

ANNEX I:

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

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| ARTICLE 1. | DEFINITIONS | 2 |
| ARTICLE 2. | COMMUNICATIONS | 2 |
| ARTICLE 3. | ASSIGNMENT..... | 2 |
| ARTICLE 4. | SUBCONTRACTING..... | 3 |
| ARTICLE 5. | SUPPLY OF INFORMATION..... | 3 |
| ARTICLE 6. | ASSISTANCE WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS..... | 4 |
| ARTICLE 7. | GENERAL OBLIGATIONS | 4 |
| ARTICLE 8. | CODE OF CONDUCT..... | 5 |
| ARTICLE 9. | CONFLICT OF INTEREST..... | 6 |
| ARTICLE 10. | ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS | 7 |
| ARTICLE 11. | SPECIFICATIONS AND DESIGNS | 7 |
| ARTICLE 12. | LIABILITIES..... | 7 |
| ARTICLE 13. | MEDICAL, INSURANCE AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS | 8 |
| ARTICLE 14. | INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS..... | 10 |
| ARTICLE 15. | THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES | 11 |
| ARTICLE 16. | PERSONNEL | ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED. |
| ARTICLE 17. | REPLACEMENT OF PERSONNEL | 12 |
| ARTICLE 18. | TRAINEES | 13 |
| ARTICLE 19. | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASKS AND DELAYS | 13 |
| ARTICLE 20. | AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT | 14 |
| ARTICLE 21. | WORKING HOURS | 15 |
| ARTICLE 22. | LEAVE ENTITLEMENT | 15 |
| ARTICLE 23. | INFORMATION..... | 15 |
| ARTICLE 24. | RECORDS..... | 15 |
| ARTICLE 25. | VERIFICATIONS, CHECKS AND AUDITS BY EUROPEAN UNION BODIES | 16 |
| ARTICLE 26. | INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS | 17 |
| ARTICLE 27. | APPROVAL OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS | 17 |
| ARTICLE 28. | EXPENDITURE VERIFICATION..... | 17 |
| ARTICLE 29. | PAYMENT AND INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENT | 18 |
| ARTICLE 30. | FINANCIAL GUARANTEE..... | 21 |
| ARTICLE 31. | RECOVERY OF DEBTS FROM THE CONTRACTOR..... | 21 |
| ARTICLE 32. | REVISION OF PRICES | 22 |
| ARTICLE 33. | PAYMENT TO THIRD PARTIES | 22 |
| ARTICLE 34. | BREACH OF CONTRACT..... | 22 |
| ARTICLE 35. | SUSPENSION OF THE CONTRACT..... | 23 |
| ARTICLE 36. | TERMINATION BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY | 23 |
| ARTICLE 37. | TERMINATION BY THE CONTRACTOR..... | 25 |
| ARTICLE 38. | FORCE MAJEURE | 25 |
| ARTICLE 39. | DECEASE | 26 |
| ARTICLE 40. | SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES | 26 |
| ARTICLE 41. | APPLICABLE LAW | 27 |
| ARTICLE 42. | DATA PROTECTION..... | 27 |

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. For the avoidance of doubt, where experts are not directly contracted or employed by the contractor but through a third party, the latter is a subcontractor. 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 any subcontractor and any member of their personnel (experts, agents or employees), as if they were the acts, defaults or negligence of the contractor. 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. 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.
- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. 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 personnel 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 personnel, 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 the subcontractors and all natural persons linked to the contract, including participants to workshops and/or trainings, do not include entities/persons included 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 personnel 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 take all relevant measures to ensure the highest visibility to the financial contribution of the European Union. Additional communication activities required by the European Commission are described in the special conditions. All visibility and, if applicable, communication activities must comply with the latest Communication and Visibility Requirements for EU-funded external action, laid down and published by the European Commission.
- The Parties will consult immediately and endeavor to remedy any detected shortcomings in implementing the visibility and, if applicable, communication requirements set out in this Article and in the special conditions. Failure to perform the obligations set out in this article and in the special conditions can constitute a breach of contract in the sense of Article 34 of these general conditions, and can lead to corresponding measures taken by the Contracting Authority, including suspension of payment and/or a reduction of the final payment in proportion of the seriousness of the breach of obligations.
- 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 personnel 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 personnel shall not abuse of its entrusted power for private gain. The contractor or any of its subcontractors, agents or personnel 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 personnel 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 personnel, 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 personnel exposed to such a situation.
- 9.3. The contractor shall refrain from any contact which would compromise its independence or that of its personnel.
- 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 personnel of the public administration of the country where the services have to be rendered, regardless of their administrative situation, shall not be contracted or employed 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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 personnel, 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. Where the contract implements a financing agreement and relates to any study, the partner country(ies) with whom this financing agreement was signed also enjoys all the rights conferred by this article on the contracting authority.
- 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. PERSONNEL

- 16.1. For fee-based contracts, without prejudice to paragraph 4 of this Article, the contractor must inform the contracting authority of all personnel 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 personnel and, where appropriate, the specialisation required. The contracting authority shall have the right to oppose the contractor's choice of personnel.
- 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 personnel 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 personnel;
 - (b) inform the project manager of the date of arrival and departure of each member of personnel;
 - (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 personnel with all financial and technical means needed to enable them to carry out their tasks described under this contract efficiently.
- 16.6. Experts employed or contracted, directly or indirectly, by the contractor do not have any contractual relations with the contracting authority.

ARTICLE 17. REPLACEMENT OF PERSONNEL

- 17.1. The contractor shall not make changes to the agreed personnel 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 personnel;
 - (b) If it becomes necessary to replace an agreed personnel 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 personnel to be replaced. This shall be done on the basis of a written and justified request to which the contractor and the agreed personnel have had the opportunity to provide observations.
- 17.3. Where an agreed personnel 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 personnel 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 personnel are the responsibility of the contractor. The contracting authority makes no payment for the

period when the agreed personnel to be replaced is absent. The replacement of any agreed personnel, 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 personnel'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 personnel 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 personnel whose curriculum vitae 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 personnel 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 personnel 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 personnel 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, the European Public Prosecutor's 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, of the European Public Prosecutor's 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, the European Public Prosecutor's 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, the European Public Prosecutor's 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. The measures described in this paragraph may equally be adopted by the European Commission in pursuance of its administrative powers under the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018, OJ-L 193/30.07.2018, p.1).
- 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 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.

* * *



ANNEX II: TERMS OF REFERENCE

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION..... | 2 |
| 2. OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS..... | 4 |
| 3. ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS..... | 5 |
| 4. SCOPE OF THE WORK..... | 6 |
| 5. LOGISTICS AND TIMING..... | 9 |
| 6. REQUIREMENTS..... | 10 |
| 7. REPORTS..... | 11 |
| 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION..... | 12 |



1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. Partner country

< Albania >

1.2. Contracting authority

< Municipality of Gjirokastra >

1.3. Country background

The Municipality of Gjirokastra (the Biggest Municipality of the Region) is principally the commercial centre with specific productive activities. The most notable one is related to agriculture. The Municipality of Gjirokastra is a regional agricultural market that trades locally produced groceries, aiming to export the products to other regions. Given the potential of southern Albania to supply organically grown products, and its relationship with Greek counterparts in the nearby city of Ioannina, it is a sign that the agrofood market is one of the most promising developing sectors of the region.

Soil degradation is a significant problem worldwide and is a cause for alarm, as it is an essential ecosystem related to food production, energy, carbon sequestration, water purification, and nutrient regulation. When soil degrades, it causes a decline in soil health, biodiversity, and productivity. This leads to issues at all levels of many ecosystems and significant environmental consequences such as floods and mass migration. Soil degradation is a cause for alarm, as it is an essential ecosystem related to food production, energy, carbon sequestration, water purification, and nutrient regulation.

By implementing sustainable soil management practices, the ECOBASE project helps to reduce soil erosion, prevent contamination of water bodies, and preserve natural habitats, leading to cleaner and healthier environments for the general public to enjoy. Also, the project's emphasis on sustainable agriculture and soil health directly impacts the quality and safety of food produced in the ADRION Region. This leads to healthier and safer food products reaching the market, benefiting the general public's nutritional well-being and reducing potential health risks associated with food contamination. The outputs of the project (training, soil remediation methodology, integration of innovative technologies, and continuous monitoring of soil quality) will directly benefit land operation stakeholders, promoting long-term, sustainable regional development and competitiveness, offering a significant impact on the economy, society, and environment of selected areas; increasing business opportunities; securing environmental sustainability & biodiversity; improving soil health; cleaning up pollution, and finally improving current techniques and preventing future contamination. The ECOBASE project is an absolute novelty for sustainable soil management within the broader EUSAIR strategy in the ADRION region and a preliminary step toward the future development of multiannual soil management plans.

1.4. Current situation in the sector

Soil degradation shows a worrying trend in the ADRION region, mostly driven by the tourism sector. According to recent research, most of the ADRION coastline will be radically different by 2050. This phenomenon will severely hit countries such as Albania, which, considering the rather short coastline will have major problems.

Protection and preservation of ADRION Biodiversity: Biodiversity in the Adriatic-Ionian region is undoubtedly one of its greatest economic resources with a lot of potential as participating countries



count it in their relative GDP generated. Nonetheless, biodiversity is seriously at risk, to the point of no return, due to extensive agricultural practices threatening the safeguard of traditional production, and seasonal mass tourism, further exacerbated by the consequences of climate change.

Methodologies and solutions Harmonized with EU legislation: So, the problems are well known and what ADRION area needs are methodologies and strategic solutions to be adopted, applied, and monitored.

1.5. Related programmes and other donor activities

< N/A >



2. OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

2.1. Overall objective

The main objectives of the ECOBASE project are the joint development of methods and strategic solutions harmonized with EU legislation to manage and improve soil health, reduce environmental pollution, and improve the protection and preservation of ADRION Region biodiversity. The second main objective is to provide innovative tools to help policymakers and farmers better understand and assess soil degradation's economic risks and social and ecological impacts and evaluate and implement different mitigation strategies/methodologies.

2.2. Specific objective(s)

The specific objectives (Outcomes) of this contract are as follows:

- ✓ Create 1x transnational network with at least 10 stakeholders supporting biodiversity protection,
- ✓ Provide joint developments of a methodology, an action plan & an innovative tool helping users assess economic, social & ecological impacts/risks and evaluate/implement different mitigation strategies,
- ✓ perform a joint action devoted to providing knowledge and sharing innovative technological tools,
- ✓ Establish a living lab to co-create knowledge and test/demonstrate in real-life conditions.

2.3. Expected outputs to be achieved by the contractor

1. Event organization for a project Meeting in Gjirokastra
2. Event organization for info Days / workshsops
3. Event organization for Capacity Building Activities
4. Content creation of promotional materials (Brochures, Posters & Flyers, press releases)
5. Monitoring and Evaluating Pilot Action
6. Internal Quality Plan& Evaluation Report
7. A report presenting agricultural challenges and opportunities specific for the region of Gjirokastra, contributing to the development of tailored strategies, activities, and interventions that address the region's unique biodiversity needs.



3. ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS

3.1. Assumptions underlying the project

The main assumptions underlying the project are the following:

- The maturity of the project activities is at satisfactory level. Sufficient capacity of the involved stakeholders and target groups to participate in the project events/activities.
- Previous studies including norms, planning rules, financial and economic incentives, methods of analysis and evaluation of Agriculture sector in the Gjirokastrë Region and in country level will be available.
- The proposed strategic road map will be in line with the needs of the stakeholders involved and political support will facilitate the integration of this in the concerned areas.

3.2. Risks

| Risk | Weight | Probability of occurrence | Mitigation measure |
|--|--------|---------------------------|---|
| Inability to elaborate the necessary communication means as requested in by the Contract. | High | Low | The contractor is requested to have experience in EU projects. |
| Low capacity of the region and the country to implement the proposed measures-activities. | High | Low | Strong political commitment is in place to meet the sustainable development requirements and impose the necessary measures. |
| Convid19 – New lock Down | High | Medium | A risk assessment plan will be developed, and alternative solutions will be proposed (webinars) for the implementation of the project's workshops. |
| Low capacity of the involved stakeholders and target groups to participate in the project activities / events. | Medium | Medium | The invitation approach / the communication channels and the agenda of the events will be redesigned. New dates will be chosen, if necessary, to address the requirements of most stakeholders. |
| Possible delays in project implementation | Medium | Medium | The project timetable will be re-designed, if necessary. A prolongation request will be submitted in case of major delays. |



4. SCOPE OF THE WORK

4.1. General

4.1.1. Description of the assignment

The scope of the assignment is to provide integrated consulting support to the Contracting Authority for the implementation of the project deliverables listed in section 4.2.

4.1.2. Geographical area to be covered

Albania, Municipality of Gjirokastrë

4.1.3. Target groups

- Local public authorities
- Regional public authorities
- General public
- Sectoral agencies
- Higher education & research
- Business support organisations
- Enterprises & SMEs

4.2. Specific work

| Del. Num. | Deliverable Title | Description | Delivery date | Budget (€) |
|--------------|---|--|-----------------|----------------|
| M1 | Project Meeting | The contractor will organize a project Meeting in Gjirokastra. | Up to 8/2027 | 2,000 |
| M2 | Quality Plan & Evaluation Report | Elaboration of a quality plan and a constant evaluation report connected with the progress reports. | Up to 8/2027 | 17,000 |
| D.2.3.1 | Info Day & Workshop | The contractor will organize 2 events: An info day to inform users / farmers how to use free kits and how to collect and send data to the platforms and a training workshop/seminar about correct soil sampling. | Up to 8/2026 | 4,000 |
| D.2.3.1 | Capacity Building events | The contractor will organize 2 capacity building events to enhance the knowledge and skills of stakeholders involved in soil health management. | Up to 8/2026 | 7,000 |
| D 2.5.1 | Monitoring and Evaluation report | The contractor will elaborate a report detailing the selection and implementation of pilot actions, showcasing best practices and innovative approaches to soil health management. Highlight the tangible benefits and outcomes achieved in specific locations within the ADRION Region. | Up to 8/2026 | 4,000 |
| D.3.1.1 | Contribution to Soil health management strategy document | A report presenting agricultural challenges and opportunities specific for the region of Gjirokastra, contributing to the development of tailored strategies, activities, and interventions that address the region's unique biodiversity needs. | Up to 8/2027 | 6,000 |
| D.3.1.2 | Contribution at building the project knowledge | | | 6,000 |
| D.3.3.2 | Contribution to the development of Project Transferability Plan | | | 5,000 |
| D.3.4.1 | Communication material | The contractor will create the content and the promotional material: 400 Brochures, 200 posters & flyers, 6 press releases. | Up to 8/2027 | 3,500 |
| Total | | | | 54,500€ |



4.3. Project management

4.3.1. Responsible body

Municipality of Gjirokaster

4.3.2. Management structure

The Municipality of Gjirokaster as a local public authority is interested in implementing activities and initiatives fostering sustainable economic and social development in its territory. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development is also priority for the Municipality of Gjirokaster and can be achieved through the elaboration and implementation of local strategies policies. Moreover, it has the capacity in networking with all the stakeholders on local, regional, national and international level in order to effectively achieve its goals.

Regarding EU-funded interregional project management, the Mayor of Gjirokaster is given by law the authority to sign contracts, initiate procurements procedures, cooperate with third parties and take key actions on the best interest of the municipality. He can delegate other aspects of the project management to the deputy mayors or other staff members. The Project Management Unit is composed by the Project Manager who has operational responsibility for the implementation of the overall project and will ensure timely commencement of the entire project within the time schedule. The Financial Manager has the responsibility to enable efficient overall financial and budgetary management of the operation. The Communication Manager has the responsibility to communicate internally and externally all-important aspect of the project. The Project Management Team is composed by experienced staff members of the Municipality and reports and informs the mayor periodically throughout the implementation of the project.

The Department "EU Projects and Programmes" will be responsible for the preparation and execution of the project activities.

4.3.3. Facilities to be provided by the contracting authority and/or other parties

N/A



5. LOGISTICS AND TIMING

5.1. Location

Municipality of Gjirokastrë, Albania

5.2. Start date & period of implementation of tasks

The intended start date is <16.01.2025> and the period of implementation of the contract will be 32months (project end is **31/8/2027**) from this date and including the closure phase. Please see Articles 19.1 and 19.2 of the special conditions for the actual start date and period of implementation.



6. REQUIREMENTS

6.1. Staff

Note that civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the partner country, or of international/regional organisations based in the country, shall only be approved to work as experts if well justified. The justification should be submitted with the tender and shall include information on the added value the expert will bring as well as proof that the expert is seconded or on personal leave.

6.1.1. Key experts

Key experts are not required

6.1.2. Other experts, support staff & backstopping

CVs for experts other than the key experts should not be submitted in the tender but the tenderer will have to demonstrate in their offer that they have access to experts with the required profiles. The contractor shall select and hire other experts as required according to the needs. The selection procedures used by the contractor to select these other experts shall be transparent, and shall be based on pre-defined criteria, including professional qualifications, language skills and work experience.

The costs for backstopping and support staff, as needed, are considered to be included in the tenderer's financial offer.

6.2. Office accommodation

: Office accommodation for each expert working on the contract is to be provided by the contractor.

6.3. Facilities to be provided by the contractor

The contractor shall ensure that experts are adequately supported and equipped. In particular it must ensure that there is sufficient administrative, secretarial and interpreting provision to enable experts to concentrate on their primary responsibilities. It must also transfer funds as necessary to support their work under the contract and to ensure that its employees are paid regularly and in a timely fashion.

6.4. Equipment

No equipment is to be purchased on behalf of the contracting authority / partner country as part of this service contract or transferred to the contracting authority / partner country at the end of this contract. Any equipment related to this contract which is to be acquired by the partner country must be purchased by means of a separate supply tender procedure.



7. REPORTS

7.1. Reporting requirements

The contractor will submit the following reports in <English> in one original and one copy:

- **Inception Report** of maximum 12 pages to be produced after one month from the start of implementation. In the report the contractor shall describe e.g. initial findings, progress in collecting data, any difficulties encountered or expected in addition to the work programme and staff travel. The contractor should proceed with his/her work unless the contracting authority sends comments on the inception report.
- **Draft final report** of maximum <20> pages (main text, excluding annexes). This report shall be submitted no later than one month before the end of the period of implementation of tasks.
- **Final report** with the same specifications as the draft final report, incorporating any comments received from the parties on the draft report. The deadline for sending the final report is 15 days after receipt of comments on the draft final report. The report shall contain a sufficiently detailed description of the different options to support an informed decision on CCI sector. The detailed analyses underpinning the recommendations will be presented in annexes to the main report. The final report must be provided along with the corresponding invoice.

7.2. Submission and approval of reports

The report referred to above must be submitted to the project manager identified in the contract. The project manager is responsible for approving the reports.



8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1. Definition of indicators

< Specific performance measures chosen because they provide valid, useful, practical and comparable measures of progress towards achieving expected results. Can be quantitative: measures of quantity, including statistical statements; or qualitative: judgements and perception derived from subjective analysis. >

8.2. Special requirements

< No special requirements are envisaged.>

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/results (outputs, outcomes, impact), 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 of origin as well as partner countries, organisational structure, etc. which are supposed to ensure that function, as well as the available quality control systems and the excellent knowledge capitalisation methods and tools, within the respective members of the consortium.
- A description of any subcontracting arrangements– including sub-contracting only aiming at making available key and non-key experts - and sub-contracting with capacity providers (if such were identified during the shortlisting stage) with a clear indication of the tasks that will be entrusted to such subcontractors 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.

Organisation & methodology

- 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.

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.

Guidance notes on expert inputs:

The tenderer is expected to take into account the implementation period of the contract and propose the number of days which will be needed for experts to accomplish the tasks described in the terms of reference.

Implementation of the contract (and therefore payment) is based solely on the working days. The contractor will only be paid for days actually worked on the basis of the daily fee rate contained in the budget breakdown (Annex V). Tenderers must annex the 'Estimated number of working days' worksheet contained in the spreadsheet for Annex V to the organisation and methodology to demonstrate the correspondence between the proposed methodology and the expert inputs. Please note that the budget breakdown should not be attached to the organisation and methodology as no financial offer should be disclosed in the technical offer.

During the technical evaluation, assessment will be made if the number of working days estimated for each month for each type of expert proposed in the organisation and methodology are sufficient for the requirements of the terms of reference to be achieved. This is judged on the basis of the profiles identified in the terms of reference and the organisation and methodology.

The tenderer is expected to include the holiday provision for the experts. The annual leave entitlement of the experts employed by the contractor is determined by their employment contract with the contractor and not by the service contract between the contracting authority and the contractor. However, the contracting authority can decide when experts take their annual leave since this is subject to approval by the project manager, who will assess any such request according to the needs of the project while the contract is in progress. For obvious reasons, a day of annual leave is not considered to be a working day. Please see the general conditions, Articles 21 and 22.

The fee rates for all experts must include the remuneration paid to the experts, all the administrative costs of employing the relevant experts, such as equipment, relocation and repatriation expenses [including flights to and from the country of assignment upon mobilisation and demobilisation as well as leave], accommodation, expatriation allowances, leave, medical insurance and any other employment benefits given to the experts by the contractor. It shall also include any security arrangement except when this is exceptionally included under the incidental expenditure. Furthermore the fees shall also include the margin, overheads, profit and backstopping facilities.

A fee-based/technical assistance contract is, by definition, one in which the actual days worked each month for each category of experts may differ from the number of working days estimated for each month in the work plan in Annex V. The actual input required for the tasks specified in the terms of reference and organisation and methodology will only be known once the contract starts. The project manager will use the work plan when monitoring the actual number of working days submitted in each invoice to check that the contract is progressing within budget. The contractor may update the estimate during implementation of the project in accordance with article 20 of the general conditions.

]

Organisation & methodology

6. LOG FRAME

The Logical framework (logframe) matrix is a table that captures in a structured way the hierarchy of results of the intervention, mirroring the objectives/results laid out in Section 2 of the Terms of Reference, i.e. annex b8e (fee-based) and annex b8f (global price).

The impact is the intermediate to long-term expected effect of the action fulfilling the overall objective. The outcomes are the mid-term expected effects of the action fulfilling the specific objective(s). The links between each element (impact, outcomes, outputs) are as important as the results themselves, reflecting the theory of change and the roles of providers and other stakeholders.

The Logical framework (logframe) matrix should be used as a reporting tool on the achievement of the results (impact, outcomes, outputs) during implementation. Values on indicators aimed at measuring the results will be regularly updated in the column foreseen for monitoring and reporting purposes (see “Current value”). Columns for intermediary targets could be added, if needed.

Changes to the Logical framework that affect the expected results (impact, outcomes, outputs) shall be agreed with the contracting authority before the modification takes place, and implemented through an amendment to the contract as per article 20 of annex b8d (General Conditions for service contracts).



| Results | Results chain | Indicator | Baseline (value & reference year) | Target (value & reference year) | Current value* (reference year) (* to be included in interim and final reports) | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|----------------|
| Impact (Overall objective) | <p>Please ensure consistency with the overall objective/impact identified in Annex II: Terms of Reference, section 2 “Objectives and Expected Results”</p> <p>As per OECD-DAC definition, the impact is “the overall objective of the Action entailing positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.”</p> <p>The impact is the intermediary to long-term expected effect of the action fulfilling the overall objective(s) to which the action <u>contributes</u> at country, regional or sector level, in the political, social, economic and/or environmental global context which will stem from interventions of all relevant actors and stakeholders.</p> <p>Please delete this row once the Logframe is completed.</p> | <p>Quantitative and/or qualitative variable that provides a simple and reliable mean to measure the achievement of the corresponding result</p> <p>To be presented, when relevant, disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, disability, etc.</p> | <p>The value of the indicator(s) prior to the intervention against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made.</p> <p>(Ideally, to be drawn from the partner's strategy)</p> | <p>The intended final value of the indicator(s).</p> <p>(Ideally, to be drawn from the partner's strategy)</p> | <p>The latest available value of the indicator(s) at the time of reporting</p> <p>(* to be updated in interim and final reports)</p> | <p>Ideally to be drawn from the partner's strategy.</p> | Not applicable |
| | | Impact indicator 1: | Baseline for impact indicator 1 | Target for impact indicator 1 | Current value for impact indicator 1 | Sources of data for impact indicator 1 | Not applicable |
| | | Impact indicator 2: | Baseline for impact indicator 2 | Target for impact indicator 2 | Current value for impact indicator 2 | Sources of data for impact indicator 2 | |
| | | Impact indicator #: | Baseline for impact indicator # | Target for impact indicator # | Current value for impact indicator # | Sources of data for impact indicator # | |

Organisation & methodology

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Outcome (s) (Specific objective(s)) | <p><i>Please ensure consistency with the specific objective(s)/outcome(s) identified in Annex II: Terms of Reference, section 2 “Objectives and Expected Results”</i></p> <p><i>As per OECD-DAC definition, the outcomes are “The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term change and effects of intervention outputs.”</i></p> <p><i>The main medium-term effect of the intervention focusing on behavioural and institutional changes beneficial to the target group and resulting from the related outputs of the <u>Action</u>.</i></p> <p><i>It is good practice to limit the number of specific objectives (often one is enough), however for large Actions, other outcomes can be included.</i></p> <p><i>Please delete this row once the Logframe is completed.</i></p> | <p><i>Quantitative and/or qualitative variable that provides a simple and reliable mean to measure the achievement of the corresponding result</i></p> <p><i>To be presented, when relevant, disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, disability, etc.</i></p> | <p><i>The value of the indicator(s) prior to the intervention against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made.</i></p> | <p><i>The intended final value of the indicator(s).</i></p> | <p><i>The latest available value of the indicator(s) at the time of reporting</i></p> <p><i>(* to be updated in interim and final reports)</i></p> | <p><i>Sources of information and methods used to collect and report (including who and when/how frequently).</i></p> | <p><i>External, necessary and positive conditions for implementing the intervention that are outside of its management's control.</i></p> |
| | Outcome 1 | 1.1 – Indicator 1 to Outcome 1 | 1.1 – Baseline for indicator 1.1 (same unit of measure) | 1.1 – Target for indicator 1.1 | 1.1 – Current value for indicator 1.1 | 1.1 – Source of data for indicator 1.1 | |
| | | 1.2 – Indicator 2 to Outcome 1 | 1.2 Baseline for indicator 1.2 (same unit of measure) | 1.2 – Target for indicator 1.2 | 1.2 – Current value for indicator 1.2 | 1.2 – Source of data for indicator 1.2 | |
| | | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | |
| | Outcome 2 | 2.1 – Indicator to outcome 2 | 2.1 – Baseline for indicator 2.1 (same unit of measure) | 2.1 – Target for indicator 2.1 | 2.1 – Current value for indicator 2.1 | 2.1 – Source of data for indicator 2.1 | |
| | | 2.2 - Indicator to outcome 2 | 2.2 – Baseline for indicator 2.2 (same unit of measure) | 2.2 – Target for indicator 2.2 | 2.2 – Current value for indicator 2.2 | 2.2 – Source of data for indicator 2.2 | |
| | Outcome # | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | |

Organisation & methodology

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Outputs | <p><i>Please ensure consistency with the outputs identified in Annex II: Terms of Reference, section 2 “Objectives and Expected Results”</i></p> <p><i>As per OECD-DAC definition outputs are “the products, capital goods and services which results from development interventions.”</i></p> <p><i>Outputs are the direct/tangible products (infrastructure, goods and services) delivered/generated by the action. They may also include changes resulting from the action which are relevant to the achievement of outcomes. These changes relate to improved capacities, abilities, skills, systems, policies of a group of people or an organisation, and are generated by the EU action.</i></p> <p><i>Outputs should be linked to corresponding outcomes through clear numbering. However in some cases please note that a given output can contribute to the achievement of more than one outcome(s).</i></p> <p><i>Please delete this row once the Logframe is completed.</i></p> | (same as above) | (same as above) | (same as above) | (same as above) | (same as above) | External, necessary and positive conditions for implementing the intervention that are outside of its management's control. |
| | 1.1 Output 1 related to Outcome 1 | 1.1.1 Indicator 1 to Output 1 | 1.1.1 Baseline for indicator 1.1.1 (same unit of measure) | 1.1.1 Target for Indicator 1.1.1 | 1.1.1 Current value for indicator 1.1.1 | 1.1.1 Source of data for indicator 1.1.1 | |
| | | 1.1.2 Indicator 2 to Output 1 | 1.1.2 Baseline for indicator 1.1.2 (same unit of measure) | 1.1.2 Target for Indicator 1.1.2 | 1.1.2 Current value for indicator 1.1.2 | 1.1.2 Source of data for indicator 1.1.2 | |
| | | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | |
| | 1.2 Output 2 related to Outcome 1 | 1.2.1. Indicator 1 to Output 2 | 1.2.1. Baseline for indicator 1.2.1 (same unit of measure) | 1.2.1. Target for Indicator 1.2.1 | 1.2.1. Current value for indicator 1.2.1 | 1.2.1. Source of data for indicator 1.2.1 | |
| | | 1.2.2 Indicator 2 to Output 2 | 1.2.2 Baseline for indicator 1.2.2 (same unit of measure) | 1.2.2 Target for Indicator 1.2.2 | 1.2.2 Current value for indicator 1.2.2 | 1.2.2 Source of data for indicator 1.2.2 | |
| | | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | |

Organisation & methodology

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | 2.1 Output 1 related to Outcome 2 | 2.1.1 Indicator 1 to Output 1 | 2.1.1 Baseline for indicator 2.1.1 (same unit of measure) | 2.1.1 Target for Indicator 2.1.1 | 2.1.1 Current value for indicator 2.1.1 | 2.1.1 Source of data for indicator 2.1.1 | |
| | | 2.1.2 Indicator 2 to Output 1 | 2.1.2 Baseline for indicator 2.1.2 (same unit of measure) | 2.1.2 Target for Indicator 2.1.2 | 2.1.2 Current value for indicator 2.1.2 | 2.1.2 Source of data for indicator 2.1.2 | |
| | | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | |
| | 2.2 Output 2 related to Outcome 2 | 2.2.1 Indicator 1 to Output 2 related to Outcome 2 | 2.2.1 Baseline for indicator 2.2.1 (same unit of measure) | 2.2.1 Target for Indicator 2.2.1 | 2.2.1 Current value for indicator 2.2.1 | 2.2.1 Source of data for indicator 2.2.1 | |
| | | 2.2.2 Indicator 2 to Output 2 related to Outcome 2 | 2.2.2 Baseline for indicator 2.1.2 (same unit of measure) | 2.2.2 Target for Indicator 2.2.2 | 2.2.2 Current value for indicator 2.2.2 | 2.2.2 Source of data for indicator 2.2.2 | |
| | | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | (...) | |
| | (...) | | | | | | |

Organisation & methodology

Activities Matrix

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>What are the key activities to be carried out to produce the intended outputs?</i></p> <p><i>(*activities should be linked to corresponding output(s) through clear numbering)</i></p> | <p>Means <i>What are the political, technical, financial, human and material resources required to implement these activities, e.g. staff, equipment, supplies, operational facilities, etc.</i></p> <p>Costs <i>What are the action costs? How are they classified? (Breakdown in the Budget for the Action)</i></p> | <p>Assumptions <i>External, necessary and positive conditions for implementing the intervention that are outside of its management's control.</i></p> |
|--|---|---|

ANNEX V: BUDGET

Project title: “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”, project IPA ADRION 239. Under the (Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic Ionian Programme 2021 – 2027

Contract Title: Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokaster for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”

Location: Gjirokaster, Albania

Reference Number: ECOBASE/2024/....

Please include a price breakdown based on the outputs/ deliverables as the Terms of Reference:

| Del Num. | Deliverable Title | Maximum Budget as per ToRt (€) | Offered Price without VAT (€) | Offered price with VAT (€) |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| M1 | Project Meeting | 2,000 | | |
| M2 | Quality Plan & Evaluation Report | 17,000 | | |
| D.2.3.1 | Info Day & Workshop | 4,000 | | |
| D.2.3.1 | Capacity Building events | 7,000 | | |
| D 2.5.1 | Monitoring and Evaluation report | 4,000 | | |
| D.3.1.1 | Contribution to Soil health management strategy document | 6,000 | | |
| D.3.1.2 | Contribution at building the project knowledge | 6,000 | | |
| D.3.3.2 | Contribution to the development of Project Transferability Plan | 5,000 | | |
| D.3.4.1 | Communication material | 3,500 | | |
| TOTAL | | 54,500 | | |

Global price: EUR <amount> without VAT

Name of tenderer: []

Signature

Stamp



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 | Registrikood |
| 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) |



Reference Number: ECOBASE/2024/....

Tederer / Consortium Name:

Evaluator Name: Signature:

EVALUATION GRID

| | 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



| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Contract title : | Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokastrë for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym ‘ECOBASE’, in the context of the (Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic Ionian Programme 2021 – 2027 | Reference: | ECOBASE/2024/.... |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|

| Tender 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? | Documentary evidence for the references ² (If requested at this stage of the procedure) | Documentary evidence for the exclusion criteria (If requested at this stage of the procedure) | Overall decision? (Accept / Reject) |
|---------------|--|---|------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

² Evidence provided shall be compliant with the description given in the request to participate form as concerns the selection criteria for technical capacity as specified in the contract notice



| Tender 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? | Documentary evidence for the references ² (If requested at this stage of the procedure) | Documentary evidence for the exclusion criteria (If requested at this stage of the procedure) | Overall decision? (Accept / Reject) |
|---------------|--|---|------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Chairperson's name | |
| Chairperson's signature | |
| Date | |



DRAFT CONTRACT

SERVICE CONTRACT FOR EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL ACTIONS

No <Contract number>

FINANCED FROM THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION UNDER THE INTERREG EUROPE PROGRAMME 2021 – 2027

Municipality of Gjirokastrë
Sheshi “Çerçiz Topulli”,
6001 Gjirokastrë, Albania
(‘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 <“Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym ‘ECOBASE’, project IPA ADRION 239. Under the (Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic Ionian Programme 2021 – 2027 >

CONTRACT TITLE < Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokastrë for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym ‘ECOBASE’ >

Identification number < ECOBASE/2024/2 >

(1) Subject

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.

- 1.1 The subject of this contract is < Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokaaster for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”> done in Gjirokaaster Albania with identification number < ECOBASE /2024/2> (‘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

This contract, established in [Euro] , is a global price contract. The contract value is [EUR] <amount of the contractor’s financial offer without VAT>.

(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)
- Budget (Annex V);
- Other relevant forms and documents (Annex VI);

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

(b) the data protection notice is available at
[https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA\(Ch.2\):General](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA(Ch.2):General)

Done in English in two originals, 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:

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.

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

e.g

Project manager for the Contracting Authority and Contractor

OR

Financial manager for the Contracting Authority and the Contractor

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 [not applicable] remains only for numbering reasons.

Article 7 General obligations

7.8 The contractor should comply with its minimum obligation towards visibility as per the requirements of Interreg Europe Programme Manual. All activities must comply with the rules lay down in the Communication and Visibility Manual of the Project and the general rules for EU External Actions published by the European Commission.

Article 12 - Liabilities

12.2 '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 the contract value

Article 19 Implementation of the tasks and delays

19.1 The start date for implementation shall be the date of signature of the contract by both parties

19.2 The period for implementing the tasks is from the signature date from both parties until 31st May 2027 or until the official end of the project in case of extension.

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 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 [not applicable] remains only for numbering reasons.

Article 29 Payment and interest on late payment

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

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Month | | <EUR/***> |
| 1 | Maximum pre-financing payment | <WILL NOT PROVIDED> |
| <Month/ year > | Deliverable 1 | Amount as per budget line |
| <Month/ year > | Deliverable N | Amount as per budget line |
| | Total | <Total contract value without VAT> |

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.]

29.3 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.]

29.5 Payments will be made in [Euro] 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.

Article 30 Financial guarantee

30.1 By derogation from article 30 of the general conditions, no pre-financing guarantee is required.

Article 40 Settlement of disputes

[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 Administrative Courts of Republic of Albania applying the national legislation of the contracting authority.

Article 42 Data protection

[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/EC⁴ and as detailed in the specific privacy statement published at ePRAG.]

⁴ OJ L 205 of 21.11.2018, p. 39.



SERVICE CONTRACT NOTICE

<Contract title>

PROJECT “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”, project IPA ADRION 239. Under the (Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic Ionian Programme 2021 – 2027

CONTRACT TITLE Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokastrë for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”

<**Location** – Municipality of Gjirokastrë / Albania >

Identification number ECOBASE/2024/....

1. Reference

ECOBASE/2024/....

2. Procedure

Simplified procedure PRAG 2021.1

3. Programme title

< (Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic Ionian Programme 2021 – 2027 >

4. Financing

<Budget line/financing agreement/other>

5. Contracting authority

Municipality of Gjirokastrë / Albania



CONTRACT SPECIFICATION

6. Nature of contract

Global price

7. Contract description

The current contract is related to the provision of services for the following activities and deliverables as per the Approved Application Form for the PP4-Municipality of Gjirokastra. These services concern the following:

- ✓ Event organization for a project Meeting in Gjirokastra
- ✓ Event organization for info Days / workshsops
- ✓ Event organization for Capacity Building Activities
- ✓ Content creation of promotional materials (Brochures, Posters & Flyers, press releases)
- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluating Pilot Action
- ✓ Internal Quality Plan& Evaluation Report
- ✓ A report presenting agricultural challenges and opportunities specific for the region of Gjirokastra, contributing to the development of tailored strategies, activities, and interventions that address the region's unique biodiversity needs.

8. Number and titles of lots

One lot only

9. Maximum budget

[EUR] 54.500,00 without VAT (a maximum budget per deliverable is defined in the terms of reference based on the contract)

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

10. Legal basis, eligibility and rules of origin



Participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping – consortium – of tenderers) which are established in a Member State of the European Union or in a country or territory of the regions covered and/or authorised by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed. Participation is also open to international organisations. Participation of natural persons is directly governed by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

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 natural or 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 natural or 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) 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

< 16/01/2025 >

15. Implementation period of the tasks



From the signature date from both parties until 31st May 2027 or until the official end of the project in case of extension.

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

16. Selection criteria

Capacity-providing entities

An economic operator (i.e. candidate or tenderer) may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links it has with them. If the economic operator relies on other entities, 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 and notably that of nationality as the economic operator relying on them 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 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 tasks for which these capacities are required.

With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the economic operator relies, become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

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.

The tenderer shall not use previous experience which caused breach of contract and termination by a contracting authority as a reference for selection criteria.

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 average annual turnover of the tenderer must exceed the 50% of the maximum
- budget stated in the contract notice; and
- 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**.

- has at least one Permanent Expert with experience in fields relevant to the topics (one or more) of this procurement, such as: EU Project Management, Event Organization, Studies in the field of Agricultural sector, or similar.

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 five years preceding the submission deadline**.

- The tenderer is specialized in relevant fields of the one or more) like EU Project Management, Event Organization, Studies in the field of Agriculture sector or similar.
- the tendered has provided at least two similar contracts including one or more of the following fields: EU Project Management, Event Organization, Studies in the field of Agricultural sector.

This means that the service contract the tenderer refers to could have been started at any time during the indicated period but it does not necessarily have to be completed during that period, nor implemented during the entire period. Tenderers are allowed to refer either to service contracts completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to service contracts not yet completed. Only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration. This portion will have to be supported by documentary evidence (- statement or certificate from the entity which awarded the contract, proof of payment) also detailing its value. If a tenderer has implemented the service contract in a consortium, the percentage that the tenderer has successfully completed must be clear from the documentary evidence, together with a description of the nature of the services provided if the selection criteria relating to the pertinence of the experience have been used.

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.



17. Award criteria

Best price-quality ratio. Technical Evaluation/Financial Evaluation: 80/20

TENDERING

18. Deadline for submission of tenders

The deadline for submission 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/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesB\(Ch.3\):Servicecontracts](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesB(Ch.3):Servicecontracts), under the zip file called Simplified Tender dossier.

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/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA\(Ch.2\):General](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA(Ch.2):General)

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.



22. Operational language

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

23. 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 2024** of the applicable InforEuro exchange rate, which can be found at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>.

INSTRUCTIONS TO TENDERERS

REFERENCE: <ECOBASE/2024/.....>

PROJECT “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”, project IPA ADRION 239. Under the (Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic Ionian Programme 2021 – 2027

CONTRACT TITLE Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokastrë for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”

<**Location** – Municipality of Gjirokastrë / Albania >

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, (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 | < 20.12.2024> | < 14:00> |
| Last date for the contracting authority to issue clarification | < 27.12.2024 > | < 14.00 > |
| Deadline for submitting tenders | <6.01.2025 > | < 14.00 > |
| Completion date for evaluating technical offers | <13.012025> | - |

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Notification of award | < 14.01.2025 > | - |
| Contract signature | < 16.01.2025 > | - |
| Start date | < 16.01.2025 > | - |

* **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 2.6.10.1.2. (rejection from a given 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, or the third party making available the experts, shall contain a provision that experts are subject to the approval of the partner country. It is furthermore recommended that this contract contain a dispute resolution clause.
- e) Subcontracting is allowed but the contractor will remain fully liable towards the contracting authority for performance of the contract as a whole. The tenderer and, where applicable, entities on whose capacities it relies with regard to criteria relating to the economic and financial capacity shall be jointly liable for the performance of the contract. 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 in the tender submission form.
- f) All subcontractors and capacity providing entities must be eligible for the contract. If the identity of the intended subcontractor is already known at the time of submitting the tender, the tenderer must furnish a statement guaranteeing the eligibility of the subcontractor. If any subcontractor/capacity-providing entity identified in this way does not meet the eligibility criteria, the tender shall be rejected. If the identity of the subcontractor is not known at the time of submitting the tender, any subcontract must be awarded according to Article 4 of the general conditions of the contract.
- g) Subcontractors and capacity providing entities cannot be in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide.
- h) For the avoidance of doubt, where the experts are not directly employed or contracted by the tenderer/contractor but through a third party, the latter is a sub-contractor.

Experts made available by any third party (sub-contractors) are considered for all purposes related to the present contract to be the personnel of the contractor.

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 copies, each marked "**Copy**".

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

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) A signed **declaration** using the format attached to the tender submission form together with a signed "Declaration on honour on exclusion criteria and selection criteria"¹ from each legal entity identified in the tender submission form and from each sub-contractor and/or capacity providing entity, using the format attached to the tender submission form.
 - b) 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.
 - c) The **legal entity file** and supporting documents.
 - d) 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

¹ See point 4 above and point 8 below: in case of electronic submission, tenderers must keep the originals of the Declaration on Honour for control purposes and must provide them to the contracting authority upon request.

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

- a) a list of the names of the key experts;
- b) the CVs of each of the key experts. Each CV should be no longer than 3 pages and only one CV must be provided for each position identified in the terms of reference. Only the work experience mentioned in the CV will be considered by the evaluation committee. Note that the CVs of non-key experts must not be submitted.

The qualifications and experience of each key expert must clearly match the profiles indicated in the terms of reference. If an expert does not meet the minimum requirements for each evaluation criterion (i.e. qualification and skills, general professional experience and specific professional experience), he/she must be rejected. In such case the entire tender shall be rejected.

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), the sub-contractors and the capacity providing entities are effectively established, to show that they are 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) Documentary evidence of the financial and economic capacity and/or of the technical and professional capacity according to the selection criteria specified in point 16 of the contract notice. (See Section 2.6.11 of the practical guide.)]

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.

4.2. Financial offer

The financial offer must be presented as an amount in [Euro] 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/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesB\(Ch.3\):Servicecontracts](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesB(Ch.3):Servicecontracts).

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] <54.500,00> without VAT.

The applicable tax and customs arrangements are as follows:

Exemption of taxes

[There is no agreement between the European Commission and <Albania> by which taxes are partially or fully exonerated.]

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. In exceptional cases, before the period of validity expires, the contracting authority may ask tenderers to extend the period for a specific number of days, which may not exceed 40.

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

Tenderers may submit questions in writing to the following address up to Simplified procedure: 15 days -before the deadline for submission of tenders, specifying the publication reference and the contract title:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Name: | Municipality of Gjirokaster |
| Address: | , Sheshi “Çerçiz Topulli”, 6001 Gjirokaster, Albania |
| Telephone: | +355699687885 |
| Fax: | |
| e-mail: | konstantinatsoparka89@gmail.com |

The contracting authority has no obligation to provide clarification after this date. Any clarification of the tender dossier will be communicated simultaneously to all tenderers at the latest 8 calendar days before the deadline for submitting tenders.

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 <6.1.2025, time 14:00 >.

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 slip², to:

Municipality of Gjirokaster (Bashkia Gjirokaster), Sheshi “Çerçiz Topulli”, 6001, Gjirokaster Albania

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:

Municipality of Gjirokaster (Bashkia Gjirokaster), Sheshi “Çerçiz Topulli”, 6001, Gjirokaster Albania. Opening hours: 08:00 – 14:00 from Monday to Friday.

The contracting authority may, for reasons of administrative efficiency, reject any request to participate or 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 requests to participate or tenders that were submitted on time but arrived late would considerably delay the evaluation procedure or jeopardise decisions already taken and notified.

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 (< ECOBASE/2024/....>);
- c) the words ‘Not to be opened before the tender-opening session’ and < **Të mos hapet përpara sesionit të hapjes së tenderit** >;
- d) the name of the tenderer.

Each envelope must include an index of its contents. 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.

² It is recommended to use registered mail in case the postmark would not be readable.

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 3.4.10.3 of the practical guide (available on the internet at <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/3.+Service+Contracts>).

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 will not be accepted and will therefore not be further evaluated.

Any arithmetical errors are corrected without penalty to the tenderer such that, if there is a discrepancy between a fee rate and the total amount derived from multiplying the fee rate by the corresponding number of working days, the fee rate as quoted must prevail, unless the opinion of the evaluation committee contains an obvious error in the fee rate, in which event the total amount as quoted must prevail and the fee rate must be corrected.

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 personnel 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, abuse and harassment: |
| 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

Tenderers will be notified of the outcome of this procurement procedure in writing

The successful tenderer shall then confirm availability or unavailability of their key-experts within 5 days from the date of the notification of award.

In case of unavailability the tenderer will be allowed to propose replacement key-expert(s). The successful tenderer shall give due justification for the exchange of key-expert but the acceptance will not be limited to specific cases. Several replacement key-experts may be proposed but only one time-period of 15 days from the date of the notification of award will be offered. The replacement key-expert(s) cannot be an expert proposed by another tenderer in the same call for tender.

The replacement key-expert's total score must be at least as high as the scores of the key-expert proposed in the tender. It must be emphasised that the minimum requirements for each evaluation criteria must be met by the replacement expert.

If replacement key-experts are not proposed within the 15 days delay or if the replacement experts are not sufficiently qualified, or that the proposal of the replacement key-expert amends the award conditions which took place, the contracting authority may decide to award the contract to the second best technically compliant tenderer (also giving them a chance to replace a key-expert should he/she not be available).

Should the contracting authority learn that a tenderer has confirmed the availability of a key expert and signed the contract although the tenderer has deliberately concealed the fact that the key-expert is unavailable from the date specified in the tender dossier for the start of the assignment, the contracting authority may decide to terminate the contract on the basis of article 36.2 (m) of the general conditions.

It is reminded that the tenderer/contractor may also be subject to administrative and financial penalties foreseen in article 10.2 of the general conditions for service contracts. Furthermore it may lead to a tenderer's /contractor's exclusion from other contracts funded by the European Union.

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 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 Managing Authority of the Interreg Europe 2021 – 2027 programme.

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 TENDER SUBMISSION FORM

Ref: < ECOBASE/2024/...>

< Provision of Technical Support Services to the Municipality of Gjirokaster for the implementation of the project “Eco-Friendly Nature-based solutions to mitigate soil degradation”, with the Acronym “ECOBASE”>

[How to complete this tender submission form

When submitting the **tender submission form**, include the following documents:

- the signed statements of exclusivity and availability from all key experts proposed (if applicable)
- a completed financial identification form
- a completed legal entity file (only for the leader)
- the tenderer’s declarations.

Tenders submitted by **consortia** (i.e. either a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping constituted informally for a specific tender procedure) must follow the instructions applicable to the consortium leader and its members. In case of consortia, the tenderer’s declaration should be submitted by the leader and by all members of the consortium.

In case the instructions to tenderers (see section 8) state that the tender should be submitted by post or courier or hand delivered (**paper submission**): the attachments to this submission form (i.e. declarations, statements, proofs) may be in original or copy. **The only exception is the Declaration on Honour on exclusion and selection criteria for which signed originals shall be submitted.** For economical and ecological reasons, it is recommend that paper files are used and that plastic folders or dividers are avoided. It is also recommended to use double-sided printing as much as possible.

In case the instructions to tenderers (see section 8) state that the tender should be submitted via **eSubmission**: declarations and statements shall be signed, scanned and uploaded in eSubmission.

See further instructions below.

Originals documents that have not been submitted must be kept by the tenderer. If requested, these originals documents must be dispatched to the contracting authority.

Delete this section highlighted in yellow after having completed all instructions.]

Capacity-providing entities

An economic operator (i.e. tenderer) 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 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 with the tender documents 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 and notably that of nationality as the economic operator relying on them and must comply with the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. **For the purpose of the present tender, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion has to be included 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 tasks for which these capacities are required.

With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the economic operator 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 submitting this tender | Nationality ¹ |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 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 PERSONNEL

Please provide the following statistics on personnel for the current year and the two previous years.¹⁰

| Annual manpower | Year before last year | | Last year | | Current year | | Period average | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ |
| Permanent personnel ¹² | | | | | | | | |
| Other personnel ¹³ | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | | | | |
| Permanent personnel as a proportion of total personnel (%) | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |

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 ... ¹⁴ | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|

6 EXPERIENCE

Please fill in the table below to summarise the main projects related to this contract carried out over the past [3] years¹⁵ by the legal entity or entities making this this tender. The number of references to be provided must not exceed 15 .

| Ref no (maximum 15) | Project title | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|--|--------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name of legal entity | Country | Overall contract value (EUR) ¹⁶ | Proportion carried out by legal entity (%) ¹⁷ | No of personnel provided | Name of client | Origin of funding | Dates (start/end) ¹⁸ | Name of consortium members, if any |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Detailed description of project | | | | | | Type and scope of services provided ¹⁹ | | |
| ... | | | | | | ... | | |

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 form, including every consortium member, and each capacity-providing entity or subcontractor (if any) must submit a signed declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria (form A14 available at the following link: [https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA\(Ch.2\):General](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA(Ch.2):General)).

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
- ❑ 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 VI 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.

Any subcontractor, including those only aiming at making available experts, are eligible and do not fall in any exclusion situation. All sub-contracting arrangements are mentioned in the organisation and methodology.

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

2021.1

4d5adaed99407b7155f42556b182d22a13cbefac1c54bec9d042d9fa2ba96c05

We confirm that we, including all consortium members, subcontractors and experts are not in the lists of EU restrictive measures (www.sanctionsmap.eu) and we understand that our tender may be rejected, if proved the contrary. We understand that our tender may be rejected if we propose key and non-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 confirm that any key or non-key expert proposed in this tender procedure will either be employed or otherwise legally contracted, directly or indirectly, by the candidate (or, for a consortium, by a member of the consortium). Where any key or non-key experts proposed in this tender procedure will not be directly contracted or employed by the candidate (or, for a consortium, by a member of the consortium) but through a third party, the latter is a subcontractor. As such, the latter will be subject to all sub-contracting conditions applicable to this tender procedure, including eligibility and non-exclusion situation. We undertake to declare all such cases of sub-contracting in the Organisation & Methodology.

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>

<Municipality of Gjirokaster >

Your ref: < reference >

TENDERER'S DECLARATION

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to your letter of invitation for the above contract we, < Municipality of Gjirokaster>, 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

How to submit the Declaration on Honour:

Insert here form A14a, available at the following link:

[https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA\(Ch.2\):General](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA(Ch.2):General)

In case the instructions to tenderers (see section 8) state that the tender should be submitted by post or courier or hand delivered (**paper submission**):

- each legal entity identified under point 1, including every consortium member, and capacity-providing entities (if any) signs and dates the Declaration on Honour
- when submitting the tender, the signed and dated original Declaration on Honour shall be included
- In case the Qualified Electronic Signature (QES) is used for the signing of the Declaration(s) on Honour, submit the QES-signed Declaration on Honour by email.

In case the instructions to tenderers (see section 8) state that the tender should be submitted via **eSubmission**:

- each legal entity identified under point 1, including every consortium member, and capacity-providing entities (if any) signs and dates the Declaration on Honour
- the Declaration on Honour is scanned and submitted via eSubmission through the section “Declaration on Honour” under “Attachments”.
- In case the Declaration on Honour is signed with a Qualified Electronic Signature (QES), submit the QES-signed Declaration on Honour via eSubmission through the section “Declaration on Honour” under “Attachments”.

The originals of the Declaration on Honour should be kept by the tenderer on file for control purposes and have to be provided upon request to the contracting authority.

Delete this section highlighted in yellow after having completed all instructions.]

If this declaration is completed by a consortium member:

The following table contains our financial data. 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 | [Last 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 personnel , as included in the consortium's tender form:

| Average manpower | Year before last year | | Last year | | Current year | | Period average | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ | Overall | Relevant fields ¹¹ |
| Permanent personnel ¹² | | | | | | | | |
| Other personnel ¹³ | | | | | | | | |

Yours faithfully,

<Signature of authorised representative>

<Name and position of authorised representative>

STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVITY AND AVAILABILITY²⁰

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 engagement²¹ 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 also declare that I am not in a situation of conflict of interest or unavailability, that I am not in the list of EU restrictive measures (www.sanctionsmap.eu) 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 capacity providing entity/subcontractor is not considered to be a consortium member for the purposes of this tender form. Subsequently, data on capacity providing entities/subcontractors must not appear in the data related to the economic, financial and professional capacity but on a separate document. If this tender 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 submission of tenders 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 tender form 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 form. Consolidated data are not allowed 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 tender form 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 tender form.
- ¹¹ Manpower in fields related to this contract, corresponding to the specialisations identified in point 5.
- ¹² Personnel directly employed or contracted by the candidate on a permanent basis (i.e. under indefinite contracts).
- ¹³ Other personnel directly employed or contracted by the candidate on a non-permanent basis (i.e. under fixed-term contracts).
- ¹⁴ Add /delete additional lines and/or rows as appropriate. If this tender 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).
- ¹⁵ References must be contracts implemented by the legal entity (or legal entities) submitting the tender (with the exception of documented cases of company buyout or universal succession). For framework contracts, only specific contracts corresponding to assignments implemented under such framework contracts shall be considered.
- ¹⁶ The effect of inflation will not be taken into account.
- ¹⁷ Only the proportion carried out by the legal entity may be used as reference.
- ¹⁸ If the reference contract is only partially completed, please quote the percentage and value which has been completed.
- ¹⁹ Please also indicate the function of key experts provided, whether belonging or not to permanent personnel, and the number of months each of them worked on the project.
- ²⁰ To be completed by all key experts.
- ²¹ 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.