delivered by the participant in person or by an agent directly to the premises of the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by this acknowledgement of receipt, to:

Address of contracting authority

City Hall of Chisinau Municipality

office 25, 83 Ştefan cel Mare și Sfânt Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Tenders submitted by any other means will not be considered.

The contracting authority may, for reasons of administrative efficiency, reject any tender submitted on time to the postal service but received, for any reason beyond the contracting authority's control, after the effective date of approval of the short-list report or of the evaluation report, if accepting tenders that were submitted on time but arrived late would considerably delay the evaluation procedure or jeopardise decisions already taken and notified.

³ It is recommended to use registered mail in case the postmark would not be readable.

Tenders must be submitted using the double envelope system, i.e., in an outer parcel or envelope containing two separate, sealed envelopes, one bearing the words ‘**Envelope A — Technical offer**’ and the other ‘**Envelope B — Financial offer**’. All parts of the tender other than the financial offer must be submitted in Envelope A (i.e. including the tender submission form, statements of exclusivity and availability of the key experts and declarations).

The outer envelope should provide the following information:

- a) the address for submitting tenders indicated above;
- b) the reference code of the tender procedure (i.e. MILL/S/EV/2023);
- c) the words ‘Not to be opened before the tender-opening session’ and ‘Nu deschideți înainte de ședința de deschidere a ofertelor’;
- d) the name of the tenderer.

The pages of the technical and financial offers must be numbered.

9. Amending or withdrawing tenders

Tenderers may amend or withdraw their tenders by written notification prior to the deadline for submitting tenders. Tenders may not be amended after this deadline.

Any such notification of amendment or withdrawal must be prepared and submitted in accordance with Clause 8. The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope) must be marked ‘Amendment’ or ‘Withdrawal’ as appropriate.

10. Costs for preparing tenders

No costs incurred by the tenderer in preparing and submitting the tender are reimbursable. All such costs must be borne by the tenderer, including the cost of interviewing proposed experts.

11. Ownership of tenders

The contracting authority retains ownership of all tenders received under this tendering procedure. Consequently, tenderers do not have the right to have their tenders returned to them.

12. Evaluation of tenders

12.1. Evaluation of technical offers

The quality of each technical offer will be evaluated in accordance with the award criteria and the weighting detailed in the evaluation grid in Part C of this tender dossier. No other award criteria will be used. The award criteria will be examined in accordance with the requirements indicated in the terms of reference.

The evaluation of the technical offers will follow the procedures set out in Section 3.3.10 of the practical guide (available on the internet at

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>).

12.1.1. Interviews

No interviews are foreseen.

12.2. Evaluation of financial offers

Upon completion of the technical evaluation, the envelopes containing the financial offers for tenders that were not eliminated during the technical evaluation will be opened (i.e. those with an average score of 75 points or more). Tenders exceeding the maximum budget available for the contract are unacceptable and will be eliminated.

12.3. Choice of selected tenderer

The best price-quality ratio is established by weighing technical quality against price on an 80/20 basis.

12.4. Confidentiality

The entire evaluation procedure is confidential, subject to the contracting authority's legislation on access to documents. The evaluation committee's decisions are collective and its deliberations are held in closed session. The members of the evaluation committee are bound to secrecy. The evaluation reports and written records are for official use only and may be communicated neither to the tenderers nor to any party other than the contracting authority, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Court of Auditors.

13. Ethics clauses / Corruptive practices

a) Absence of conflict of interest

The tenderer must not be affected by any conflict of interest and must have no equivalent relation in that respect with other tenderers or parties involved in the project. Any attempt by a tenderer to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or the contracting authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing tenders will lead to the rejection of its tender and may result in administrative penalties according to the Financial Regulation in force.

b) Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labour standards

The tenderer and its staff must comply with human rights and applicable data protection rules. In particular and in accordance with the applicable basic act, tenderers and applicants who have been awarded contracts must comply with the environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, and with the core labour standards as applicable and as defined in the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions (such as the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; abolition of child labour).

Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and sexual abuse:
The European Commission applies a policy of 'zero tolerance' in relation to all wrongful conduct which has an impact on the professional credibility of the tenderer.
Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

c) Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The tenderer shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. The European Commission reserves the right to suspend

or cancel project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process or during the execution of a contract and if the contracting authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, 'corrupt practices' are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or execution of a contract already concluded with the contracting authority.

d) Unusual commercial expenses

Tenders will be rejected or contracts terminated if it emerges that the award or execution of a contract has given rise to unusual commercial expenses. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a payee who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

Contractors found to have paid unusual commercial expenses on projects funded by the European Union are liable, depending on the seriousness of the facts observed, to have their contracts terminated or to be permanently excluded from receiving EU funds.

e) Breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud

_____The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. If breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the contract, the contracting authority may refrain from concluding the contract.

14. Signature of contract(s)

14.1. Notification of award

The successful tenderer will be informed in writing that its tender has been accepted.

14.2. Signature of the contract(s)

Within 30 days of receipt of the contract already signed by the contracting authority, the selected tenderer shall sign and date the contract and return it to the contracting authority.

Failure of the selected tenderer to comply with this requirement may constitute grounds for annulling the decision to award the contract. In this event, the contracting authority may award the tender to another tenderer or cancel the tender procedure.

The other tenderers will, at the same time as the notification of award is submitted, be informed that their tenders were not retained, by electronic means or standard letter, including an indication of the relative weaknesses of their tender by way of a comparative table of the scores for the winning tender and the unsuccessful tender. The second best tenderer is informed of the notification of award to the successful tenderer with the reservation of the possibility to receive a notification of award in case of inability to sign the contract with the first ranked tenderer. The validity of the offer of the second best tenderer will be kept. The second tenderer may refuse the award of the contract if, when receiving a notification of award, the 90 days of validity of their tender has expired.

The contracting authority will furthermore, at the same time, also inform the remaining unsuccessful tenderers and the consequence of these letters will be that the validity of their offers must not be retained.

15. Cancellation of the tender procedure

In the event of cancellation of the tender procedure, the contracting authority will notify tenderers of the cancellation. If the tender procedure is cancelled before the outer envelope of any tender has been opened, the unopened and sealed envelopes will be returned to the tenderers.

Cancellation may occur, for example, where:

- the tender procedure has been unsuccessful, i.e. no suitable, qualitatively or financially acceptable tender has been received or there is no valid response at all;
- there are fundamental changes to the economic or technical data of the project;
- exceptional circumstances or force majeure render normal performance of the contract impossible;
- all technically acceptable tenders exceed the financial resources available;
- there have been breach of obligations, irregularities or frauds in the procedure, in particular if they have prevented fair competition;
- the award is not in compliance with sound financial management, i.e. does not respect the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness (e.g. the price proposed by the tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is objectively disproportionate with regard to the price of the market).

In no event shall the contracting authority be liable for any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits, in any way connected with the cancellation of a tender procedure, even if the contracting authority has been advised of the possibility of damages. The publication of a contract notice does not commit the contracting authority to implement the programme or project announced.

16. Appeals

Tenderers believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may file a complaint. See Section 2.12. of the practical guide.

17. Data Protection

Processing of personal data related to this tender procedure by the contracting authority takes place in accordance with the national legislation of the state of the contracting authority and with the provisions of the respective financing agreement.

The tender procedure and the contract relate to an external action funded by the EU, represented by the European Commission. If processing your reply to the invitation to tender involves transfer of personal data (such as names, contact details and CVs) to the European Commission, they will be processed solely for the purposes of the monitoring of the procurement procedure and of the implementation of the contract by the Commission, for the latter to comply with its obligations under the applicable legislative framework and under the financing agreement concluded between the EU and the Partner Country without prejudice to possible transmission

to the bodies in charge of monitoring or inspection tasks in application of EU law. For the part of the data transferred by the contracting authority to the European Commission, the controller for the processing of personal data carried out within the Commission is the head of contracts and finance unit R4 of DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

Details concerning processing of your personal data by the Commission are available on the privacy statement at:

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>

In cases where you are processing personal data in the context of participation to a tender (e.g. CVs of both key and technical experts) and/or implementation of a contract (e.g. replacement of experts) you shall accordingly inform the data subjects of the possible transmission of their data to EU institutions and bodies and communicate the above mentioned privacy statement to them.

18. Early detection and exclusion system

The tenderers and, if they are legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations of early detection or exclusion, their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the early detection and exclusion system,, and communicated to the persons and entities concerned in relation to the award or the execution of a procurement contract.

SERVICE CONTRACT NOTICE
EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION SERVICES OF A GRANT
CONTRACT

EXTERNAL ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
CHIȘINĂU – REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1. Reference

MILL/S/EV/2023

2. Procedure

Simplified

3. Programme title

“MOVE IT like Lublin — a Chisinau public transport sustainable development initiative”

4. Financing

BGUE-B2019-21.020802-C1 -DEVCO

5. Contracting authority

Primăria municipiului Chișinău (City Hall of Chisinau Municipality)

CONTRACT SPECIFICATION

6. Nature of contract

Global price

7. Contract description

City Hall of Chisinau Municipality seeks to contract an audit firm to perform a verification of reported expenditures related to project implementation activities. The verifier will have to follow the requirements related to expenditure verification as they are provided in the Grant Contract and its annexes.

The Expenditure Verifier is expected to provide the following deliverables:

- Expenditure Verification Report for 1/02/2022 – 31/01/2023
- Expenditure Verification Report for 1/02/2023 – 31/01/2024
- Expenditure Verification Report for 1/02/2024 – 31/01/2025

8. Number and titles of lots

One lot only

9. Maximum budget

EUR 18,000.00

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

10. Eligibility

Participation is open to all legal persons [participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers] which are effectively established in a Member State of the European Union or in an eligible country or territory as defined under the Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action (CIR) for the applicable instrument under which the contract is financed (see also heading 23 below). Participation is also open to international organisations.

Please be aware that after the United Kingdom'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 United Kingdom depending on the outcome of negotiations. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in force at the time of contract award, candidates or tenderers from the United Kingdom could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

11. Number of tenders

No more than one tender can be submitted by a legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or member of a consortium submitting a tender). In the event that a legal person submits more than one tender, all tenders in which that person has participated will be excluded.

12. Grounds for exclusion

As part of the tender, tenderers must submit a signed declaration, included in the tender form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1. of the practical guide.

Tenderer included in the lists of EU restrictive measures (see Section 2.4. of the PRAG 2019) at the moment of the award decision cannot be awarded the contract.

13. Sub-contracting

Subcontracting is allowed.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

14. Provisional commencement date of the contract

May 2023

15. Implementation period of the tasks

May 2023 – February 2025

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

16. Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied to the tenderers. In the case of tenders submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole, if not specified otherwise. The selection criteria will not be applied to natural persons and single-member companies when they are sub-contractors.

1) Economic and financial capacity of the tenderer (based on item 3 of the tender form). In case of tenderer being a public body, equivalent information should be provided. The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three financial years for

which accounts have been closed.

- The annual turnover of the tenderer for each of the last 3 (three) closed financial years must be at least EUR 10,000.00;
- Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) in the last year for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1. In case of a consortium this criterion must be fulfilled by each member.

2) Professional capacity of the tenderer (based on items 4 of the tender form).

The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years preceding the submission deadline.

- General audit experience of more than 3 years;
- The tenderer has a professional certificate appropriate to this contract, such as ISO9001 or equivalent;
- At least 2 certified auditors (List of audit team and CVs mandatory, as per Annex IV);
- The tenderer is a member of a national accounting or auditing body or institution which in turn is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC);
- The tenderer is registered in the public register of approved auditors.

3) Technical capacity of tenderer (based on items 5 and 6 of the tender form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years preceding the submission deadline.

- The tenderer has worked successfully on at least 2 assignments with a budget of at least that of this contract in fields related to this contract;
- Expenditure verification services provided for at least 2 EU-funded projects, at least one of them be managed by the EU Delegation to Moldova.

Previous experience which would have led to breach of contract and termination by a contracting authority shall not be used as reference. This is also applicable concerning the previous experience of experts required under a fee-based service contract.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which 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 the performance of the contract by producing a commitment by those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility - notably that of nationality - and must comply with the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should be included in the tender in a separate document. Proof of the capacity will also have to be provided when requested by the contracting authority. With regard to technical and professional criteria, an economic operator may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the services for which these capacities are required. With regard to economic and financial criteria the entities upon whose capacity the tenderer relies become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

17. Award criteria

Best price-quality ratio.

TENDERING

18. Deadline for receipt of tenders

The deadline for receipt of tenders is specified in point 8 of the instruction to tenderers.

19. Tender format and details to be provided

Tenders must be submitted using the standard tender form for simplified procedures, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The tender form is available from the following internet address: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG> , under the zip file called Simplified Tender dossier (b8o_simplified_en.zip).

The tender must be accompanied by a declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria using the template available from the following Internet address:

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>

Any additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with a tender will not be taken into consideration.

20. How tenders may be submitted

Tenders must be submitted in English exclusively to the contracting authority, using the means specified in point 8 of the instructions to tenderers.

Tenders submitted by any other means will not be considered.

By submitting a tender tenderers accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means.

21. Alteration or withdrawal of tenders

Tenderers may alter or withdraw their tenders by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of tenders. No tender may be altered after this deadline.

Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with point 9 of the instructions to tenderers. The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal' as appropriate.

22. Operational language

All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.

23. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and ENI – See Annex A2 of the practical guide.

24. Additional information

Financial data to be provided by the candidate in the standard application form must be expressed in EUR. If applicable, where a candidate refers to amounts originally expressed in a different currency, the conversion to EUR shall be made in accordance with the InforEuro exchange rate of December 2022, which can be found at the following address:

<http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>.

B. Draft contract agreement and special conditions with annexes

DRAFT CONTRACT

SERVICE CONTRACT FOR EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL ACTIONS

No <Contract number>

FINANCED FROM THE [GENERAL BUDGET OF THE UNION] [EDF]

[For direct management: European Union, represented by the European Commission, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, on behalf of and for the account of the government of <name of the partner country>]

OR

[For indirect management: <Name and address of the contracting authority>]

(‘the contracting authority’),

of the one part,

and

<Full official name of the contractor>

[<Legal status/title>]¹

[<Official registration number>]²

<Full official address>

[<VAT number>]³,

(‘the contractor’)

of the other part,

have agreed as follows:

PROJECT <Title and reference in the financing agreement/decision>

CONTRACT TITLE <Contract title>

Identification number <Publication reference>

(1) Subject

1.1 The subject of this contract is <contract title> done [at] [in] <location> with identification number <reference> (‘the services’).

1.2 The contractor shall execute the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the contract (Annexe II)

(2) Contract value

[Option 1: Fee-based contracts (technical assistance contracts)]

¹ Where the contracting party is an individual.

² Where applicable. For individuals, mention their ID card, passport or equivalent document number.

³ Except where the contracting party is not VAT registered.

This contract, established in [Euro] [<national currency> only for indirect management], is a fee-based contract. Based on the maximum fees, [lump sum], incidental expenditure and provision made for expenditure verification set out in Annex V, the maximum contract value is [EUR] [<ISO code of national currency> only for indirect management] <amount>.]

[Option 2: Global price contracts (studies and other result-based contracts)]

This contract, established in [Euro] [<national currency> only for indirect management], is a global price contract. The contract value is [EUR] [<ISO code of national currency> only for indirect management] <amount>.]

(3) Order of precedence of contract documents

The following documents shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as part of this contract, in the following order of precedence:

- the contract agreement;
- the special conditions
- the general conditions (Annex I);
- the terms of reference [including clarification before the deadline for submitting tenders and minutes of the information meeting/site visit] (Annex II)
- the organisation and methodology [including clarification from the tenderer provided during tender evaluation] (Annex III);
- [Key experts (Annex IV) For contracts requiring key experts] ;
- Budget [For fee-based contracts only: breakdown] (Annex V);
- Other relevant forms and documents (Annex VI);

[For fee-based contracts only:

- Report of factual findings and terms of reference for an expenditure verification] (Annex VII):

These above listed documents make up the contract. They shall be deemed to be mutually explanatory. In cases of ambiguity or divergence, they shall prevail in the order in which they appear above. Addenda shall have the order of precedence of the document they are amending.

(4) Language of the contract

The language of the contract and of all written communications between the contractor and the contracting authority and/or the project manager shall be English.

(5) Other specific conditions applying to the contract

The following conditions to the contract shall apply:

[For direct management insert the following

For the purpose of Article 42 of the General Conditions,

- (a) [For DG DEVCO the data controller is the head of legal affairs unit of DG International Cooperation and Development]
[For DG NEAR the data controller is the head of contracts and finance unit R4 of DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations]

- [For any other DG the data controller is <please add the function of your controller >.]
- (b) the data protection notice is available at
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A. \]](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A.)

[For indirect management insert the following

For the purpose of Article 42 of the general conditions, for the part of the data transferred by the contracting authority to the European Commission:

- (a) the controller for the processing of personal data carried out within the Commission is

[For DG DEVCO the head of legal affairs unit of DG International Cooperation and Development.]

[For DG NEAR the head of contracts and finance unit R4 of DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations]

[For any other DG <please add the function of your controller >.]

- (b) the data protection notice is available at
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A. \]](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A.)

[If necessary and after having obtained prior approval/derogation by the competent services:

By derogation from Article ...]

Done in English in [two] [three] originals, [For direct management: [one] [two] originals for the European Commission] [For indirect management: one original for the contracting authority, one original for the European Commission,] and one original for the contractor.

For the contractor

For the contracting authority

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Signature:

Signature:

Date:

Date:

[For indirect management:

Endorsed for financing by the European Union (only for ex-ante control if the European Commission makes payments under the contract)

Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date:

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

These conditions amplify and supplement the general conditions governing the contract. Unless the special conditions provide otherwise, the general conditions remain fully applicable. The numbering of the articles of the special conditions is not consecutive but follows the numbering of the general conditions. Exceptionally, and with the approval of the competent European Commission departments, other clauses can be indicated to cover particular situations.

How to complete these special conditions:

Where you see < ... >, enter the information relevant to the special conditions. The phrases in square brackets [] and shaded in grey should only be included if relevant. They should only be amended in exceptional cases, depending on the requirements of specific tender procedures.

Note that the special conditions provide for allowed deviations from the general conditions. The use of further deviations from the general conditions requires an exception to be granted by the relevant services of the European Commission.

Please remember to delete this paragraph and all pointed and square brackets in the final version of the special conditions.

Article 2 Communications

2.1 <Indicate here the contact persons, addresses of the parties, their other contact details, the documents to provide and the procedure to be used by the parties for communication.>

2.2 An electronic system will be used by the contracting authority and the contractor for all stages of implementation including, inter alia, management of the contract (amendments and administrative orders), reporting (including reporting on results) and payments. The contractor will be required to register in and use the appropriate electronic exchange system to allow for the e-management of the contract. With regard to interim and final reports, if they are required according to Article 26 or to the terms of reference, the contractor will be expected to use the forms in the electronic system for encoding and submitting the reports.

The electronic management of the contract through the aforementioned system may commence on the date on which implementation of the contract starts, as described in Article 19 below, or at a later date. In the latter case, the contracting authority will inform the contractor in writing that he will be required to use the electronic system for all communications within a maximum period of 3 months.

Article 4 Subcontracting

4.9 [EDF only:

In the selection of subcontractors and/or other independent contractors, preference shall be given to natural persons, companies and firms of ACP States capable of implementing the tasks required on similar terms.]

Article 7 General obligations

7.8 <Specify the specific activities to be put in place by the contractor to comply with its minimum obligation towards visibility. These activities must comply with the rules lay down in the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions published by the European Commission.>

Article 12 - Liabilities

12.2 <Specify here the specific requirements of liability for damages to the contracting authority>

[For contracts of amount below one million EUR: in some cases capping contractors liability to one million EUR may be disproportional compared to the content of this contract. This is especially the case where the financial risk is low, for instance for technical assistance or studies. If you find it necessary to set a cap lower than that referred to in the general conditions, add the following clause:

‘By way of derogation from Article 12.2, paragraph 2, of the general conditions, compensation for damage resulting from the contractor's liability in respect of the contracting authority is capped at an amount equal to <complete with an amount between the contract value and one million EUR>.’]

Article 19 Implementation of the tasks and delays

19.1 [The start date for implementation shall be <date/date of signature of the contract by both parties>]

OR:

[The date on which implementation starts shall be within 3 months of the signature of this contract by both parties and shall be set in an administrative notice issued by the project manager.]

19.2 The period for implementing the tasks is <number> months from the start date.

Article 26 Interim and final reports

The contractor shall submit progress reports as specified in the terms of reference.

Article 27 Approval of reports and documents

27.5 [For contracts in decentralised/indirect management under the general budget of the Union for which a financing agreement has been signed before 01/01/2013 and for 10th-11th EDF :

The contracting authority shall, within 45 days of receipt, notify the contractor of its decision concerning the documents or reports received by it, giving reasons should it reject the reports or documents, or request amendments. If the contracting authority does not give any comments on the documents or reports within the time limit, the contractor may request written acceptance of them. The documents or reports shall be deemed to have been approved by the contracting authority if it does not expressly inform the contractor of any comments within 45 days of the receipt of the report.]

Article 28 Expenditure verification

28.2 Fee-based contract

[The expenditure verification(s) referred to in the general conditions will be carried out by <name, address, telephone and fax numbers>.]

[If the verification of the incidental expenditure will be made by the contracting authority insert the following instead of 28.2 above: By derogation from article 28 the verification will be made by the contracting authority and all references to an expenditure verification report will not be applicable.]

Article 29 Payment and interest on late payment

29.1 Payments will be made in accordance with the following the option:

[Option 1: Fee-based contract

Month		[EUR] [<ISO code of national currency>]^{4]}
1	Maximum pre-financing payment⁵	<Maximum amount> <X> %⁶
6-monthly	Interim payments	<amount (balance of pre-financing payment and forecast balance)>
<Month number>	Forecast balance	10% of the maximum contract value
	Total	<maximum contract value>

The actual amounts payable after the pre-financing payment will vary. They will be based on the contractor's invoice accompanied by an interim progress report and an expenditure verification report and are subject to approval of the reports in accordance with Article 27 of the general conditions.

The interim invoices must be paid such that the sum of the payments does not exceed 90% of the maximum contract value stated in Article 3 of the contract. Payment of the balance of the final value of the contract, subject to the maximum contract value stated in Article (2) of the contract, is made after deduction of the amounts already paid, within 60 days of the contracting authority receiving an invoice accompanied by the final progress report and a final expenditure verification report, the incidental expenditure and expenditure verification actually incurred during the period, subject to approval of those reports.]

⁴ Only for indirect management

⁵ The contractor is not obliged to ask for pre-financing.

⁶ Maximum of 20% of the total contract amount.

[Option 2: Global price contract]

Month		<EUR/***>
1	Maximum pre-financing payment ⁷	<Maximum 40% of the contract value>
<Month/ year number>	[If applicable: Interim payment]	<X% of the contract value>
<Month/ year number>	Balance	<Maximum 60% of the contract value>
	Total	<Total contract value>

[Contract in decentralised/indirect management under the general budget of the Union only: By derogation, the payments to the contractor of the amounts due under interim and final payments shall be made within 90 days after receipt by the contracting authority of an invoice and of the reports, subject to approval of those reports in accordance with Article 27 of the general conditions.]

[Contract under 10th EDF only: By derogation, the pre-financing payment shall be made within 90 days from the date on which an admissible invoice is registered by the contracting authority. The interim and final payments to the contractor of the amounts due shall be made within 90 days following approval of the reports as indicated in in accordance with Article 27 of the general conditions, after receipt by the contracting authority of an admissible invoice.]

[contract in indirect management under 11th EDF only where the Commission executes payments: By derogation, the pre-financing payment shall be made within 60 days from the date on which an admissible invoice is registered by the contracting authority. The interim and final payments to the contractor of the amounts due shall be made within 90 days from the date on which an admissible invoice is registered by the contracting authority.]

[If the verification of the incidental expenditure will be made by the contracting authority: By derogation from article 29 the verification will be made by the contracting authority and all references to an expenditure verification report will not be applicable.

29.3 [For indirect management

By derogation from Article 29.3 of the general conditions, once the deadline set in Article 29.1 has expired, the contractor will, upon demand, be entitled to late-payment interest at the rate and for the period mentioned in the general conditions submitted The demand must be submitted within two months of receiving late payment.]

⁷ The contractor is not obliged to ask for pre-financing.

29.5 Payments will be made in [Euro] [<national currency> only for indirect management] in accordance with Articles 20.6 and 29.4 of the general conditions into the bank account notified by the contractor to the contracting authority.

[Optional: In the case of indirect management with ex ante controls and where invoices are presented to the contracting authority, the contractor must inform the European Commission at <enter address of the unit in charge if this option is used>, thereof by sending a copy of the correspondence.]

Article 30 Financial guarantee

30.1 For contract of an amount below EUR 60 000 [By derogation from article 30 of the general conditions, no pre-financing guarantee is required.]

For contract of an amount above EUR 60 000 [Subject to a positive risk assessment⁸ by the contracting authority, by derogation from article 30 of the general conditions no pre-financing guarantee is required.]

Article 40 Settlement of disputes

[For direct management:

40.4 Any disputes arising out of or relating to this contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be referred to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Brussels, Belgium.]

[For indirect management:

[General budget of the Union:

[40.4 Any disputes arising out of or relating to this contract which cannot be settled otherwise shall be referred to the exclusive jurisdiction of <specify> applying the national legislation of the contracting authority.]

OR

[40.4 Any disputes arising out of or relating to this contract which cannot be settled otherwise shall be referred for arbitration to <specify the arbitration body> applying the rules of arbitration of [the International Chamber of Commerce] [the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law] [< other internationally recognised procedure to be specified >] .]]

[EDF:

40.4 Any dispute arising out of or relating to this contract which cannot be settled otherwise shall be settled

(a) if it is a national contract [in accordance with the national legislation of the state of the contracting authority]

(b) if it is a cross-border contract [either:

(i) if the parties to the contract so agree, in accordance with the national legislation of the partner country or its established international practices; or

⁸ Such risk assessment is required, for example, when a company is awarded a contract without itself meeting the selection criteria but relying on the capacity of another company.

- (ii) by arbitration in accordance with the Procedural rules on conciliation and arbitration of contracts financed by the European Development Fund, adopted by Decision 3/90 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers of 29 March 1990 (OJ L 382, 31.12.1990) (Annex A12 to the practical guide).] Please attach Annex A12 of the practical guide to the present contract.]

[Optional for contract awarded after negotiated procedure to an international organisation that cannot participate in competitive procedures according to its statute or act of establishment:

Article 40 Settlement of disputes and Article 41 Applicable law

Articles 40.3, 40.4 and 41.1 of the general conditions shall be replaced by the following:

In default of amicable settlement, the parties may refer the matter to arbitration in accordance with the Permanent Court of Arbitration Optional Rules for Arbitration Involving International Organisations and States in force at the date of conclusion of this agreement. The appointing authority shall be the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration following a written request submitted by either party. The arbitrator's decision shall be binding on all parties and there shall be no appeal.]

Article 42 Data protection

[The following text is to be inserted for indirect management]

[1. Processing of personal data related to the implementation of the contract by the contracting authority takes place in accordance with the national legislation of the state of the contracting authority and with the provisions of the respective financing agreement.

2. To the extent that the contract covers an action financed by the European Union, the Contracting Authority may share communications related to the implementation of the contract, with the European Commission. These exchanges shall be made to the Commission, solely for the purpose of allowing the latter to exercise its rights and obligations under the applicable legislative framework and under the financing agreement with the Partner country – contracting authority. The exchanges may involve transfers of personal data (such as names, contact details, signatures and CVs) of natural persons involved in the implementation of the contract (such as contractors, staff, experts, trainees, subcontractors, insurers, guarantors, auditors and legal counsel). In cases where the contractor is processing personal data in the context of the implementation of the contract, he/she shall accordingly inform the data subjects of the possible transmission of their data to the Commission. When personal data is transmitted to the Commission, the latter processes them in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC⁹ and as detailed in the specific privacy statement published at ePRAG.]

Article 43 Further additional clauses

<Add other clauses approved by the competent European Commission departments.>

* * *

⁹ OJ L 205 of 21.11.2018, p. 39

ANNEX I:

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR EXTERNAL ACTIONS FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION OR BY THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

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PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. The headings and titles in these general conditions shall not be taken as part thereof or be taken into consideration in the interpretation of the contract.
- 1.2. Where the context so permits, words in the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa, and words in the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine and vice versa.
- 1.3. The word “country” shall be deemed to include State or Territory.
- 1.4. Words designating persons or parties shall include firms, companies, and any organisation having legal capacity.
- 1.5. The definitions of the terms used throughout these general conditions are laid down in the “Glossary of terms”, Annex A1a to the practical guide, which forms an integral part of the contract.

ARTICLE 2. COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.1. Unless otherwise specified in the special conditions, any written communication relating to this contract between the contracting authority or the project manager, and the contractor shall state the contract title and identification number, and shall be sent by post, facsimile transmission, e-mail or personal delivery to the appropriate addresses designated by the Parties for that purpose in the special conditions.
- 2.2. If the sender requires evidence of receipt, it shall state such requirement in its communication and shall demand such evidence of receipt whenever there is a deadline for the receipt of the communication. In any event, the sender shall take all the necessary measures to ensure timely receipt of its communication.
- 2.3. Wherever the contract provides for the giving or issue of any notice, consent, approval, certificate or decision, unless otherwise specified such notice, consent, approval, certificate or decision shall be in writing and the words “notify”, “consent”, “certify”, “approve” or “decide” shall be construed accordingly. Any such consent, approval, certificate or decision shall not unreasonably be withheld or delayed.
- 2.4. Any oral instructions or orders shall be confirmed in writing.

ARTICLE 3. ASSIGNMENT

- 3.1. An assignment shall be valid only if it is a written agreement by which the contractor transfers its contract or part thereof to a third party.
- 3.2. The contractor shall not, without the prior consent of the contracting authority, assign the contract or any part thereof, or any benefit or interest thereunder, except in the following cases:
 - (a) a charge, in favour of the contractor's bankers, of any monies due or to become due under the contract; or
 - (b) the assignment to the contractor's insurers of the contractor's right to obtain relief against any other person liable in cases where the insurers have discharged the contractor's loss or liability.
- 3.3. For the purpose of Article 3.2, the approval of an assignment by the contracting authority shall not relieve the contractor of its obligations for the part of the contract already performed or the part not assigned.

- 3.4. If the contractor has assigned the contract without authorisation, the contracting authority may, without formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanction for breach of contract provided for in Articles 34 and 36.
- 3.5. Assignees shall satisfy the eligibility criteria applicable for the award of the contract and they shall not fall under the exclusion criteria described in the tender dossier.

ARTICLE 4. SUBCONTRACTING

- 4.1. A subcontract shall be valid only if it is a written agreement by which the contractor entrusts performance of a part of the contract to a third party.
- 4.2. The contractor shall request to the contracting authority the authorisation to subcontract. The request must indicate the elements of the contract to be subcontracted and the identity of the subcontractors. The contracting authority shall notify the contractor of its decision, within 30 days of receipt of the request, stating reasons should it withhold such authorisation.
- 4.3. No subcontract creates contractual relations between any subcontractor and the contracting authority.
- 4.4. The contractor shall be responsible for the acts, defaults and negligence of its subcontractors and its experts, agents or employees, as if they were the acts, defaults or negligence of the contractor, its experts, agents or employees. The approval by the contracting authority of the subcontracting of any part of the contract or of the subcontractor to perform any part of the services shall not relieve the contractor of any of its obligations under the contract.
- 4.5. If a subcontractor is found by the contracting authority or the project manager to be incompetent in discharging its duties, the contracting authority or the project manager may request the contractor forthwith, either to provide a subcontractor with qualifications and experience acceptable to the contracting authority as a replacement, or to resume the implementation of the tasks itself.
- 4.6. Subcontractors shall satisfy the eligibility criteria applicable to the award of the contract. They shall not fall under the exclusion criteria described in the tender dossier and the contractor shall ensure that they are not subject to EU restrictive measures.
- 4.7. Those services entrusted to a subcontractor by the contractor shall not be entrusted to third parties by the subcontractor, unless otherwise agreed by the contracting authority.
- 4.8. If the contractor enters into a subcontract without approval, the contracting authority may, without formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanction for breach of contract provided for in Articles 34 and 36.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

ARTICLE 5. SUPPLY OF INFORMATION

- 5.1. The contracting authority shall supply the contractor promptly with any information and/or documentation at its disposal, which may be relevant to the performance of the contract. Such documents shall be returned to the contracting authority at the end of the period of implementation of the tasks.
- 5.2. The contracting authority shall co-operate with the contractor to provide information that the latter may reasonably request in order to perform the contract.
- 5.3. The contracting authority shall give notification to the contractor of the name and address of the project manager.

ARTICLE 6. ASSISTANCE WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS

- 6.1. The contractor may request the assistance of the contracting authority in obtaining copies of laws, regulations, and information on local customs, orders or by-laws of the country in which the services are to be performed, which may affect the contractor in the performance of its obligations under the contract. The contracting authority may provide the assistance requested to the contractor at the contractor's cost.
- 6.2. Subject to the provisions of the laws and regulations on foreign labour of the country in which the services have to be rendered, the contracting authority provides reasonable assistance to the contractor, at its request, for its application for any visas and permits required by the law of the country in which the services are rendered, including work and residence permits, for the staff whose services the contractor and the contracting authority consider necessary, as well as residence permits for their families.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR

ARTICLE 7. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

- 7.1. The contractor shall execute the contract with due care, efficiency and diligence in accordance with the best professional practice.
- 7.2. The contractor shall comply with any administrative orders given by the project manager. Where the contractor considers that the requirements of an administrative order go beyond the authority of the project manager or of the scope of the contract he shall give notice, with reasons, to the project manager. If the contractor fails to notify within the 30-day period after receipt thereof, he shall be barred from so doing. Execution of administrative order should not be suspended because of this notice.
- 7.3. The contractor shall supply, without delay, any information and documents to the contracting authority and the European Commission upon request, regarding the conditions in which the contract is being executed.
- 7.4. The contractor shall respect and abide by all laws and regulations in force in the partner country and shall ensure that its staff, their dependents, and its local employees also respect and abide by all such laws and regulations. The contractor shall indemnify the contracting authority against any claims and proceedings arising from any infringement by the contractor, its employees and their dependents of such laws and regulations.

Contractors must ensure that there is no detection of subcontractors, natural persons, including participants to workshops and/or trainings in the lists of EU restrictive measures.

- 7.5. Should any unforeseen event, action or omission directly or indirectly hamper performance of the contract, either partially or totally, the contractor shall immediately and at its own initiative record it and report it to the contracting authority. The report shall include a description of the problem and an indication of the date on which it started and of the remedial action taken by the contractor to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the contract. In such event the contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.
- 7.6. Subject to Article 7.8, the contractor undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to the performance of the contract without the prior consent of the contracting authority. The contractor shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks and shall obtain from each member of its staff the same undertaking. However, use of the contract's reference for marketing or tendering purposes does not require prior approval of the contracting authority, except where the contracting authority declares the contract to be confidential.
- 7.7. If the contractor is a joint venture or a consortium of two or more persons, all such persons shall be jointly and severally bound in respect of the obligations under the contract,

including any recoverable amount. The person designated by the consortium to act on its behalf for the purposes of the contract shall have the authority to bind the consortium and is the sole interlocutor for all contractual and financial aspects. The composition or the constitution of the joint venture or consortium shall not be altered without the prior consent of the contracting authority. Any alteration of the composition of the consortium without the prior consent of the contracting authority may result in the termination of the contract.

- 7.8. Save where the European Commission requests or agrees otherwise, the contractor shall ensure the highest visibility to the financial contribution of the European Union. To ensure such publicity the contractor shall implement among other actions the specific activities described in the special conditions. All measures must comply with the rules in the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions published by the European Commission.
- 7.9. Any records shall be kept for a 7-year period after the final payment made under the contract as laid down in Article 24. These documents comprise any documentation concerning income and expenditure and any inventory, necessary for the checking of supporting documents, including timesheets, plane and transport tickets, pay slips or invoices for the remuneration paid to the experts and invoices or receipts for incidental expenditure. In case of failure to maintain such records the contracting authority may, without formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanction for breach of contract provided for in Articles 34 and 36.

ARTICLE 8. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 8.1. The contractor shall at all-time act impartially and as a faithful adviser in accordance with the code of conduct of its profession as well as with appropriate discretion. It shall refrain from making any public statements concerning the project or the services without the prior approval of the contracting authority. It shall not commit the contracting authority in any way whatsoever without its prior consent, and shall make this obligation clear to third parties.
- 8.2. Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other form of intimidation shall be prohibited. The contractor shall also provide to inform the contracting authority of any breach of ethical standards or code of conduct as set in the present Article. In case the contractor is aware of any violations of the abovementioned standards, he shall report it in writing within 30 days to the contracting authority.
- 8.3. The contractor and its staff shall respect human rights, applicable data protection rules and the environmental legislation applicable in the country where the services have to be rendered and internationally agreed core labour standards, e.g. the ILO core labour standards, conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced and compulsory labour, elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and the abolition of child labour.
- 8.4. The contractor or any of its subcontractors, agents or staff shall not abuse of its entrusted power for private gain. The contractor or any of its subcontractors, agents or staff shall not receive or agree to receive from any person or offer or agree to give to any person or procure for any person, gift, gratuity, commission or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the performance of the contract or for showing favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the contract. The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption.
- 8.5. The payments to the contractor under the contract shall constitute the only income or benefit it may derive in connection with the contract. The contractor and its staff must not exercise any activity or receive any advantage inconsistent with their obligations under the contract.

8.6. The execution of the contract shall not give rise to unusual commercial expenses. Unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a recipient who is not clearly identified or commission paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company. The contracting authority and the European Commission may carry out documentary or on-the-spot checks they deems necessary to find evidence in case of suspected unusual commercial expenses.

8.7. The respect of the code of conduct set out in the present article constitutes a contractual obligation.

Failure to comply with the code of conduct is always deemed to be a breach of the contract under Article 34 of the General Conditions. In addition, failure to comply with the provisions set out in the present Article can be qualified as grave professional misconduct that may lead to either suspension or termination of the contract, without prejudice to the application of administrative sanctions including exclusion from participation in future contract award procedures.

ARTICLE 9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.1. The contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent or end any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests, which may arise during performance of the contract, shall be notified to the contracting authority without delay. In the event of such conflict, the contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

9.2. The contracting authority reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken if necessary. The contractor shall ensure that its staff, including its management, is not placed in a situation, which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to its obligations under the contract, the contractor shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the contracting authority, any member of its staff exposed to such a situation.

9.3. The contractor shall refrain from any contact which would compromise its independence or that of its staff.

9.4. The contractor shall limit its role in connection with the project to the provision of the services described in the contract.

9.5. The contractor and anyone working under its authority or control in the performance of the contract or on any other activity may be excluded from access to other EU budget/EDF funds available under the same project. However, if the contractor is able to prove that his involvement in previous stages of the project does not constitute unfair competition, he may participate, subject to the prior approval of the contracting authority.

9.6. Civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the country where the services have to be rendered, regardless of their administrative situation, shall not be recruited as experts unless the prior approval has been granted by the European Commission.

ARTICLE 10. ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

10.1. Without prejudice to the application of other remedies laid down in the contract, a sanction of exclusion from all contracts and grants financed by the EU may be imposed, after an adversarial procedure in line with the applicable Financial Regulation, upon the contractor who, in particular,

a) is guilty of grave professional misconduct, has committed irregularities or has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of the contract

or has been circumventing fiscal, social or any other applicable legal obligations, including through the creation of an entity for this purpose. The duration of the exclusion shall not exceed the duration set by final judgement or final administrative decision or, in the absence thereof, three years;

b) is guilty of fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorist-related offences, child labour or trafficking in human beings. The duration of the exclusion shall not exceed the duration set by final judgement or final administrative decision or, in the absence thereof, five years.

10.2. In the situations mentioned in Article 10.1, in addition or in alternative to the sanction of exclusion, the contractor may also be subject to financial penalties up to 10% of the total value of the contract.

10.3. Where the contracting authority is entitled to impose financial penalties, it may deduct such financial penalties from any sums due to the contractor or call on the appropriate guarantee.

10.4. The decision to impose administrative sanctions may be published on a dedicated internet-site, explicitly naming the contractor.

ARTICLE 11. SPECIFICATIONS AND DESIGNS

11.1. The contractor shall prepare all specifications and designs using accepted and generally recognised systems acceptable to the contracting authority and taking into account the latest design criteria.

11.2. The contractor shall ensure that the specifications and designs and all documentation relating to procurement of goods and services for the project are prepared on an impartial basis so as to promote competitive tendering.

ARTICLE 12. LIABILITIES

12.1. Liability for damage to services

Without prejudice to Article 30 (financial guarantee) and Article 38 (force majeure), the contractor shall assume (i) full responsibility for maintaining the integrity of services and (ii) the risk of loss and damage, whatever their cause, until the completion of the implementation of the tasks and approval of reports and documents under Articles 26 and 27.

After the completion of the implementation of the tasks, the contractor shall be responsible for and shall indemnify the contracting authority for any damage caused to the services by the contractor, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable, during any operation performed to complete any work left, as the case may be, pending or to comply with its obligations under Articles 26 and 27, particularly if the contract is performed in phases.

Compensation for damage to the services resulting from the contractor's liability in respect of the contracting authority is capped at the contract value.

However, compensation for loss or damage resulting from fraud or gross negligence of the contractor, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable, can in no case be capped.

The contractor shall remain responsible for any breach of its obligations under the contract for such period after the services have been performed as may be determined by the law governing the contract, even after approval of the reports and documents, or by default for a period of 10 years.

12.2. Contractor's liability in respect of the contracting authority

At any time, the contractor shall be responsible for and shall indemnify the contracting authority for any damage caused during the performance of the services, to the contracting authority by the contractor, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable.

Compensation for damage resulting from the contractor's liability in respect of the contracting authority is capped at an amount equal to one million euros if the contract value is less than or equal to one million euros. If the contract value is greater than one million euros, compensation for damages resulting from the contractor's liability shall be capped to the contract value.

However, compensation for loss or damage resulting from the contractor's liability in case of bodily injury, including death, can in no case be capped. The same applies to compensation for any damages of any kind resulting from fraud or gross negligence of the contractor, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable.

12.3. Contractor's liability in respect of third parties

Without prejudice to Article 14.9, the contractor shall, at its own expense, indemnify, protect and defend, the contracting authority, its agents and employees, from and against all actions, claims, losses or damage, direct or indirect, of whatever nature (hereinafter 'claim(s)') arising from any act or omission by the contractor, its staff, its subcontractors and/or any person for which the contractor is answerable, in the performance of the services, including any violation of any legal provisions, or rights of third parties, in respect of patents, trademarks and other forms of intellectual property such as copyrights.

The contracting authority must notify any third party claim to the contractor as soon as possible after the contracting authority becomes aware of them.

If the contracting authority chooses to challenge and defend itself against the claim(s), the contractor shall bear the reasonable costs of defense incurred by the contracting authority, its agents and employees.

Under these general conditions, the agents and employees of the contracting authority, as well as the contractor's staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable are considered to be third parties.

12.4. The contractor shall treat all claims in close consultation with the contracting authority

12.5. Any settlement or agreement settling a claim requires the prior express written consent of the contracting authority and the contractor.

ARTICLE 13. MEDICAL, INSURANCE AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

13.1. Medical arrangement

The contracting authority may condition the performance of the services to the production, by the contractor, of a recent medical certificate attesting that the contractor itself, its staff, its subcontractors and/or any person for which the contractor is answerable, are fit to implement the services required under this contract.

13.2. Insurance – general issues

- a) At the latest together with the return of the countersigned contract, and for the period of implementation of the tasks, the contractor shall ensure that itself, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable, are adequately insured with insurance companies recognized on the international insurance market, unless the contracting authority has given its express written consent on a specific insurance company.
- b) At the latest together with the return of the countersigned contract, the contractor shall provide the contracting authority with all cover notes and/or certificates of insurance showing that the contractor's obligations relating to insurance are fully respected. The contractor shall submit without delay, whenever the contracting authority or the project manager so requests, an updated version of the cover notes and/or certificates of insurance.

The contractor shall obtain from the insurers that they commit to personally and directly inform the contracting authority of any event likely to reduce, cancel or alter in any manner whatsoever, that coverage. The insurers shall deliver this information as quickly as possible, and in any event at least thirty (30) days before the reduction, cancellation or alteration of the cover is effective. The contracting authority reserves the right to indemnify the insurer in case

the contractor fails to pay the premium, without prejudice to the contracting authority's right to recover the amount of the premium it paid, and to subsequently seek compensation for its possible resulting damage.

- c) Whenever possible, the contractor shall ensure that the subscribed insurance contracts contain a waiver of recourse in favour of the contracting authority, its agents and employees.
- d) The purchase of adequate insurances by the contractor shall in no case exempt it from its statutory and/or contractual liabilities.
- e) The contractor shall fully bear the consequences of a total or partial lack of coverage, and to the full discharge of the contracting authority.
- f) The contractor shall ensure that its staff, its subcontractors and any person for whom the contractor is answerable comply with the same insurance requirements imposed to it under this contract. In case of default of insurance or inadequate insurance of its staff, its subcontractors or any person for which the contractor is answerable, the contractor shall indemnify the contracting authority from all consequences resulting therefrom.
- g) Under its own responsibility and without prejudice to the obligation to take out all insurance covering its obligations under this contract, the contractor shall ensure that all compulsory insurances are subscribed in compliance with the laws and regulations in force in the country in which the services are to be performed. It shall also ensure that all possible statutory obligations applying to the coverage are complied with.
- h) The contracting authority shall not bear any liability for the assessment and adequacy of insurance policies taken out by the contractor with its contractual and/or statutory obligations.
- i) In any event, the contractor shall take out the insurance referred to below.

13.3. Insurance – Specific issues

- a) The contractor shall take out all insurance necessary to cover its liability, both with regard to its professional liability and its liability as provided under Article 12.
- b) The contractor shall ensure that itself, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable, are covered by an insurance policy covering, in addition to the possible intervention of any statutory insurance:
 - i. all medical expenses, including hospital expenses;
 - ii. the full cost of repatriation in case of illness, accident, or in the event of death by disease or accident;
 - iii. accidental death or permanent disability resulting from bodily injury incurred in connection with the contract.

In the absence of adequate insurance, the contracting authority may bear such costs to the benefit of the contractor itself, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable. This bearing of the costs by the contracting authority shall be subsidiary and may be claimed against the contractor, its subcontractors and any person who should have taken out this insurance, without prejudice to the compensation of the contracting authority's possibly resulting damage.

- c) The contractor shall take out insurance policies providing coverage of the contractor itself, its staff, its subcontractors and any person for which the contractor is answerable, in case of an accident at work or on the way to work. It shall ensure that its subcontractors do the same. It indemnifies the contracting authority against any claims that its employees or those of its subcontractors could have in this regard. For its permanent expatriate staff, where appropriate,

the contractor shall in addition comply with the laws and regulations applicable in the country of origin.

- d) The contractor shall also insure the personal effects of its employees, experts and their families located in the partner country against loss or damage.

13.4. Security arrangements

The contractor shall put in place security measures for its employees, experts and their families located in the partner country commensurate with the physical danger (possibly) facing them.

The contractor shall also be responsible for monitoring the level of physical risk to which its employees, experts and their families located in the partner country are exposed and for keeping the contracting authority informed of the situation. If the contracting authority or the contractor becomes aware of an imminent threat to the life or health of any of its employees, experts or their families, the contractor must take immediate emergency action to remove the individuals concerned to safety. If the contractor takes such action, he must communicate this immediately to the project manager and this may lead to suspension of the contract in accordance with Article 35.

ARTICLE 14. INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

14.1.A 'result' shall be any outcome of the implementation of the contract and provided as such by the contractor.

14.2. The ownership of all the results or rights thereon as listed in the tender specification and the tender attached to the contract, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, and all technological solutions and information embodied therein, obtained in performance of the contract, shall be irrevocably and fully vested to the contracting authority from the moment these results or rights are delivered to it and accepted by it. The contracting authority may use them as it sees fit and in particular may store, modify, translate, display, reproduce, publish or communicate by any medium, as well as, assign, transfer them as it sees fit.

14.3. For the avoidance of doubt and where applicable, any such vesting of rights is also deemed to constitute an effective transfer of the rights from the contractor to the contracting authority.

14.4. The above vesting of rights in the contracting authority under this contract covers all territories worldwide and is valid for the whole duration of intellectual or industrial property rights protection, unless stipulated otherwise by the contracting authority and the contractor.

14.5. The contractor shall ensure that delivered results are free of rights or claims from third parties including in relation to pre-existing rights, for any use envisaged by the contracting authority. If the contracting authority so requires, the contractor shall provide exhaustive proof of ownership or rights to use all necessary rights, as well as, of all relevant agreements of the creator(s).

14.6. All reports and data such as maps, diagrams, drawings, specifications, plans, statistics, computations, databases format and data, software and any supporting records or materials acquired, compiled or prepared by the contractor in the performance of the contract, as well as, any outcome of the implementation of the contract, shall be the absolute property of the contracting authority unless otherwise specified. The contractor shall, upon completion of the contract, deliver all such documents and data to the contracting authority. The contractor must not retain copies of such documents and data and must not use them for purposes unrelated to the contract without the prior consent of the contracting authority.

14.7. The contractor shall not publish articles relating to the services or refer to them when carrying out any services for others, or divulge information obtained by the contractor in the course of the contract for purposes other than its performance, without the prior consent of the contracting authority.

- 14.8. By delivering the results, the contractor warrants that the above transfer of rights does not violate any law or infringe any rights of others and that it possesses the relevant rights or powers to execute the transfer. It also warrants that it has paid or has verified payment of all fees including fees to collecting societies, related to the final results.
- 14.9. The contractor shall indemnify and hold the contracting authority harmless for all damages and cost incurred due to any claim brought by any third party including creators and intermediaries for any alleged breach of any intellectual, industrial or other property right based on the contracting authority's use as specified in the contract of patents, licenses, drawings, designs, models, or brand or trade-marks, except where such infringement results from compliance with the design or specification provided by the contracting authority.

NATURE OF THE SERVICES

ARTICLE 15. THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES

- 15.1. The scope of the services is specified in Annex II and Annex III.
- 15.2. Where the contract is for an advisory function for the benefit of the contracting authority and/or project manager in respect of all the technical aspects of the project, which may arise out of its implementation, the contractor shall not have decision-making responsibility.
- 15.3. Where the contract is for management of the implementation of the project, the contractor shall assume all the duties of management inherent in supervising the implementation of a project, subject to the project manager's authority.
- 15.4. If the contractor is required to prepare a tender dossier, the dossier shall contain all documents necessary for consulting suitable contractors, manufacturers and suppliers, and for preparing tender procedures with a view to carrying out the works or providing the supplies or services covered by an invitation to tender. The contracting authority shall provide the contractor with the information necessary for drawing up the administrative part of the tender dossier.

ARTICLE 16. STAFF

- 16.1. For fee-based contracts, without prejudice to paragraph 4 of this Article, the contractor must inform the contracting authority of all staff which the contractor intends to use for the implementation of the tasks, other than the key experts whose CVs are included in Annex IV. Annex II and/or Annex III shall specify the minimum level of training, qualifications and experience of the staff and, where appropriate, the specialisation required. The contracting authority shall have the right to oppose the contractor's choice of staff.
- 16.2. All those working on the project with the approval of the contracting authority shall commence their duties on the date or within the period laid down in Annex II and/or Annex III, or, failing this, on the date or within the periods notified to the contractor by the contracting authority or the project manager.
- 16.3. Save as otherwise provided in the contract, those working on the contract shall reside close to their normal place of posting. Where part of the services is to be performed outside the partner country, the contractor shall keep the project manager informed of the names and qualifications of staff assigned to that part of the services.
- 16.4. The contractor shall:
- (a) forward to the project manager within 30 days of the signature of the contract by both parties, the timetable proposed for placement of the staff;
 - (b) inform the project manager of the date of arrival and departure of each member of staff;

- (c) submit to the project manager for its approval a timely request for the appointment of any non-key experts.

16.5. The contractor shall provide its staff with all financial and technical means needed to enable them to carry out their tasks described under this contract efficiently.

16.6. No recruitment of an expert by the contractor can create contractual relations between the expert and the contracting authority.

ARTICLE 17. REPLACEMENT OF STAFF

17.1. The contractor shall not make changes to the agreed staff without the prior approval of the contracting authority. The contractor must on its own initiative propose a replacement in the following cases:

- (a) In the event of death, in the event of illness or in the event of accident of an agreed staff;
- (b) If it becomes necessary to replace an agreed staff for any other reasons beyond the contractor's control (e.g. resignation, etc.).

17.2. In the course of performance, the contracting authority can order an agreed staff to be replaced. This shall be done on the basis of a written and justified request to which the contractor and the agreed staff have had the opportunity to provide observations.

17.3. Where an agreed staff must be replaced, the replacement must possess at least equivalent qualifications and experience, and the remuneration to be paid to the replacement cannot exceed that received by the agreed staff who has been replaced. Where the contractor is unable to provide a replacement with equivalent qualifications and/or experience, the contracting authority may either decide to terminate the contract, if the proper performance of it is jeopardised, or, if it considers that this is not the case, accept the replacement, provided that the fees of the latter are renegotiated to reflect the appropriate remuneration level.

17.4. Additional costs incurred by the replacement of an agreed staff are the responsibility of the contractor. The contracting authority makes no payment for the period when the agreed staff to be replaced is absent. The replacement of any agreed staff, whose name is listed in Annex IV of the contract, must be proposed by the contractor within 15 calendar days from the first day of the agreed staff's absence. If after this period the contractor fails to propose a replacement in accordance with Article 17.3 above, the contracting authority may apply liquidated damages up to 10% of the remaining fees of that expert to be replaced. The contracting authority must approve or reject the proposed replacement within 30 days.

17.5. The partner country may be notified of the identity of the agreed staff proposed to be added or replaced in the contract to obtain its approval. The partner country must not withhold its approval unless it submits duly substantiated and justified objections to the proposed experts in writing to the contracting authority within 15 days of the date of the request for approval.

ARTICLE 18. TRAINEES

18.1. If required in the terms of reference, the contractor shall provide training for the period of implementation of the tasks for trainees assigned to it by the contracting authority under the terms of the contract.

18.2. Instruction by the contractor of such trainees shall not confer on them the status of employees of the contractor. However, they must comply with the contractor's instructions, and with the provisions of article 8, as if they were employees of the contractor. The contractor may on reasoned request in writing obtain the replacement of any trainee whose work or conduct is unsatisfactory.

18.3. Unless otherwise provided in the contract, allowance for trainees covering notably travel, accommodation and all other expenses incurred by the trainees shall be borne by the contracting authority.

18.4. The contractor shall report at quarterly intervals to the contracting authority on the training assignment. Immediately prior to the end of the period of implementation of the tasks, the contractor shall draw up a report on the result of the training and an assessment of the qualifications obtained by the trainees with a view to their future employment. The form of such reports and the procedure for presenting them shall be as laid down in the terms of reference.

PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

ARTICLE 19. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASKS AND DELAYS

19.1. The special conditions fix the date on which implementation of the tasks is to commence.

19.2. The period of implementation of tasks shall commence on the date fixed in accordance with Article 19.1 and shall be as laid down in the special conditions, without prejudice to extensions of the period which may be granted.

19.3. If the contractor fails to perform the services within the period of implementation of the tasks specified in the contract, the contracting authority shall, without formal notice and without prejudice to its other remedies under the contract, be entitled to liquidated damages for every day which shall elapse between the end of the period of implementation of the tasks specified in the contract and the actual date of completion of these tasks.

19.4. The daily rate for liquidated damages is calculated by dividing the contract value by the number of days of the period of implementation of the tasks, up to a maximum of 15% of the total value of the contract.

19.5. If the contracting authority has become entitled to claim 15% of the contract value, it may, after giving notice to the contractor:

- (a) terminate the contract, and;
- (b) enter into a contract with a third party to complete the services, at the contractor's cost.

ARTICLE 20. AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT

20.1. Any amendment to the contract affecting its object or scope, such as amendment to the total contract amount, replacement of an agreed staff the curriculum vitae of which is part of the contract and change of the period of implementation shall be formalised by means of an addendum. Both parties may request an addendum for amendment to the contract according to the following principles:

- (a) An addendum for amendment may be requested only during the period of execution of the contract;
- (b) Any request for an addendum shall be submitted in writing to the other party at least thirty days before the date on which the intended addendum is required to enter into force. In case of special circumstances duly substantiated by the contractor, the contracting authority may accept a different notice period.

The requested party shall notify the requesting party of its decision concerning the request within 30 days from its receipt. There is no automatic amendment without written confirmation by the requested party.

20.2. Additionally, the project manager has the power to issue administrative orders requesting an amendment to the contract not affecting its object or scope, including on request of the contractor, according to the following principles:

- a) The requested contract amendment may take the form of additions, omissions, substitutions, changes in quality, quantity, specified sequence, method or timetable of implementation of the services;
- b) Prior to the issuance of any administrative order, the project manager shall notify the contractor of the nature and the form of the proposed amendment.

The contractor shall then, without delay, submit to the project manager a written proposal containing:

- (i) all measures required to comply with the requested amendment,
- (ii) an updated timetable for implementation of the tasks, and,
- (iii) if necessary, a proposed financial adjustment to the contract, using the contractual fee rates when the tasks are similar. When the tasks are not similar, the contractual fee rates shall be applied when reasonable.

Following receipt of the contractor's proposal, the project manager shall decide as soon as possible whether or not the amendment shall be carried out.

If the project manager decides that the amendment shall be carried out, it shall notify the contractor through an administrative order stating that the contractor shall carry out the amendment at the prices and under the conditions given in the contractor's proposal or as modified by the project manager in agreement with the contractor.

- c) On receipt of the administrative order, the contractor shall carry out the amendments detailed in that administrative order as if such amendments were stated in the contract.
- d) For fee-based contracts, administrative orders that have an impact on the contractual budget are limited to transfers within the fees, or transfers from the fees to the incidental expenditures, within the limits of Article 20.3.
- e) For global price contracts, administrative orders cannot have an impact on the contractual budget.

20.3. No amendment either by means of addendum or through administrative order shall lead to decreasing the amount within the contractual budget allocated to expenditure verification, or change the award conditions prevailing at the time the contract was awarded.

20.4. Any amendment carried out by the contractor without an administrative order or without an addendum to the contract is not allowed and made at the contractor's own financial risk.

20.5. Where an amendment is required by a default or breach of contract by the contractor, any additional cost attributable to such amendment shall be borne by the contractor.

20.6. The contractor shall notify the contracting authority of any change of address and bank account using the form in Annex VI to notify any change in its bank account. The contracting authority shall have the right to oppose the contractor's change of bank account. The contractor shall notify the contracting authority of any change of auditor, which the contracting authority needs to approve.

ARTICLE 21. WORKING HOURS

21.1. The days and hours of work of the contractor or the contractor's staff shall respect the laws, regulations and customs of the country where the services have to be rendered and the requirements of the services.

ARTICLE 22. LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

- 22.1. For fee-based contracts, the annual leave to be taken during the period of implementation of the tasks shall be at a time approved by the project manager.
- 22.2. For fee-based contracts, the fee rates are deemed to take into account the annual leave of up to 2 months for the contractor's staff during the period of implementation of the tasks. Consequently, days taken as annual leave shall not be considered to be working days.
- 22.3. The contractor shall only be paid for the days actually worked. Any cost related to sick or casual leave shall be covered by the contractor. The contractor shall inform the project manager of any impact of such leave on the period of implementation of the tasks.

ARTICLE 23. INFORMATION

- 23.1. The contractor shall provide any information relating to the services and the project to the project manager, the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors or any person authorised by the contracting authority.
- 23.2. The contractor shall allow the project manager or any person authorised by the contracting authority or the contracting authority itself to inspect or audit the records and accounts relating to the services and to make copies thereof both during and after provision of the services.

ARTICLE 24. RECORDS

- 24.1. The contractor shall keep full accurate and systematic records and accounts in respect of the services in such form and detail as is sufficient to establish accurately that the number of working days and the actual incidental expenditure identified in the contractor's invoice(s) have been duly incurred for the performance of the services.
- 24.2. For fee-based contracts, timesheets recording the days or hours worked by the contractor's staff shall be maintained by the contractor. The timesheets filled in by the experts shall be confirmed on a monthly basis by the contractor and shall be approved by the project manager or any person authorised by the contracting authority or the contracting authority itself. The amounts invoiced by the contractor must correspond to these timesheets. Time spent travelling exclusively and necessarily for the purpose of the implementation of the contract, by the most direct route, may be included in the numbers of days or hours, as appropriate, recorded in these timesheets. Travel undertaken by the expert for mobilisation and demobilisation as well as for leave purposes shall not be considered as working days. A minimum of 7 hours worked are deemed to be equivalent to one day worked. For all experts, their time input shall be rounded to the nearest whole number of days worked for the purposes of invoicing.
- 24.3. Any records must be kept for a seven year period after the final payment made under the contract. These documents comprise any documentation concerning income and expenditure and any inventory, necessary for the checking of supporting documents, including timesheets, plane and transport tickets, pay slips for the remuneration paid to the experts and invoices or receipts for incidental expenditure. In case of failure to maintain such records the contracting authority may, without formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanction for breach of contract provided for in Articles 34 and 36.

ARTICLE 25. VERIFICATIONS, CHECKS AND AUDITS BY EUROPEAN UNION BODIES

- 25.1. The contractor shall allow the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Court of Auditors to verify, by examining the documents and to make copies thereof or by means of on-the-spot checks, including checks of documents (original or copies), the implementation of the contract. In order to carry out these verifications and audits, European Union bodies mentioned above shall be allowed to conduct a full audit, if necessary, on the basis of supporting documents for the accounts,

accounting documents and any other document relevant to the financing of the contract. The contractor shall ensure that on-the-spot accesses is available at all reasonable times, notably at the contractor's offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out the audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the contract. The contractor shall ensure that the information is readily available at the moment of the audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form. These inspections may take place up to seven years after the final payment.

25.2. Furthermore, the contractor shall allow the European Anti-Fraud Office to carry out checks and verification on the spot in accordance with the procedures set out in the European Union legislation for the protection of the financial interests of the European Union against fraud and other irregularities.

25.3. To this end, the contractor undertakes to give appropriate access to staff or agents of the European Commission, of the European Anti-Fraud Office and of the European Court of Auditors to the sites and locations at which the contract is carried out, including its information systems, as well as all documents and databases concerning the technical and financial management of the project and to take all steps to facilitate their work. Access given to agents of the European Commission, European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Court of Auditors shall be on the basis of confidentiality with respect to third parties, without prejudice to the obligations of public law to which they are subject. Documents shall be easily accessible and filed so as to facilitate their examination. The contractor shall inform the contracting authority of their precise location.

25.4. The contractor guarantees that the rights of the European Commission, of the European Anti-Fraud Office and of the European Court of Auditors to carry out audits, checks and verification shall be equally applicable, under the same conditions and according to the same rules as those set out in this Article, to any subcontractor or any other party benefiting from EU budget/EDF funds.

25.5. Failure to comply with the obligations set forth in Article 25.1 to 25.4 constitutes a case of serious breach of contract.

ARTICLE 26. INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS

26.1. Unless otherwise provided in the terms of reference, the contractor shall draw up interim reports and a final report during the period of implementation of the tasks. These reports shall consist of a narrative section and a financial section. The format of such reports is as notified to the contractor by the project manager during the period of implementation of the tasks.

26.2. All invoices must be accompanied by an interim or final report. All invoices for fee-based contracts must also be accompanied by an up to date financial report and an invoice for the actual costs of the expenditure verification. The structure of the interim or final financial report shall be the same as that of the contractually approved budget (Annex V). This financial report shall indicate, at a minimum, the expenditure of the reporting period, the cumulative expenditure and the balance available.

26.3. Immediately prior to the end of the period of implementation of the tasks, the contractor shall draw up a final progress report together which must include, if appropriate, a critical study of any major problems which may have arisen during the performance of the contract.

26.4. This final progress report shall be forwarded to the project manager not later than 60 days after the end of the period of implementation of the tasks. Such report shall not bind the contracting authority.

26.5. Where the contract is performed in phases, the implementation of each phase shall give rise to the preparation of a final progress report by the contractor.

26.6. Interim and final progress reports are covered by the provisions of Article 14.

ARTICLE 27. APPROVAL OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

- 27.1. The approval by the contracting authority of reports and documents drawn up and forwarded by the contractor shall certify that they comply with the terms of the contract.
- 27.2. Where a report or document is approved by the contracting authority subject to amendments to be made by the contractor, the contracting authority shall prescribe a period for making the amendments requested.
- 27.3. Where the final progress report is not approved, the dispute settlement procedure is automatically invoked.
- 27.4. Where the contract is performed in phases, the implementation of each phase shall be subject to the approval, by the contracting authority, of the preceding phase except where the phases are carried out concurrently.
- 27.5. The contracting authority's time limit for accepting reports or documents shall be considered included in the time limit for payments indicated in Article 29, unless otherwise specified in the special conditions.

PAYMENTS & DEBT RECOVERY

ARTICLE 28. EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION

- 28.1. No expenditure verification report is required for global price contracts.
- 28.2. Before payments are made for fee-based contracts, an external auditor must examine and verify the invoices and the financial reports sent by the contractor to the contracting authority. The auditor shall meet the requirements set out in the terms of reference for expenditure verification and shall be approved by the contracting authority.
- 28.3. The auditor must satisfy itself that relevant, reliable and sufficient evidence exists that:
- (a) the experts employed by the contractor for the contract have been working as evidenced on the contract (as corroborated by independent, third-party evidence, where available) for the number of days claimed in the contractor's invoices and in the financial reporting spreadsheet submitted with the interim progress reports; and
 - (b) the amounts claimed as incidental expenditure have actually and necessarily been incurred by the contractor in accordance with the requirements of the terms of reference of the contract.

On the basis of its verification, the auditor submits to the contractor an expenditure verification report in accordance with the model in Annex VII.

- 28.4. The contractor grants the auditor all access rights mentioned in Article 25.
- 28.5. The contracting authority reserves the right to require that the auditor be replaced if considerations, which were unknown when the contract was signed, cast doubt on the auditor's independence or professional standards.

ARTICLE 29. PAYMENT AND INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENT

- 29.1. Payments will be made in accordance with one of the options below, as identified in the special conditions.

Option 1: Fee-based contract:

The contracting authority will make payments to the contractor in the following manner:

1. A first payment of pre-financing, if requested by the contractor, of an amount up to maximum 20% of the maximum contract value stated in point 2 of the contract, within 30 days of receipt by the contracting authority of an invoice, of the contract

signed by both parties, and of a financial guarantee if requested, as defined in Article 30.

2. Six-monthly further interim payments, as indicated in the special conditions, within 60 days of the contracting authority receiving an invoice accompanied by an interim progress report and an expenditure verification report, subject to approval of those reports in accordance with Article 27. Such interim payments shall be of an amount equivalent to the costs incurred on the basis of the expenditure verification reports. When 80 % of the maximum contract value stated in point 2 of the contract has been paid (pre-financing and interim payments) the amounts due to the contractor shall be deducted from the pre-financing payment until it is completely reimbursed before any additional payment is made.
3. The invoices must be paid such that the sum of payments does not exceed 90% of the maximum contract value stated in point 2 of the contract; the 10% being the minimum final payment.
4. The balance of the final value of the contract after verification, subject to the maximum contract value stated in point 2 of the contract, after deduction of the amounts already paid, within 90 days of the contracting authority receiving a final invoice accompanied by the final progress report and a final expenditure verification report, subject to approval of those reports in accordance with Article 27.

Option 2: Global price contract:

If the contract is not divided between different outputs that the contracting authority can approve independently, or has a duration of less than two years, the contracting authority will make payments to the contractor in the following manner:

1. a pre-financing payment if requested by the contractor, of an amount up to 40% of the contract value stated in point 2 of the contract within 30 days of receipt by the contracting authority of an invoice, of the contract signed by both parties, and of a financial guarantee if requested, as defined in Article 30;
2. the balance of the contract value stated in point 2 of the contract within 90 days of the contracting authority receiving a final invoice accompanied by the final progress report, subject to approval of that report in accordance with Article 27.

If the contract has a duration of at least two years and if the budget is divided between different outputs that the contracting authority can approve independently, the contracting authority will make payments to the contractor in the following manner:

1. a pre-financing payment if requested by the contractor, of an amount up to 40% of the contract value stated in point 2 of the contract within 30 days of receipt by the contracting authority of an invoice, of the contract signed by both parties, and of a financial guarantee if requested, as defined in Article 30;
2. one interim payment at the end of each 12 months of implementation of the contract, of an amount corresponding to the outputs delivered, within 60 days of the contracting authority receiving an invoice accompanied by an interim progress report, subject to approval of this report in accordance with Article 27;
3. The invoices must be paid such that the sum of payments does not exceed 90% of the maximum contract value stated in point 2 of the contract; the 10% being the minimum final payment.
4. the balance of the contract value stated in point 2 of the contract within 90 days of the contracting authority receiving a final invoice accompanied by the final progress report, subject to approval of that report in accordance with Article 27.

29.2. The date of payment shall be the date on which the paying account is debited. The invoice shall not be admissible if one or more essential requirements are not met. Without

prejudice to Article 36.2, the contracting authority may halt the countdown towards this deadline for any part of the invoiced amount disputed by the project manager by notifying the contractor that part of the invoice is inadmissible, either because the amount in question is not due or because the relevant report cannot be approved and the contracting authority thinks it necessary to conduct further checks. In such cases, the contracting authority shall not unreasonably withhold any undisputed part of the invoiced amount but may request clarification, alteration or additional information, which shall be produced within 30 days of the request. The countdown towards the deadline shall resume on the date on which a correctly formulated invoice is received by the contracting authority. If part of the invoice is disputed, the undisputed amount of the invoice shall not be withheld and must be paid according to the payment schedule set in Article 29.1.

29.3. Once the deadline referred to above has expired, the contractor - unless it is a government department or public body in an EU Member State - shall, within two months of receiving late payment, receive default interest:

- at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing transactions in euro, as published in the Official Journal of the European Union, C series, where payments are in euro,
- at the rediscount rate applied by the central bank of the country of the contracting authority if payments are in the currency of that country,

on the first day of the month in which the time-limit expired, plus eight percentage points. The interest be payable for the time elapses between the expiry of the payment deadline (exclusive) and the date on which the contracting authority's account is debited (inclusive).

By way of exception, when the interest calculated in accordance with the first subparagraph is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it shall be paid to the creditor only upon a demand submitted within two months of receiving late payment.

29.4. Payments due by the contracting authority shall be made into the bank account mentioned on the financial identification form completed by the contractor. A new financial identification form must be used to report any change of bank account and must be attached to the invoice.

29.5. Payments shall be made in euro or in the national currency as specified in the special conditions. The special conditions shall lay down the administrative or technical conditions governing payments of pre-financing, interim and/or final payments made in accordance with the general conditions. Where payment is in Euro, for the purposes of the provision for incidental expenditure, actual expenditure shall be converted into Euro at the rate published on the Infor-Euro on the first working day of the month in which the invoice is dated. Where payment is in the national currency, it shall be converted into the national currency at the rate published on the Infor-Euro on the first working day of the month in which the payment is made.

29.6. For fee-based contracts, invoices shall be accompanied by copies of, or extracts from, the corresponding approved timesheets referred to in Article 24.2 to verify the amount invoiced for the time input of the experts. A minimum of 7 hours worked are deemed to be equivalent to one day worked. For all experts, their time input must be rounded to the nearest whole number of days worked for the purposes of invoicing.

29.7. Payment of the final balance shall be subject to performance by the contractor of all its obligations relating to the implementation of all phases or parts of the services and to the approval by the contracting authority of the final phase or part of the services. Final payment shall be made only after the final progress report and a final statement, identified as such, shall have been submitted by the contractor and approved as satisfactory by the contracting authority.

- 29.8. The payment obligations of the European Commission under the contract shall cease at most 18 months after the end of the period of implementation of the tasks, unless the contract is terminated in accordance with these general conditions.
- 29.9. Prior to, or instead of, terminating the contract as provided for in Article 36, the contracting authority may suspend payments as a precautionary measure without prior notice. A payment may be suspended for the duration of an audit or an OLAF investigation.
- 29.10. Where the award procedure or the performance of the contract proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud attributable to the contractor, the contracting authority may in addition to the possibility to suspend the performance of the contract in accordance with Article 35.2 and terminate the contract as provided for in Article 36, suspend payments and/or recover amounts already paid, in proportion to the seriousness of the breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. In addition to measures referred above, the contracting authority may reduce the contract value in proportion to the seriousness of the irregularities, fraud or of the breach of obligations, including where the activities concerned were not implemented or were implemented poorly, partially or late.
- 29.11. If the contract is terminated for any reason whatsoever, the guarantee securing the pre-financing may be invoked forthwith in order to repay the balance of the pre-financing still owed by the contractor, and the guarantor shall not delay payment or raise objection for any reason whatever.

ARTICLE 30. FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

- 30.1. Unless otherwise provided for in the special conditions, the contractor shall provide a financial guarantee for the full amount of the pre-financing payment. The financial guarantee shall be in the format provided for in the contract and may be provided in the form of a bank guarantee, a banker's draft, a certified cheque, a bond provided by an insurance and/or bonding company, an irrevocable letter of credit or a cash deposit made with the contracting authority. If the financial guarantee is to be provided in the form of a bank guarantee, a banker's draft, a certified cheque or a bond, it shall be issued by a bank or bonding and/or insurance company approved by the contracting authority. This financial guarantee shall remain valid until it is released by the contracting authority in accordance with Article 30.5 or Article 30.6, as appropriate. Where the contractor is a public body the obligation for a financial guarantee may be waived depending on a risk assessment made.
- 30.2. The financial guarantee shall be provided on the letterhead of the financial institution using the template provided in Annex VI.
- 30.3. During the execution of the contract, if the natural or legal person providing the guarantee (i) is not able or willing to abide by its commitments, (ii) is not authorised to issue guarantees to contracting authorities, or (iii) appears not to be financially reliable, or the financial guarantee ceases to be valid, and the contractor fails to replace it, either a deduction equal to the amount of the pre-financing may be made by the contracting authority from future payments due to the contractor under the contract, or the contracting authority shall give formal notice to the contractor to provide a new guarantee on the same terms as the previous one. Should the contractor fail to provide a new guarantee, the contracting authority may terminate the contract.
- 30.4. If the contract is terminated for any reason whatsoever, the financial guarantee may be invoked forthwith in order to repay any balance still owed to the contracting authority by the contractor, and the guarantor shall not delay payment or raise objection for any reason whatsoever.
- 30.5. For fee-based contracts, the financial guarantee shall be released when the pre-financing is reimbursed in accordance with Article 29.1.
- 30.6. For global price contracts, (i) if the contract is not divided between different outputs that the contracting authority can approve independently, or has a duration of less than two years,

the financial guarantee shall remain in force until the final payment has been made, and (ii) if the contract has a duration of at least two years and if the budget is divided between different outputs that the contracting authority can approve independently, the financial guarantee shall be released when the pre-financing is reimbursed in accordance with Article 29.1.

ARTICLE 31. RECOVERY OF DEBTS FROM THE CONTRACTOR

31.1. The contractor undertakes to repay any amounts paid in excess of the final amount due to the contracting authority before the deadline indicated in the debit note which is 45 days from the issuing of that note.

31.2. Should the contractor fail to make repayment within the above deadline; the contracting authority may (unless the contractor is a government department or public body of an EU Member State) increase the amounts due by adding interest:

- (a) at the rediscount rate applied by the central bank of the country of the contracting authority if payments are in the currency of that country,
- (b) at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing transactions in euro, as published in the Official Journal of the European Union, C series, where payments are in euro,

on the first day of the month in which the time-limit expired, plus eight percentage points. The default interest shall be incurred over the time which elapses between the date of the payment deadline, and the date on which the payment is actually made. Any partial payments shall first cover the interest thus established.

31.3. Amounts to be repaid to the contracting authority may be offset against amounts of any kind due to the contractor. This shall not affect the party's right to agree on payment in installments.

31.4. Bank charges arising from the repayment of amounts due to the contracting authority shall be borne entirely by the contractor.

31.5. Without prejudice to the prerogative of the contracting authority, if necessary, the European Union may as a donor proceed itself to the recovery by any means.

ARTICLE 32. REVISION OF PRICES

32.1. The contract shall be at fixed prices, which shall not be revised.

ARTICLE 33. PAYMENT TO THIRD PARTIES

33.1. Orders for payments to third parties may be carried out only after an assignment made in accordance with Article 3. The assignment shall be notified to the contracting authority.

33.2. Notification of beneficiaries of the assignment shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor.

33.3. In the event of a legally binding attachment of the property of the contractor affecting payments due to it under the contract and without prejudice to the time limit laid down in Article 29, the contracting authority shall have 30 days, starting from the day when it receives notification of the definitive lifting of the obstacle to payment, to resume payments to the contractor.

BREACH OF CONTRACT, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

ARTICLE 34. BREACH OF CONTRACT

34.1. Either party commits a breach of contract where it fails to perform its obligations in accordance with the provisions of the contract.

34.2. Where a breach of contract occurs, the party injured by the breach is entitled to the following remedies:

- a) damages; and/or
- b) termination of the contract.

34.3. Damages may be either:

- a) general damages; or
- b) liquidated damages.

34.4. Should the contractor fail to perform any of its obligations in accordance with the provisions of the contract, the contracting authority is without prejudice to its right under article 34.2, also entitled to the following remedies;

- a) suspension of payments; and/or
- b) reduction or recovery of payments in proportion to the failure's extent.

34.5. Where the contracting authority is entitled to damages, it may deduct such damages from any sums due to the contractor or call on the appropriate guarantee.

34.6. The contracting authority shall be entitled to compensation for any damage which comes to light after the contract is completed in accordance with the law governing the contract.

ARTICLE 35. SUSPENSION OF THE CONTRACT

35.1. The contractor shall, on the order of the contracting authority, suspend the execution of the contract or any part thereof for such time or times and in such manner as the contracting authority may consider necessary. The suspension shall take effect on the day the contractor receives the order or at a later date when the order so provides.

35.2. Suspension of the contract in the event of presumed breach of obligations or irregularities or fraud: The contract may be suspended in order to verify whether presumed breach of obligations or irregularities or fraud occurred during the award procedure or the performance of the contract. If these are not confirmed, performance of the contract shall resume as soon as possible.

35.3. During the period of suspension, the contractor shall take such protective measures as may be necessary.

35.4. Additional expenses incurred in connection with such protective measures may be added to the contract price, unless:

- a) otherwise provided for in the contract; or
- b) such suspension is necessary by reason of some breach or default of the contractor; or
- c) the presumed breach of obligations or irregularities or fraud mentioned in article 35.2 are confirmed and attributable to the contractor.

35.5. The contractor shall only be entitled to such additions to the contract price if it notifies the project manager, within 30 days after receipt of the order to suspend execution of the contract, of its intention to claim them.

35.6. The contracting authority, after consulting the contractor, shall determine such additions to the contract price and/or extension of the period of performance to be granted to the contractor in respect of such claim as shall, in the opinion of the contracting authority be fair and reasonable.

35.7. The contracting authority shall, as soon as possible, order the contractor to resume the contract suspended or inform the contractor that it terminates the contract. If the period

of suspension exceeds 90 days and the suspension is not due to the contractor's breach or default, the contractor may, by notice to the contracting authority, request to proceed with the contract within 30 days, or terminate the contract.

ARTICLE 36. TERMINATION BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

36.1. The contracting authority may, at any time and with immediate effect, subject to Article 36.8, terminate the contract, except as provided for under Article 36.2.

36.2. Subject to any other provision of these general conditions the contracting authority may, by giving seven days' notice to the contractor, terminate the contract in any of the following cases where:

- (a) the contractor is in serious breach of contract for failure to perform its contractual obligations;
- (b) the contractor fails to comply within a reasonable time with the notice given by the project manager requiring it to make good the neglect or failure to perform its obligations under the contract which seriously affects the proper and timely performance of the services;
- (c) the contractor refuses or neglects to carry out any administrative orders given by the project manager;
- (d) the contractor assigns the contract or subcontracts without the authorisation of the contracting authority;
- (e) the contractor is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding up procedures, is having its assets administered by a liquidator or by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under any national law or regulations relevant to that contractor;
- (f) any organisational modification occurs involving a change in the legal personality, nature or control of the contractor, unless such modification is recorded in an addendum to the contract;
- (g) any other legal disability hindering performance of the contract occurs;
- (h) the contractor fails to provide the required guarantees or insurance, or the person providing the earlier guarantee or insurance is not able to abide by its commitments;
- (i) the contractor has been guilty of grave professional misconduct or has committed an irregularity proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify, within the meaning of Article 10.1(a) (b);
- (j) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision or by proof in possession of the contracting authority that the contractor has been guilty of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or terrorist financing, terrorist related offences, child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings, circumventing fiscal, social or any other applicable legal obligations, including through the creation of an entity for this purpose.
- (k) the contractor, in the performance of another contract financed by the EU budget/EDF funds, has been declared to be in serious breach of contract, which has led to its early termination or the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by the European Commission, the contracting authority, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;
- (l) after the award of the contract, the award procedure or the performance of the contract proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud;
- (m) the award procedure or the performance of another contract financed by the EU budget/EDF funds proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud which are likely to affect the performance of the present contract;
- (n) the contractor fails to perform its obligation in accordance with Article 8 and Article 9;
- (o) the contractor is unable to provide a suitable replacement to an expert, the absence of which affects the proper performance of the contract.

- (p) the contractor is in breach of the data protection obligations resulting from Article 42 of these general conditions.

The cases of termination under points (e), (i), (j), (l), (m) and (n) may refer also to persons who are members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the contractor and/or to persons having powers of representation, decision or control with regard to the contractor.

The cases of termination under points (a), (e), (f), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n) may refer also to persons jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

The cases under points (e), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n) and (p) may refer also to subcontractors.

36.3. Termination shall be without prejudice to any other rights or powers under the contract of the contracting authority and the contractor. The contracting authority may, thereafter, complete the services itself, or conclude any other contract with a third party, at the contractor's own expense. The contractor's liability for delay in completion shall immediately cease when the contracting authority terminates the contract without prejudice to any liability thereunder that may already have arisen.

36.4. Upon termination of the contract or when it has received notice thereof, the contractor shall take immediate steps to bring the services to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and to reduce expenditure to a minimum.

36.5. The project manager shall, as soon as possible after termination, certify the value of the services and all sums due to the contractor as at the date of termination.

36.6. The contracting authority shall not be obliged to make any further payments to the contractor until the services are completed. After the services are completed, the contracting authority shall recover from the contractor the extra costs, if any, of completing the services, or shall pay any balance still due to the contractor.

36.7. If the contracting authority terminates the contract pursuant to Article 36.2, it shall, in addition to the extra costs for completion of the contract and without prejudice to its other remedies under the contract, be entitled to recover from the contractor any loss it has suffered up to the value of the services which have not been satisfactorily completed unless otherwise provided for in the special conditions.

36.8. Where the termination is not due to an act or omission of the contractor, force majeure or other circumstances beyond the control of the contracting authority, the contractor shall be entitled to claim in addition to sums owed to it for work already performed, an indemnity for loss suffered.

36.9. This contract shall be automatically terminated if it has not given rise to any payment in the two years following its signing by both parties.

ARTICLE 37. TERMINATION BY THE CONTRACTOR

37.1. The contractor may, after giving 14 days' notice to the contracting authority, terminate the contract if the contracting authority:

- a) fails for more than 120 days to pay the contractor the amounts due after the expiry of the time limit stated in Article 29; or
- b) consistently fails to meet its obligations after repeated reminders; or
- c) suspends the progress of the services or any part thereof for more than 90 days for reasons not specified in the contract, or not attributable to the contractor's breach or default.

37.2. Such termination shall be without prejudice to any other rights of the contracting authority or the contractor acquired under the contract.

37.3. In the event of such termination, the contracting authority shall pay the contractor for any loss or damage the contractor may have suffered. Such additional payment must not be such that the total payments exceed the amount specified in Article 2 of the contract.

ARTICLE 38. FORCE MAJEURE

- 38.1. Neither party shall be considered to be in default or in breach of its obligations under the contract if the performance of such obligations is prevented by any circumstances of *force majeure*, which arise after the date of notification of award or the date when the contract becomes effective.
- 38.2. The term *force majeure*, as used herein covers any unforeseeable events, not within the control of either party and which by the exercise of due diligence neither party is able to overcome such as acts of God, strikes, lock-outs or other industrial disturbances, acts of the public enemy, wars whether declared or not, blockades, insurrection, riots, epidemics, landslides, earthquakes, storms, lightning, floods, washouts, civil disturbances, explosions, ... A decision of the European Union to suspend the cooperation with the partner country is considered to be a case of force majeure when it implies suspension of funding the contract.
- 38.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 19 and Article 36, the contractor shall not be liable for liquidated damages or termination for breach or default if, and to the extent that, its delay in performance or other failure to perform its obligations under the contract is the result of an event of *force majeure*. The contracting authority shall similarly not be liable, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 29 and Article 37, for payment of interest on delayed payments, for non-performance or for termination by the contractor for breach or default, if, and to the extent that, the contracting authority's delay or other failure to perform its obligations is the result of *force majeure*.
- 38.4. If either party considers that any circumstances of force majeure have occurred which may affect performance of its obligations it shall promptly notify the other party and the project manager giving details of the nature, the probable duration and the likely effect of the circumstances. Unless otherwise directed by the project manager in writing, the contractor shall continue to perform its obligations under the contract as far as is reasonably practicable, and shall seek all reasonable alternative means for performance of its obligations, which are not prevented by the force majeure event. The contractor shall not put into effect such alternative means unless directed so to do by the project manager.
- 38.5. For a fee-based contract, if the contractor incurs additional costs in complying with the project manager's directions or using alternative means under Article 38.4 the amount thereof shall be certified by the project manager.
- 38.6. If circumstances of *force majeure* have occurred and continue for a period of 180 days then, notwithstanding any extension of time for completion of the contract that the contractor may by reason thereof have been granted, either party shall be entitled to serve upon the other 30 days' notice to terminate the contract. If at the expiry of the period of 30 days the situation of *force majeure* persists, the contract shall be terminated and, in consequence, thereof under the law governing the contract, the parties shall be released from further performance of the contract.

ARTICLE 39. DECEASE

- 39.1. If the contractor is a natural person, the contract shall be automatically terminated if that person dies. However, the contracting authority shall examine any proposal made by its heirs or beneficiaries if they have notified their wish to continue the contract.
- 39.2. Where the contractor consists of a number of natural persons and one or more of them die, a report shall be agreed between the parties on the progress of the contract and the contracting authority shall decide whether to terminate or continue the contract in accordance with the undertaking given by the survivors and by the heirs or beneficiaries, as the case may be.
- 39.3. In the cases provided for in Articles 39.1 and 39.2, persons offering to continue to implement the contract shall notify the contracting authority thereof within 15 days of the

date of decease. The decision of the contracting authority shall be notified to those concerned within 30 days of receipt of such a proposal

39.4. Such persons shall be jointly and severally liable for the proper implementation of the contract to the same extent as the deceased contractor. Continuation of the contract shall be subject to the rules relating to establishment of any guarantee provided for in the contract.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND APPLICABLE LAW

ARTICLE 40. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

40.1. The parties shall make every effort to settle amicably any dispute relating to the contract, which may arise between them.

40.2. Once a dispute has arisen, a party shall notify the other party of the dispute, stating its position on the dispute and any solution, which it envisages, and requesting an amicable settlement. The other party shall respond to this request for amicable settlement within 30 days, stating its position on the dispute. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the maximum time period laid down for reaching an amicable settlement shall be 120 days from the date of the notification requesting such a procedure. Should a party not agree to the other party's request for amicable settlement, should a party not respond in time to that request or should no amicable settlement be reached within the maximum time period, the amicable settlement procedure is considered to have failed.

40.3. In the absence of an amicable settlement, a party may notify the other party requesting a settlement through conciliation by a third person. If the European Commission is not a party to the contract, it may accept to intervene as conciliator. The other party shall respond to the request for conciliation within 30 days. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the maximum time period laid down for reaching a settlement through conciliation shall be 120 days from the notification requesting such a procedure. Should a party not agree to the other party's request for conciliation, should a party not respond in time to that request or should no settlement be reached within the maximum time period, the conciliation procedure is considered to have failed.

40.4. If the amicable settlement procedure and, if so requested, the conciliation procedure fails, each party may refer the dispute to either the decision of a national jurisdiction or arbitration, as specified in the special conditions.

ARTICLE 41. APPLICABLE LAW

41.1. This contract shall be governed by the law of the country of the contracting authority or, where the contracting authority is the European Commission, by the applicable European Union law complemented where necessary by the law of Belgium.

DATA PROTECTION

ARTICLE 42. DATA PROTECTION

42.1. Processing of personal data by the contracting authority

Any personal data included in or relating to the contract, including its implementation, shall be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Such data shall be processed solely for the purposes of the implementation, management and monitoring of the contract by the data controller.

The contractor or any other person whose personal data is processed by the data controller in relation to this contract has specific rights as a data subject under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access, rectify or erase their personal data and the right to restrict the processing of their personal data or, where applicable, the right to object to processing or the right to data portability.

Should the contractor or any other person whose personal data is processed in relation to this contract have any queries concerning the processing of its personal data, it shall address itself to the data controller. They may also address themselves to the Data Protection Officer of the data controller. They have the right to lodge a complaint at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Details concerning the processing of personal data are available in the data protection notice referred to in the special conditions.

42.2.Processing of personal data by the contractor

The processing of personal data by the contractor shall meet the requirements of the general conditions and be processed solely for the purposes set out by the controller.

The contractor shall assist the controller for the fulfilment of the controller's obligation to respond to requests for exercising rights of person whose personal data is processed in relation to this contract as laid down in Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. The contractor shall inform without delay the controller about such requests.

The contractor may act only on documented written instructions and under the supervision of the controller, in particular with regard to the purposes of the processing, the categories of data that may be processed, the recipients of the data and the means by which the data subject may exercise its rights.

The contractor shall grant personnel access to the data to the extent strictly necessary for the implementation, management and monitoring of the contract. The contractor must ensure that personnel authorised to process personal data has committed itself to confidentiality or is under appropriate statutory obligation of confidentiality in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.6 of these general conditions.

The contractor shall adopt appropriate technical and organisational security measures, giving due regard to the risks inherent in the processing and to the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing, in order to ensure, in particular, as appropriate:

- (a) the pseudonymisation and encryption of personal data;
- (b) the ability to ensure the ongoing confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of processing systems and services;
- (c) the ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident;
- (d) a process for regularly testing, assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organisational measures for ensuring the security of the processing;
- (e) measures to protect personal data from accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of or access to personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed.

The contractor shall notify relevant personal data breaches to the controller without undue delay and at the latest within 48 hours after the contractor becomes aware of the breach. In such cases, the contractor shall provide the controller with at least the following information:

- (a) nature of the personal data breach including where possible, the categories and approximate number of data subjects concerned and the categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned;
- (b) likely consequences of the breach;

- (c) measures taken or proposed to be taken to address the breach, including, where appropriate, measures to mitigate its possible adverse effects.

The contractor shall immediately inform the data controller if, in its opinion, an instruction infringes Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, Regulation (EU) 2016/679, or other Union or Member State or third country applicable data protection provisions as referred to in the tender specifications.

The contractor shall assist the controller for the fulfilment of its obligations pursuant to Article 33 to 41 under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 to:

- (a) ensure compliance with its data protection obligations regarding the security of the processing, and the confidentiality of electronic communications and directories of users;
- (b) notify a personal data breach to the European Data Protection Supervisor;
- (c) communicate a personal data breach without undue delay to the data subject, where applicable;
- (d) carry out data protection impact assessments and prior consultations as necessary.

The contractor shall maintain a record of all data processing operations carried on behalf of the controller, transfers of personal data, security breaches, responses to requests for exercising rights of people whose personal data is processed and requests for access to personal data by third parties.


The contracting authority is subject to Protocol 7 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the privileges and immunities of the European Union, particularly as regards the inviolability of archives (including the physical location of data and services) and data security, which includes personal data held on behalf of the contracting authority in the premises of the contractor or subcontractor.

The contractor shall notify the contracting authority without delay of any legally binding request for disclosure of the personal data processed on behalf of the contracting authority made by any national public authority, including an authority from a third country. The contractor may not give such access without the prior written authorisation of the contracting authority.

The duration of processing of personal data by the contractor will not exceed the period referred to in Article 7.9 of these general conditions. Upon expiry of this period, the contractor shall, at the choice of the controller, return, without any undue delay in a commonly agreed format, all personal data processed on behalf of the controller and the copies thereof or shall effectively delete all personal data unless Union or national law requires a longer storage of personal data.

For the purpose of Article 4 of these general conditions, if part or all of the processing of personal data is subcontracted to a third party, the contractor shall pass on the obligations referred to in the present article in writing to those parties, including subcontractors. At the request of the contracting authority, the contractor shall provide a document providing evidence of this commitment.

* * *



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN
EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION OF A GRANT CONTRACT
EXTERNAL ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The present terms of reference apply to the verification of expenditure declared in financial reports under the following contracts:

1) Grant Contract¹ number and title of the action: **NEAR-TS/2020/421-885 “MOVE IT like Lublin”- a Chisinau public transport sustainable development initiative**

Detailed information is provided at the cover page of Annex 1.

¹ Contract in relation to which the financial report subject to verification is issued. The contract established with the expenditure verifier will be identified as "Verification Contract"

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1 Introduction

The present document and the Annexes listed in Section 8 are the terms of reference ('ToR') on which the Coordinator (The term "Coordinator" refers to the Beneficiary identified as the Coordinator in the Special Conditions) agrees to engage 'the Expenditure Verifier' to perform a verification of reported expenditure.

Where in these ToR the 'Contracting Authority' is mentioned, this refers to the *Primăria municipiului Chişinău* (City Hall of Chisinau Municipality), which has signed the Grant Contract with the Beneficiary and is providing the grant funding. The Contracting Authority is not party to this agreement.

These ToR will become an integral part of the contract concluded between the Coordinator and the Expenditure Verifier.

They apply to expenditure verifications contracted by the Coordinator and cover the verification of expenditure incurred under the EU financed contracts on the cover sheet.

2 Objectives and context

The Expenditure Verifier is expected

- to carry out the agreed-upon procedures listed in Annex 2, and
- to issue reports based on the template in Annex 3 which will support the Contracting Authority's conclusions on the eligibility of the reported expenditure and the related follow-up.

The expenditure verification will be performed as a desk review or/and fieldwork at the location indicated in Annex 1.

The Expenditure Verifier is not expected to provide an audit opinion.

3 Standards and Ethics

The Expenditure Verifier shall undertake this engagement in accordance with:

- the International Standard on Related Services ('ISRS') 4400 Engagements to perform Agreed-upon Procedures regarding Financial Information as promulgated by the IFAC;
- the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, developed and issued by IFAC's International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), which establishes fundamental ethical principles for Auditors with regard to integrity, objectivity, independence, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, professional behaviour and technical standards.

Although ISRS 4400 provides that independence is not a requirement for agreed-upon procedures engagements, the Coordinator requires that the Expenditure Verifier is independent from the Coordinator and complies with the independence requirements of the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

4 Requirements for the Expenditure Verifier

By agreeing these ToR, the Expenditure Verifier confirms meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- The Expenditure Verifier is a member of a national accounting or auditing body or institution which in turn is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

- The Expenditure Verifier is a member of a national accounting or auditing body or institution. Although this organisation is not member of the IFAC, the Expenditure Verifier commits to undertake this expenditure verification in accordance with the IFAC standards and ethics set out in these ToR.
- The Expenditure Verifier is registered as a statutory auditor in the public register of a public oversight body in an EU member state in accordance with the principles of public oversight set out in Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (this applies to auditors and audit firms based in an EU member state)².
- The Expenditure Verifier is registered as a statutory auditor in the public register of a public oversight body in a third country and this register is subject to principles of public oversight as set out in the legislation of the country concerned (this applies to auditors and audit firms based in a third country).

5 Scope

5.1 Contracts and Financial Reports covered by these ToR

The Contract(s) and Financial Reports subject to this expenditure verification are indicated on the cover sheet and in Annex 1.

5.2 Conditions for Eligibility of Expenditure

The conditions for eligibility are stipulated in the Contracts which are provided in Annex 1 (including riders).

6 Verification Process and Methodology

6.1 Preparation of the Verification

The Expenditure Verifier shall prepare the verification and to agree on the timing for carrying out the expenditure verification, notably with regard to fieldwork (if any) (see Section 6.2. for applicable maximum time lags). The Expenditure Verifier will then also confirm with the Coordinator the location(s) indicated in Annex 1 and ensure that relevant supporting documents as well as key staff will be available during the verification.

6.2 Preparatory Meeting, Fieldwork, Desk Review

The Coordinator foresees a preparatory meeting with the Expenditure Verifier which will be held at 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova.

The field work or desk review shall commence as soon as possible and not later than 7 calendar days after the signature of the verification contract or the date of availability of the Financial Report (i.e. financial report, supporting documents and other relevant information).

6.2.1 Engagement Context, Materiality, Risk Analysis, Sampling

The Expenditure Verifier's procedures should include:

² Directive 2006/43 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts, amending Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC and repealing Council Directive 84/253 EEC.

- obtaining a sufficient understanding of the engagement context including the contractual conditions, the Coordinator and the applicable EC laws and regulations which are set out in Section 5 above (Scope). The Expenditure Verifier should pay specific attention to the contractual provisions relevant for the following aspects:
 - documentation, filing and record keeping for expenditure and income;
 - eligibility of expenditure and income;
 - procurement and origin rules insofar as these conditions are relevant to determine the eligibility of expenditure;
 - asset management (management and control of fixed assets; e.g. equipment).
 - cash and bank management (treasury);
 - payroll and time management;
 - accounting (including the use of exchange rates) and financial reporting of expenditure and income; and
 - internal controls and notably financial internal controls.

The understanding should be sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material errors or misstatements in the expenditure and revenue stated in the Financial Report in order to determine the size and structure of the expenditure sample to be tested, whether caused by error or fraud, and sufficient to design and perform further verification procedures.

- performing a risk analysis (Annex 2).

The outcome of the risk analysis has to be clearly described in the Verification Report (Annex 3, Section 2.1);

- determining the sample size;

For the purpose of determining what the overall material misstatement or error is, the Expenditure Verifier will apply a materiality threshold of 2% of the total amount of the gross reported expenditure with a confidence level of 95%.

- establishing the sample and selecting the individual items for testing (Annex 2).

The link between the risk assessment and the size and composition of the sample, as well as the sampling method (statistical/non-statistical) must be clearly described in the Verification Report (Annex 3, Section 2.2);

6.2.2 Fieldwork / Desk Review

The main task during the fieldwork or desk review will be to perform the substantive tests (Annex 2, Section 2). Key information about the testing process must be provided in the Verification Report (Annex 3, Section 4).

6.2.3 Debriefing Memo and Closing Meeting

At the end of the fieldwork or desk review, the Expenditure Verifier should prepare a debriefing memo, organize a closing meeting with the Coordinator in order to discuss the findings, obtain its initial comments and agree on additional information to be provided at a later date.

6.2.4 Documentation and Verification Evidence

The evidence to be used for performing the procedures in Annex 2 is all financial and non-financial information which makes it possible to examine the expenditure declared in the Financial Report.

The Expenditure Verifier documents matters which are important in providing evidence to support the report of factual findings, and evidence that the work was carried out in accordance with ISRS 4400 and these ToR.

6.3 Reporting

6.3.1 Structure and Content of the Report

The use of the Expenditure Verification Report template in Annex 3 of these ToR, including the annexed tables, is **compulsory**.

If the verification scope covers Financial Reports related to different Contracts, a separate and specific report should be issued for each Contract.

The report should provide basic information about the Contract and should describe the outcome of the risk analysis and its implications on the sampling. The report should also give an overview of the substantive testing and fully disclose the information regarding the items included in the expenditure population and in the sample. The report should finally detail the findings identified through the performance of the agreed-upon procedures.

The report should be presented in English.

The Expenditure Verifier will submit within 10 working days of the conclusion of the field work a draft report to the Coordinator for comments to be received within 10 working days. This delay expired, the Expenditure Verifier will provide the final report to the Coordinator within 10 working days from the receipt of the comments (if any).

6.3.2 Expenditure Verification Findings and Recommendations

The factual findings shall be reported in accordance with the formats and criteria specified in the Expenditure Verification Report template (Annex 3). The description of findings will include the standard applied (e.g. art. xx of the General Conditions of the Contract), the facts and the analysis of the Expenditure Verifier.

The verification report should include all financial findings made by the Expenditure Verifier, regardless of the amount involved. Changes in the financial findings occurring between the draft and final report as a result of the consultation procedure should be clearly and sequentially reported.

7 Other Matters

7.1 Subcontracting

The Expenditure Verifier will not subcontract without prior written authorisation from the Coordinator.

8 Annexes

Annex 1 - Engagement Context / Key Information

Annex 2 – Guidelines for Risk Analysis and Verification Procedures

Annex 3 - Model for Expenditure Verification Report

Annex 1: Engagement Context / Key Information

Contract³ and report summary

Information about the Grant Contract	
Reference number and date of the Grant Contract	NEAR-TS/ 2020/421-885, 23/12/2020
Grant contract title	“MOVE IT like Lublin” – a Chisinau public transport sustainable development initiative
Country	Republic of Moldova
Coordinator	Primăria municipiului Chișinău (City Hall of Chisinau Municipality) 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt Blvd., MD-2012 Chișinău, Republic of Moldova
Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)	<i>Lead Beneficiary:</i> City Hall of Chisinau Municipality 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt Blvd., MD-2012 Chișinău, Republic of Moldova <i>Co-beneficiary:</i> Gmina Lublin Plac Krola Wladyslawa Lokietka 1, 20-109 Lublin, Poland
Start date of the implementation period of the Action	1 February 2021
End date of the implementation period of the Action	1 February 2025
Financial Report(s) subject to verification:	1/02/2022 – 31/01/2023 1/02/2023 – 31/01/2024 1/02/2024 – 31/01/2024
Total amount received to date by the Coordinator from Contracting Authority	Total amount received as per 08.02.2023: EUR 2,044,491.21 Initial pre-financing payment: EUR 646,072.69 2nd pre-financing payment: EUR 1,398,418.52
Total amount of the payment request	EUR 2,439,107.80
Contracting Authority	Ilie CEBAN – Deputy Mayor +373 22 201 718 Ilie.Ceban@pmc.md mill@pmc.md
European Commission	Ion GUZUN – Project Manager Tel. +373 22 505 210 Ion.Guzun@ccas.europa.eu
Auditor	N/A

³ Contract in relation to which the financial report subject to verification is issued. The contract established with the expenditure verifier will be identified as "Verification Contract"

A Logistics		
Issue	Question	Reply
Locations	1. Where do the Coordinator and other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) retain the accounting records?	<p><i>Lead Beneficiary:</i> City Hall of Chisinau Municipality 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova</p> <p><i>Co-beneficiary:</i> Gmina Lublin Plac Krola Wladyslawa Lokietka 1, 20-109 Lublin, Poland</p>
	2. Where do the Coordinator and other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) retain the original supporting documents?	<p><i>Lead Beneficiary:</i> City Hall of Chisinau Municipality 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova</p> <p><i>Co-beneficiary:</i> Gmina Lublin Plac Krola Wladyslawa Lokietka 1, 20-109 Lublin, Poland</p>
	3. Where were contractual activities carried out?	Republic of Moldova and Republic of Poland
	4. Where are key project staff available to provide information and explanations?	<p><i>Lead Beneficiary:</i> City Hall of Chisinau Municipality 83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău, Republic of Moldova</p>
Languages	5. Which is the contractual language?	English
	6. Which is the language of the accounting records?	Romanian and Polish
	7. Which are the languages of supporting documents?	Romanian, Polish and/or English
	8. Which languages are spoken by key project staff?	Romanian and/or English

B Contractual Conditions		
Contract amount	9. What is the total amount of the contract?	EUR 3,500,000.00
EC contribution	10. What is the amount of the EC contribution?	EUR 3,325,000.00
Other contributions	11. Which are the other sources of funding (including the Coordinator)?	City Hall of Chisinau Municipality

C Financial Report (enclosed as Annex 1.1)		
Financial report	12. Approximately how many expense transactions have been reported / are expected to be reported in the Financial Report?	Approx. 150
	13. What is the distribution of these transactions (e.g. capital expenditure, operating expenditure, fees, simplified costs, per diem, etc.), Are the transactions few/many of large/small value?	<p>Human resources (salaries, per diems), travel costs, procurement of equipment, supplies and services</p> <p>There are few large value transactions and many small value transactions</p>

	14. To what extent have Project transactions been carried out in cash?	low
	15. In which currencies has expenditure been incurred?	EUR, MDL, PLN and USD
	16. What is the reporting currency?	EUR
	17. How many other Financial Reports have already been presented by the Coordinator under this contract?	1 (one)

D Procurement

Procurement	18. How many procurement procedures have been undertaken during the period covered by the Financial Report?	Approx. 50
	19. Was the EC involved in any of the procurement procedures referred to in question 18 (e.g. ex-ante verifications or derogations to the rule of origin)?	No
	20. Are works done and supplies delivered under the contract located centrally or are they dispersed?	Centrally located

E Previous contracts verifications, audits or monitoring

Previous verifications, audits or monitoring	21. Which previous experience did the Entity have with EC contracts and associated regulations?	None
	22. How many of the previously presented Financial Reports (if any) have been subject to audit/verification by external consultants contracted by the Coordinator?	1 (one)
	23. Have any verification, audit or monitoring exercises other than those referred to under numeral 22 been carried out with regard to the contract or the Coordinator that are relevant for the scope of the current verification?	No
	24. Have any significant findings been raised under the exercises referred to in questions 22 and 23? If so, what are they?	None
	25. Have any instances of fraud or irregularities been previously identified in dealings with the particular Entity?	No

Annex 1/<...>.1: Financial Report(s) to be verified

F Contact Details

Coordinator: City Hall of Chisinau Municipality

Address	83 Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Blvd., MD-2012 Chişinău	Country	Republic of Moldova
Phone	+373 22 20 17 07	Fax	+373 22 22 31 45
Website	www.chisinau.md		

Key contact Ilie CEBAN – Deputy Mayor

Annex 1/<...>.2: Contract and riders

<Other documents to be sent to the Auditor, (e.g. narrative reports, previous audit reports)>

Annex 2: Guidelines for risk analysis and verification procedures

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1. RISK ANALYSIS AND DETERMINATION OF THE SAMPLE

The Expenditure Verifier should assess the risks of material errors or misstatements in the expenditure and revenue declared in the Financial Report in order to determine the size and structure of the expenditure sample to be tested according to the procedures described in Section 2.

This work involves an assessment of the inherent risks that:

- The Financial Report is not reliable, i.e. that it does not present, in all material aspects, the actual expenditure incurred and the revenue received in conformity with applicable conditions.
- Expenditure declared in the financial report has not, in all material aspects, been incurred in conformity with applicable contractual conditions.
- Revenues generated by the Coordinator in the execution of the contract are not deducted from the declared expenditure in conformity with applicable conditions.
- Fraud and irregularities have occurred which could have had an impact on expenditure and/or revenue reported under the contract.

The Expenditure Verifier should assess the inherent risk based, inter alia, on the number and complexity of the transactions, the complexity of the activities provided for by the Contract, the number of implementing Entities involved and the environment where the Contract is implemented. In addition the Expenditure Verifier, based inter alia on the information provided in annex 1 to the Terms of Reference (*Engagement Context / Key Information*) will consider the control risk, i.e. whether the design of the Internal Control System sufficiently mitigates the identified inherent risks and whether it is plausible that it is operating effectively.

2. EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

The following checks must be performed by the Expenditure Verifier unless they are irrelevant in relation to the eligibility criteria applicable to the contract type. Therefore the Expenditure Verifier is required to gain appropriate understanding of such requirements in order to carry out only the relevant checks and properly apply the relevant eligibility requirements.

2.1 *The expenditure was incurred by and pertains to the Entity.*

2.2 *The expenditure is recorded in the accounting system of the Coordinator and other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)*

The expenditure is recorded in the accounting system of the Coordinator and other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the Coordinator's usual cost accounting practices.

2.3 *Expenditure incurred during the contractual eligibility period*

The expenditure declared in the financial report was incurred during the contractual implementation period of the Action, except for expenditure relating to final reports, expenditure verification, audit and evaluation. Expenditure paid after the submission of the financial report, is listed in the final report along with the estimated date of payment.

2.4 Expenditure indicated in the contractual estimated budget

The expenditure included in the financial report was indicated in the contractual budget.

The applicable budget ceilings were not exceeded.

The expenditure has been allocated to the correct heading of the Financial Report.

2.5 Expenditure necessary for the implementation of the contractual activities, reasonable and justified

It is plausible that the direct and indirect expenditures included in the financial report were necessary for the implementation of the contractual activities.

The amount of the expenditure items included in the financial report is reasonable and justified and respects the principle of sound financial management.

2.6 Expenditure identifiable and verifiable

The expenditure is backed up by sufficient supporting documentation (e.g. invoices, contracts, order forms, pay slips, time sheets) and proof of payment.

Where expenditure was apportioned, the applied allocation key was based on sufficient, appropriate and verifiable underlying information.

The expenditure is backed up by evidence of works done, goods received or services rendered. The existence of assets is verifiable.

2.7 Compliance with Procurement Principles and Nationality and Origin Rules

For the expenditure items concerned, the Coordinator has complied with the contractual requirements for procurement. Contractual nationality and origin rules have been applied, including those on derogations to be awarded by the Commission.

2.8 Expenditure complies with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation

For the expenditure items concerned, the Coordinator complies with the requirements of tax and social security legislation (for example: employer's part of taxes, pension premiums and social security charges).

2.9 Financial support to third parties (sub-granting)

Financial support to third parties is provided for by the contractual conditions and its amount does not exceed the contractual limits.

The expenditure incurred by the third parties meets the relevant eligibility requirements. In particular it was incurred by and pertains to the third party, during the contractual eligibility period, is necessary for the implementation of the contractual activities and is identifiable and verifiable (see definition at point 2.6).

2.10 Other eligibility requirements

Duties, taxes and charges, (e.g. VAT) included in the financial report cannot be recovered by the Entity unless otherwise provided for in the contractual conditions (accepted costs system). In the latter case these expenses are reported separately and relate to eligible direct expenditure.

The correct exchange rates are used where applicable.

The contingency reserve has been established in accordance to the contractual conditions and its use authorised by the Contracting Authority.

The indirect costs do not exceed the maximum contractual percentage of the eligible direct costs and do not include ineligible expenses or expenses already declared as direct ones.

Contributions in kind are not included in the financial report, unless otherwise provided for in the contractual conditions.

Expenditure specifically considered ineligible by the contractual conditions is not included in the financial report.

Expenditure declared under the simplified cost options respects the contractual requirements.

The revenues generated by the Coordinator in the execution of the contract are disclosed in the financial report and deducted from the declared expenditure, unless otherwise provided for in the contractual conditions.

<Annex 3: Model for > Expenditure verification Report

<To be printed on AUDITOR'S letterhead>

Report for an Expenditure Verification of a Grant Contract External Actions of the European Union

<Title of and number of the grant contract >

How this model should be completed by the Expenditure Verifier

- **insert** the information requested between the <...>
- **choose** the optional text between [...] highlighted in grey when applicable or delete
- **delete** all yellow instructions and the present text box

1. Background information

1.1. Short description of the action subject to verification

Contract number and title:	
Contract type	grant contract,
Financial Report(s) subject to verification	<DD/MM/YYYY-DD/MM/YYYY> <DD/MM/YYYY-DD/MM/YYYY> <DD/MM/YYYY-DD/MM/YYYY>
Coordinator and other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)	< Identify the Coordinator and other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) and provide key information about their legal form, nationality, size, main field(s) of activity and other elements deemed relevant – max 200 words >
Location(s) where the Contract is implemented	
Contract execution period	
Contract implementation status	< indicate on-going or completed >
General and specific objectives of the Contract	
Synthetic description of the activities, outputs and target group	<max 300 words>

1.2. Basic financial information of the Contract (at the time of the verification)

1.2.1 Expenditure

Budget Headings	Budgeted Expenditure (amount)	Reported Expenditure (amount)
Budget Heading "..."		
...		
Total		

1.2.2 Contributions

Source of Contribution	Budgeted Contribution (amount)	Actual Contribution (amount)
EU		
Coordinator		
Other Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)		
...		
Other Donor 1		
...		
Total		

1.2.3 Revenues

Revenue Types	Budgeted Revenues (amount)	Actual Revenues (amount)
Type "..."		
Type "..."		
...		
Total		

1.3.Verified Financial Reports

See annex 3.1

2. Risk analysis

2.1. Outcome of risk analysis

Based on the risk analysis performed according to the Terms of Reference, provide succinct information about the identified risks possibly affecting the verified report, regarding the action, the context in which the latter is implemented, the beneficiaries and the target group.

<E.g. action implemented via complex procurement procedures, financial assistance to third parties (sub-grants) or revolving funds, transactions incurred in several currencies, technical complexity, high corruption perception index, instances of political interference, predominance of cash payments, number of parties involved, partners lacking administrative capacity, known weaknesses in internal control systems, lack of involvement or cooperation of the target group, history of fraud cases. (max. 300 words)>

In addition, please identify possible mitigating factors.

< E.g. previous audit or verification work, evidence of close follow up by the contracting authority, good results yielded in the past by the implementing partner, etc. (max. 150 words)>

2.2 Implications on the sampling

Explain how the identified risk factors are reflected in the structure and size of the sample.

<Based on the identified risk factors, describe how the sample was selected (e.g. statistical/judgemental sampling, stratification, etc.), what type of transactions were prioritised (e.g. amount above xx EUR, expensed declared by co-beneficiary XY, staff expenditure, payments to sub-grantees, etc.) what is the coverage ratio in amount and number of transaction (max. 200 words)>

3. Transaction population and sample

Sampling Highlights/Overview

The sample size was determined based on a materiality threshold of 2% of the total amount of reported expenditure with a confidence level of 95% and considering the risk analysis presented above.

Report/invoice: <indicate the report/invoice number and cut-off dates>		
	Population	Audited sample
Number of transactions		
Value of transactions EUR		

[If more than one financial report/invoice is verified, repeat as applicable]

A complete list of the transactions included in the population is to be included in Annex 3.3.

4. Substantive testing

Short description of the testing process

Compliance with the Terms of Reference and with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400.

<Confirm that the testing procedures established in the annex 2 to the Terms of Reference were fully applied or disclose any scope limitation. Also confirm that the testing was executed in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400, “Engagements to Perform Agreed-upon Procedures Regarding Financial Information”.>

Provide the key information about the testing process.

<E.g. describe if the verification work took place at the implementing partner's premises, whether qualified representatives of the auditee were present, if they were cooperative, if the supporting documentation was available in full, if additional documents had to be received after the field mission, whether evidence of the equipment transfer is available, if physical inspections were performed, any scope limitations, etc. (max. 300 words)>

5. Summary of findings

5.1 Summary of errors detected

<Description of the main outcomes of the transaction testing (e.g. type of errors detected, type of transactions, geographic scope, sector, involved implementing partners, etc.) (max. 200 words)>

5.2 Audit team

<List names and expert category levels for this report.>

<Name and signature of the Verifier>

<Verifier's address: office having responsibility for the audit>

[for final reports <Date of signature> the date when the **final** report is signed]

Annex 3.1: Financial reports provided by the auditee

Annex 3.2: Procedures performed

Annex 3.3: Table of transactions - provided as Excel file

Annex 3.4: Table of errors - provided as Excel file

ANNEX III: ORGANISATION & METHODOLOGY

To be completed by the tenderer

Please provide the following information:

1. RATIONALE

- Any comments you have on the terms of reference for the successful execution of activities, in particular regarding the objectives and expected results, thus demonstrating the degree of understanding of the contract. Your opinion on the key issues related to the achievement of the contract objectives and expected results.
- An explanation of the risks and assumptions affecting the execution of the contract.

2. STRATEGY

- An outline of the approach proposed for contract implementation.
- A list of the proposed tasks you consider necessary to achieve the contract objectives.
- Inputs and outputs.

3. BACKSTOPPING, SUBCONTRACTING AND CAPACITY PROVIDING ENTITIES

- A description of the support facilities (back-stopping) that the contractor will provide to the team of experts during execution of the contract. The back-up function will be assessed in the evaluation and should be carefully explained in the organisation and methodology, including the list of staff, units, capacity of permanent staff regularly intervening as experts on similar projects, provision of expertise in the region/country or origin as well as partner countries, organisational structure, etc. which are supposed to ensure that function, as well as the available quality systems and knowledge capitalisation methods and tools, within the respective members of the consortium.
- A description of any subcontracting arrangements and arrangements with capacity providers (if such were identified during the shortlisting stage) with a clear indication of the tasks that will be entrusted to subcontractors and to capacity providers and a statement by the tenderer guaranteeing the eligibility of subcontractors and capacity providers.

4. INVOLVEMENT OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM AND OF CAPACITY PROVIDING ENTITIES

- If a tender is submitted by a consortium, a description of the input from each member of the consortium and the distribution and interaction of tasks and responsibilities between them. Furthermore, the involvement of all members of the consortium will be considered added value in the tender evaluation. If the tender is submitted by a single company, the total of available points for this part in the evaluation grid will be allocated.
- If the tenderer relied on the capacity of other entities to fulfil the technical and professional criteria, evidence of the written commitment provided by those entities for performing the services for which their technical and professional capacities are required must be provided.
- If the tenderer relied on the capacity of other entities to fulfil the economic and financial criteria, evidence of the written commitment provided by those entities establishing their joint liability for the performance of the contract must be provided.

Organisation & methodology

5. TIMETABLE OF WORK

- The timing, sequence and duration of the proposed tasks, taking into account travel time.
- The identification and timing of major milestones in executing the contract, including an indication of how the achievement of these would be reflected in any reports, particularly those stipulated in the terms of reference.
- The methodologies contained in the offer should include a work plan indicating the envisaged resources to be mobilised.

ANNEX IV: KEY EXPERTS

Name of expert	Proposed position	Years of experience	Age	Educational background	Specialist areas of knowledge	Experience in partner country	Languages and degree of fluency from A1 (beginner) to C2 (proficient)*

* Levels are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. See: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>. The linguistic competencies are to be demonstrated by certificate or by past relevant experience.

Curriculum vitae [1]

Proposed role in the project	
Family name	
First names	
Date of birth	
Nationality	
Civil status	
Education	

Institution	Date from dd/mm/yyyy	Date to dd/mm/yyyy	Degree(s) or diploma(s) obtained

Language skills: Indicate competence from A1 (beginner) to C2 (proficient). The competence level is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. See: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>. The linguistic competencies are to be demonstrated by certificate or by past relevant experience.

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing

Membership of professional bodies	
Other skills (e.g. computer literacy, etc.)	
Present position	
Years within the firm	
Key qualifications (relevant to the project)	
Specific experience in the region	

Country	Date from dd/mm/yyyy	Date to dd/mm/yyyy

[1] “Please note that your personal data will be processed solely for the purposes of the management and monitoring of the contract by the data controller without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies in charge of monitoring or inspection tasks in the application of EU law. Please be informed that transmission of personal data may occur to the Partner Country, solely for the purpose of implementing the financing agreement concluded between the EU and the Partner Country with regards to the tender/grant award procedure. For more details concerning processing of your personal data you may consult the privacy statement available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A>”

ANNEX V: BUDGET

Global price: EUR <amount>

Please include a price breakdown based on the outputs/deliverables in the terms of reference.

Reports	EUR
Expenditure Verification Report for 1/02/2022 – 31/01/2023	
Expenditure Verification Report for 1/02/2023 – 31/01/2024	
Expenditure Verification Report for 1/02/2024 – 31/01/2025	
Total	

ANNEX VI: Forms and other supporting documents



FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION

PRIVACY STATEMENT

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm#en

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS and LATIN CHARACTERS when filling in the form.

BANKING DETAILS ①

ACCOUNT NAME ②

IBAN/ACCOUNT NUMBER ③

CURRENCY

BIC/SWIFT CODE

BRANCH CODE ④

BANK NAME

ADDRESS OF BANK BRANCH

STREET & NUMBER

TOWN/CITY

POSTCODE

COUNTRY

ACCOUNT HOLDER'S DATA

AS DECLARED TO THE BANK

ACCOUNT HOLDER

STREET & NUMBER

TOWN/CITY

POSTCODE

COUNTRY

REMARK

BANK STAMP + SIGNATURE OF BANK REPRESENTATIVE ⑤

DATE (Obligatory)

SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER (Obligatory)

- ① Enter the final bank data and not the data of the intermediary bank.
- ② This does not refer to the type of account. The account name is usually the one of the account holder. However, the account holder may have chosen to give a different name to its bank account.
- ③ Fill in the IBAN Code (International Bank Account Number) if it exists in the country where your bank is established
- ④ Only applicable for US (ABA code), for AU/NZ (BSB code) and for CA (Transit code). Does not apply for other countries.
- ⑤ It is preferable to attach a copy of RECENT bank statement. Please note that the bank statement has to confirm all the information listed above under 'ACCOUNT NAME', 'ACCOUNT NUMBER/IBAN' and 'BANK NAME'. With an attached statement, the stamp of the bank and the signature of the bank's representative are not required. The signature of the account-holder and the date are ALWAYS mandatory.



PLEASE COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS FORM AND ATTACH COPIES OF OFFICIAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (REGISTER(S) OF COMPANIES, OFFICIAL GAZETTE, VAT REGISTRATION, ETC.)

LEGAL ENTITY

PRIVACY STATEMENT

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm#en

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS and LATIN CHARACTERS when filling in the form.

PRIVATE/PUBLIC LAW BODY WITH LEGAL FORM

OFFICIAL NAME ①			
BUSINESS NAME (if different)			
ABBREVIATION			
LEGAL FORM			
ORGANISATION TYPE	FOR PROFIT	NGO ②	YES NO
	NON FOR PROFIT		
MAIN REGISTRATION NUMBER ③			
SECONDARY REGISTRATION NUMBER (if applicable)			
PLACE OF MAIN REGISTRATION	CITY		
	COUNTRY		
DATE OF MAIN REGISTRATION	DD	MM	YYYY
VAT NUMBER			
ADDRESS OF HEAD OFFICE			
POSTCODE	P.O. BOX	CITY	
COUNTRY			PHONE
E-MAIL			

DATE

STAMP

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE

① National denomination and its translation in EN or FR if existing.

② NGO = Non Governmental Organisation, to be completed if NFPO is indicated.

③ Registration number in the national register of companies. See table with corresponding field denomination by country.

TABLE WITH CORRESPONDING FIELD DENOMINATION BY COUNTRY

ISO CODE	MAIN REGISTRATION NUMBER
AT	Firmenbuchnummer (FN) ZentraleVereinregister (ZVR-Zahl) Ordnungsnummer
BE	Numéro d'entreprise Ondernemingsnummer Unternehmensnummer
BG	Булстат (Bulstat Code) Единен идентификационен код (ЕИК/ПИК) Unified Identification Code (UIC)
CY	Αριθμός Εγγραφής Αριθμός Μητρώου
CZ	Identifikační číslo (IČO)
DE	Handelsregister Genossenschaftsregister (Nummer de Firma) Vereinsregister (Nummer des Vereins) Nummer der Partnerschaft (Partnerschaftsregister)
DK	Det centrale virksomhedsregister (CVR-nummer)
EE	Registrikkood
ES	HOJA number
FI	Yritys- ja yhteisötunnus (Y-tunnus) Företags- och organisationsnummer (FO-nummer) Business Identity code (Business ID)
FR	Immatriculation au Registre de Commerce et de Sociétés (RCS) Système Informatique du Répertoire des Entreprises (SIRENE)
GB	Company number
GR	ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ Γ.Ε.ΜΗ (Γενικού Εμπορικού Μητρώου) Δικηγορικός Σύλλογος Αθηνών (Δ.Σ.Α)
HR	Matični broj subjekta(MBS) Pod registarskim Brojem Matični broj obrta (MBO) Registarski Broj kakladnog
HU	Cégjegyzékszám
IE	Company number Grouping registration number in Ireland
IT	Repertorio Economico Amministrativo (REA)
LT	Kodas
LU	Registre de commerce et des sociétés RCS Numéro d'immatriculation Handelsregisternummer
LV	Vienotais Reģistrācijas Numurs

MT	Registration number Register of Voluntary Organisation (Identification number)
NL	Kamer van Koophandel (KvK-nummer) Dossiernummer
PL	REGON
PT	Numero de identificação de pessoa colectiva (NIPC)
RO	Numar de ordine in registrul comertului Numarul inscrierii in registrul special
SE	Organisationsnummer
SI	Matična številka
SK	Identifikačné číslo (ICO)

C. Other information

LIST OF ENTITIES INVITED TO SUBMIT A TENDER

EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION SERVICES

Chişinău – Republic of Moldova

To all eligible candidates.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE GRID

Contract title:	Expenditure verification services	Reference:	
------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------	--

Tender envelope number	Tenderer's name (Leader) (Nationality)	Other members of the consortium if any Name (Nationality)	Within deadline?	Tender submission form duly completed and only 1 tender per tenderer?	Eligible nationality (all parties including subcontractors if known)?	Tenderer's declaration (signed by each consortium member, if appropriate)?	Language as required?	Economic & financial capacity? (OK/a/b/...) ¹	Professional capacity? (OK/a/b/...)	Technical capacity? (OK/a/b/...)	Organisation & methodology exists?	Key experts (list + CVs) (For contracts requiring key experts)?	Key experts are present in only one tender as key experts (For contracts requiring key experts)?	All key experts have signed statements of exclusivity & availability (For contracts requiring key experts)?	Sub-contracting statement acceptable?	Overall decision? (Accept / Reject)
1																
2																
3																
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																

Chairperson's name	
Chairperson's signature	
Date	

¹ Enter 'OK' if all criteria have been satisfied, otherwise enter 'a', 'b', 'c', etc to record any criteria which have not been satisfied.

EVALUATION GRID FOR GLOBAL PRICE CONTRACTS

	Maximum
Organisation and methodology	
Rationale	20
Strategy	40
Back-up function	10
Involvement of all members of the consortium	10
Timetable of activities	20
Overall total score	100

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

NB: Only tenders with average scores of at least 75 points qualify for the financial evaluation

**D. Tender submission form and
declaration of honour on exclusion and
selection criteria**

SERVICE TENDER SUBMISSION FORM

Ref: MILL/S/EV/2023

EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION

Please supply one signed tender (including signed statements of exclusivity and availability from all key experts proposed, if applicable, a completed financial identification form and a completed legal entity file (only for the leader) and declarations from the Leader and all members (if you are in a consortium), together with three copies. The attachments to this submission form (i.e. declarations, statements, proofs) may be in original or copy. If copies are submitted, the originals must be dispatched to the contracting authority upon request. For economic and ecological reasons, we strongly recommend that you submit your files on paper (no plastic folder or divider). We also suggest you use double-sided printing wherever possible. **All data included in this application must concern only the legal entity or entities making the tender.**

Any additional documentation (brochures, letters etc.) sent with your tender will not be taken into consideration. Applications submitted by a **consortium** (i.e. either a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping set up informally for a specific tender procedure) must follow the instructions applicable to the consortium leader and its members.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. If the economic operator relies on other entities it must prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility - notably that of nationality – and must comply with the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should be included in the tender in a separate document. Proof of the capacity will also have to be provided when requested by the contracting authority. With regard to technical and professional criteria, an economic operator may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the services for which these capacities are required. With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the tenderer relies become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

1 SUBMITTED by (i.e. the identity of the tenderer)

	Name(s) of legal entity or entities making this application	Nationality¹
Leader²		
Member		
Etc.		

2 CONTACT PERSON (for this tender)

Name	
Organisation	
Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
e-mail	

3 ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY³

Please complete the following table of financial data⁴ based on your annual closed accounts and your latest projections. If annual accounts are not yet available for the current year or past year, please provide your latest estimates in the columns marked with **. Figures in all columns must be calculated on the same basis to allow a direct, year-on-year comparison to be made (or, if the basis has changed, please provide an explanation of the change as a footnote to the table). When the current ratio is set as selection criterion, for non-for-profit organisations the ratio has to be calculated without taking into account within the current liabilities the pre-financing received from donors for ongoing projects. Any other clarification or explanation which is judged necessary may also be provided. If the tenderer is a public body, please provide equivalent information.

Financial data Data requested in this table must be consistent with the selection criteria set in the contract notice	2 years before last year⁵ <specify> EUR	Year before last year⁵ <specify> EUR	Last year⁵ <specify> EUR	Average⁶ EUR	[Past-year EUR]**	[Current year EUR]**
Annual turnover ⁷ , excluding this contract						
Current assets ⁸						
Current liabilities ⁹						
Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities)	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

4 STAFF

Please provide the following statistics on staff for the current year and the two previous years¹⁰.

Annual Manpower	Year before past year		Past year		Current year		Period average	
	Overall	Relevant fields ¹¹	Overall	Relevant fields ¹¹	Overall	Relevant fields ¹¹	Overall	Relevant fields ¹¹
Permanent staff ¹²								
Other staff ¹³								
Total								
Permanent staff as a proportion of total staff (%)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

5 AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Please fill in the table below to indicate any areas of specialist knowledge related to this contract for each legal entity making this tender. State the type of area of specialisation as the row heading and use the name of the legal entity as the column headings. Indicate the areas of specialist knowledge each legal entity has by placing a tick (✓) in the box corresponding to the specialisation in which it has significant experience. **Maximum 10 specialisations.**

	Leader	Member 2	Member 3	Etc.
Relevant specialisation 1				
Relevant specialisation 2				
Etc. ¹¹				

6 EXPERIENCE

Please fill in the table below to summarise the main projects related to this contract carried out over the past 3 years¹² by the legal entity or entities making this tender. The number of references to be provided must not exceed 15 for the entire tender.

Ref no (maximum 15)	Project title							
Name of legal entity	Country	Overall contract value (EUR) ¹³	Proportion carried out by legal entity (%) ¹⁸	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end) ¹⁴	Name of consortium members, if any
...
Detailed description of project						Type and scope of services provided¹⁵		
...						...		

7 DECLARATIONS

As part of their tender, each legal entity identified under point 1 of this tender, including every consortium member, must submit a signed declaration using the attached format. The declaration may be in original or in copy. If copies are submitted, the originals must be sent to the contracting authority upon request.

Moreover, each legal entity identified under point 1 of this application, including every consortium member, and each capacity-providing entity (if any) must submit a signed declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria (form A14 available at the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A>).

8 STATEMENT

I, the undersigned, being the authorised signatory of the above tenderer (for a consortium, this must include all consortium members), hereby declare that we have examined and accept without reserve or restriction the entire contents of the tender dossier for the tender procedure referred to above. We offer to provide the services requested in the tender dossier on the basis of the following documents, which comprise our technical offer, and our financial offer, which is submitted in a separate, sealed envelope:

- Organisation & methodology
- Key experts (comprising a list of the key experts and their CVs), if required

July 2019

D. Tender submission form.docx

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- ❑ Tenderer's declarations (for a consortium, two from each consortium member)
- ❑ Statements of exclusivity and availability signed by each of the key experts, if required
- ❑ Completed financial identification form (see Annex V to the draft contract) providing details of the bank account into which payments under the proposed contract should be made in the event that we are awarded the contract (or the financial identification number or a copy of the financial identification form provided to the contracting authority on an earlier occasion, unless it has changed in the meantime)
- ❑ Completed legal entity file (or the legal entity number allocated. Alternatively a copy of the legal entity file provided to the contracting authority on an earlier occasion, unless the legal status has changed in the meantime)
- ❑ Duly authorised signature: an official document (statutes, power of attorney, notary statement, etc.) proving that the person who signs on behalf of the company/joint venture/consortium is duly authorised to do so.
- ❑ Documentary proof or statements required under the law of the country where we are effectively established (or each of the companies in case of a consortium), to show that we do not fall into any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide. This evidence or these documents or statements must carry a date, which is not more than one year before the date of submission of the tender. In addition, a statement is furnished stating that the situations described in these documents have not changed since then.
- ❑ Documentary evidence of the financial and economic capacity as well as the technical and professional capacity according to the selection criteria specified in the contract notice.

[We undertake to guarantee the eligibility of the subcontractor(s) for the parts of the services for which we have stated our intention to subcontract in the organisation and methodology.] (delete this sentence if not applicable)

This tender is subject to acceptance within the validity period stipulated in clause 6 of the instructions to tenderers.

We understand that our tender may be rejected if we propose key experts who have been involved in preparing this project or employ them as advisers in the preparation of our tender. We also understand that this may mean exclusion from other tender procedures and contracts funded by the EU/EDF.

We are fully aware that, for a consortium, the composition of the consortium cannot be changed in the course of the tender procedure, unless the contracting authority has given its prior approval in writing. We are also aware that the consortium members have joint and several liability towards the contracting authority concerning participation in the above tender procedure and any contract awarded to us as a result of it.

We understand that entities upon whose capacity we rely with regard to economic and financial criteria, become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

Signed on behalf of the tenderer

Name	
Signature	
Date	

**FORMAT FOR THE DECLARATION REFERRED TO IN POINT 7
OF THE TENDER SUBMISSION FORM
To be submitted on the headed notepaper of the legal entity concerned**

<Date>

<Name and address of the contracting authority — see points 8 of the instructions to tenderers >

Your ref: < reference >

TENDERER'S DECLARATION

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to your letter of invitation for the above contract we, < name(s) of legal entity or entities >, hereby declare that we:

- are submitting this tender [on an individual basis]* [as member of the consortium led by < name of the leader > [ourselves]]* for this contract. We confirm that we are not participating in any other tender for the same contract in any form (as a member, leader, in a consortium or as an individual candidate);
- agree to abide by the ethics clauses in Section 13 of the instructions to tenderers, have not been involved in the preparation of the project which is the subject of this tender procedure unless it is proved that the involvement in previous stages of the project does not constitute unfair competition, and have no professional conflicting interests and/or any relation with other tenderers or other parties in the tender procedure or behaviour which may distort competition at the time of submission of this tender according to Section 2.5.4. of the practical guide;
- [have attached a current list of the enterprises in the same group or network as ourselves] [are not part of a group or network]* and have only included data in the tender form concerning the resources and experience of [our legal entity] [our legal entity and the entities for which we attach a written undertaking]*;
- will inform the contracting authority immediately if there is any change in the above circumstances at any stage during the implementation of the tasks;
- fully recognise and accept that if the above-mentioned persons participate in spite of being in any of the situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1.1. of the practical guide or if the declarations or information provided prove to be false they may be subject to rejection from this procedure and to administrative sanctions in the form of exclusion and financial penalties up to 10% of the total estimated value of the contract being awarded and that this information may be published on the Commission website in accordance with the Financial Regulation in force;
- are aware that, for the purposes of safeguarding the EU's financial interests, our personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office.

We understand that our tender and the expert may be excluded if we propose the same key expert as another tenderer or if we propose a key expert who is engaged in an EU/EDF financed project if the input from his/her position in that contract could be required on the same dates as his/her work under this contract.

We understand that if we fail to respond within the delay after receiving the notification of award, or if the information provided is proved false, the award may be considered null and void.

DECLARATION ON HONOUR ON EXCLUSION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Insert form A14.

* Delete as applicable

If this declaration is completed by a consortium member:

The following table contains our financial data as included in the consortium's application form. These data are based on our annual closed accounts and our latest projections. Estimated figures (i.e. those not included in annual closed accounts) are given in the columns marked with **. Figures in all columns are calculated on the same basis to allow a direct, year-on-year comparison to be made (or, if the basis has changed, an explanation of the change must be provided as a footnote to the table). When the current ratio is set as selection criterion, for non-for-profit organisations the ratio has to be calculated without taking into account within the current liabilities the pre-financing received from donors for ongoing projects. Any clarification or explanation which is judged necessary may also be provided.

Financial data Data requested in this table must be consistent with the selection criteria set in the contract notice	2 years before last⁵ <specify> EUR	Year before last year⁵ <specify> EUR	Last year⁵ <specify> EUR	Average⁶ EUR	[Past year EUR]**	[Current year EUR]**
Annual turnover ⁷ , excluding this contract						
Current assets ⁸						
Current liabilities ⁹						
[Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities)]	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

The following table contains statistics on our staff, as included in the consortium's tender form:

Average manpower	Year before past year		Past year		Current year		Period average	
	Overall	Relevant fields¹¹	Overall	Relevant fields¹¹	Overall	Relevant fields¹¹	Overall	Relevant fields¹¹
Permanent staff ¹²								
Other staff ¹³								

Yours faithfully,

<Signature of authorised representative>

<Name and position of authorised representative>

STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVITY AND AVAILABILITY¹⁶

PUBLICATION REF: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I agree to participate exclusively with the tenderer < tenderer name > in the above-mentioned service tender procedure. This includes that I will not be proposed as a replacement expert in this tender procedure. I declare that I am able and willing to work for the period(s) set for the position for which my CV has been included if this tender is successful, namely:

From	To	Availability
< start of period 1 >	< end of period 1 >	[full time] [part time]
< start of period 2 >	< end of period 2 >	[full time] [part time]
< etc. >		

I confirm that I do not have a confirmed engagement¹⁷ as key expert in another EU/EDF-funded project, or any other professional activity, incompatible in terms of capacity and timing with the above engagements.

By making this declaration, I understand that I am not allowed to offer my services as an expert to any other tenderer participating in this tender procedure. I am fully aware that if I do so, I will be excluded from this tender procedure, the tenders will be rejected, and I may also be subject to exclusion from other tender procedures and contracts funded by the EU/EDF.

I also declare that I am not in a situation of conflict of interest or unavailability and commit to inform the tenderer(s) of any change in my situation.

I acknowledge that I have no contractual relations with the contracting authority and in case of dispute concerning my contract with the contractor I shall address myself to the latter and/or to the competent jurisdictions.

[For information, I have signed a statement of exclusivity and availability for the following tender(s):

Tender reference	Submission deadline for the tender	Tendered engagement
< tender reference >	< date >	[full time] [part time]
< tender reference >	< date >	[full time] [part time]
< etc. >		

Should I receive a confirmed engagement I declare that I will accept the first engagement offered to me chronologically. Furthermore I will notify the tenderer immediately of my unavailability.]

Name	
Signature	
Date	

¹ Country in which the legal entity is registered.

² Add/delete additional lines for consortium members as appropriate. **Note** that a subcontractor is not considered to be a consortium member for the purposes of this application form. Subsequently, data on subcontractors must not appear in the data related to the economic, financial and professional capacity. If this application is submitted by an individual legal entity, the name of that legal entity should be entered as 'Leader' (and all other lines should be deleted). Any

change in the identity of the Leader and/or any consortium members between the deadline for receipt of applications indicated in the Contract notice and the award of the contract is not permitted without the prior written consent of the contracting authority.

³ Natural persons must prove their capacity in accordance with the selection criteria and by the appropriate means.

⁴ If this application is submitted by a consortium, the data in the table must be the sum of the data in the corresponding tables in the declarations provided by the consortium members — see point 7 of this application form. Consolidated data are not requested for financial ratios.

⁵ Last year = last accounting year for which the entity's accounts have been closed.

⁶ Amounts entered in the 'Average' column must be the mathematical average of the amounts entered in the three preceding columns of the same row.

⁷ The gross inflow of economic benefits (cash, receivables, other assets) generated from the ordinary operating activities of the enterprise (such as sales of goods, sales of services, interest, royalties, and dividends) during the year.

⁸ A balance sheet account that represents the value of all assets that are reasonably expected to be converted into cash within one year in the normal course of business. Current assets include cash, accounts receivable, inventory, marketable securities, prepaid expenses and other liquid assets that can be readily converted to cash.

⁹ A company's debts or obligations that are due within one year. Current liabilities appear on the company's balance sheet and include short term debt, accounts payable, accrued liabilities and other debts.

¹⁰ If this application is submitted by a consortium, the data in the table above must be the sum of the data in the corresponding tables in the declarations provided by the consortium members — see point 7 of this application form.

¹¹ Add / delete additional lines and/or rows as appropriate. If this application is submitted by an individual legal entity, the name of the legal entity should be entered as 'Leader' (and all other columns should be deleted).

¹² For framework contracts, only specific contracts corresponding to assignments implemented under such framework contracts shall be considered.

¹³ The effect of inflation will not be taken into account.

¹⁴ If the reference contract is only partially completed, please quote the percentage and value which has been completed.

¹⁵ When supporting documents are to be issued by contracting authorities after the date of publication of PRAG 2014, please also indicate the function of key experts provided, whether belonging or not to permanent staff, and the number of months each of them worked on the project.

¹⁶ To be completed by all key experts.

¹⁷ The engagement of an expert is confirmed if the expert is committed to work as a key expert under a signed contract financed by the EU general budget or the EDF or if he/she is a key expert in a tender which has received a notification of award. The date of confirmation of the engagement in the latter case is that of the notification of award to the Contractor.

¹⁸ Only the proportion carried out by the legal entity may be used as reference.

Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria

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

<i>(only for natural persons)</i> himself or herself	<i>(only for legal persons)</i> 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 authority¹, 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

declares that [the] [each] person:

(1) is eligible in accordance with the criteria set out in the specific call for proposals;
(2) has the required financial and operational capacity as set out in the specific call for proposals ² ;
(3) has not received any other Union funding to carry out the [action] [work programme] subject of this grant application and commits to declare immediately to the Commission/ the Agency any other such Union funding it would receive until the end of the [action][work programme].

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS IS NOT SATISFIED, PLEASE INDICATE in annex to this declaration which and THE NAME OF THE CONCERNED PERSON WITH A BRIEF EXPLANATION.

I – SITUATION OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING THE PERSON

(4) declares that the above-mentioned person is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO
(a) 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 EU or national legislation or regulations;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ The same institution or agency.

² This does not apply to affiliated entities except if their financial capacity and operational capacity is necessary due to the fact that the beneficiary composed of these affiliated entities does not have the required capacity itself.

(b) 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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) 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 credibility 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 selection criteria or in the performance of a contract or an agreement;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) entering into agreement with other persons with the aim of distorting competition;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) violating intellectual property rights;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) it has been established by a final judgement that the person is guilty 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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 and 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, and conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, as well as corruption as defined in the applicable law.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) conduct related to a criminal organisation, referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) terrorist-related 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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an contracting authority, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;		
(f) 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;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person or entity has created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations of mandatory application in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(h) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that an entity has been created with the intent provided for in point (g).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i) for the situations under points (c) to (h) the person is subject to: i.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 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; ii.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; iii.facts referred to in decisions of entities and persons being entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks; iv.information transmitted by Member States implementing Union Funds; v.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 vi.decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

(5) 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) N°2015/849) is in one of the following situations:	YES	NO	N/A
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Situation (c) above (grave professional misconduct)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (d) above (fraud, corruption or other criminal offence)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (e) above (significant deficiencies in performance of a contract)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (f) above (irregularity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (g) above (creation of an entity with the intent to circumvent legal obligations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (h) above (person created with the intent to circumvent legal obligations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III – SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION CONCERNING NATURAL OR LEGAL PERSONS ASSUMING UNLIMITED LIABILITY FOR THE DEBTS OF THE [LEGAL] PERSON

(6) 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 <u>[If yes, please indicate in annex to this declaration which situation and the name(s) of the concerned person(s) with a brief explanation]:</u>	YES	NO	N/A
Situation (a) above (bankruptcy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Situation (b) above (breach in payment of taxes or social security contributions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV – GROUNDS FOR REJECTION FROM THIS PROCEDURE

(7) declares that the [above-mentioned] [[the] [each]] person:	YES	NO	N/A
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 the 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 the 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 authority³. 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
<i>Insert as many lines as necessary.</i>	

VII – SELECTION CRITERIA

(8) declares that the above-mentioned person complies with the selection criteria applicable to it individually as provided in the tender documents:	YES	NO	N/A
(a) It has the legal and regulatory capacity to pursue the professional activity needed for performing the contract as required in section <i>[insert]</i> of the contract notice/Instructions to tenderers;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) It fulfills the applicable economic and financial criteria indicated in section <i>[insert]</i> of the contract notice/Instructions to tenderers;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) It fulfills the applicable technical and professional criteria indicated in section <i>[insert]</i> of the contract notice/Instructions to tenderers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

³ The same institution or agency.

(9) the above-mentioned person is the sole tenderer or the leader in case of a consortium , declares that:	YES	NO	N/A
(d) the tenderer, including all members of the group in case of consortium and including subcontractors if applicable, complies with all the selection criteria for which a consolidated assessment will be made as provided in the tender documents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 documents 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 authority⁴. 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
<i>Insert as many lines as necessary.</i>	

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

⁴ The same institution or agency.