Compulsory ex-ante publicity on the institutions’ websites for contracts with a value between €15 000 and the thresholds established under Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement

This publication is made pursuant to Article 124 (b) of the Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation and the thresholds foreseen in Directive 2014/24/EU¹ for all supplies contracts awarded by contracting authorities not operating in the field of defence.

Only the candidates invited by the contracting authority to participate in the procedure for awarding this middle value contract will be admissible.

Title:  Call for tenders: VT/2016/052

“Assessment of the adequacy of the European Social Fund’s design to support human capital development policies”

Purpose of this procedure:

The European Commission will soon launch a negotiated procedure for a study contract of an indicative maximum value of 135.000,00 EUR.

The purpose is to review the strengths and weaknesses of the European Social Fund’s design with a view to evaluating its adequacy to meet its policy objectives. This includes reviewing the architecture and programming aspects of the ESF against the mission and challenges defined in its legal basis and analysing the Fund’s effectiveness and efficiency in contributing to the European Union’s human capital development policy goals. The study should also examine the adequacy of the current set-up of the ESF to contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The tasks foreseen under the contract are:

The study covers 3 tasks – 2 intermediate reports and a final report.

Task 1 – Strengths and weaknesses of the funding architecture in relation to the ESF’s policy objectives;

The analysis should cover the strengths and weaknesses of the current architectural framework of the ESF in fulfilling its core mission. The strengths and weaknesses of the following elements should be part of the analysis:

- ESF as part of ESI Funds
- ESF as ruled by a regional approach vs target groups and sectorial policy approach
  NB: This analysis should not question the fact that the ESF, as any other EU policy, should contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion.
- Relation between the ESF and other EU Funds investing in human capital. For the purpose of this study the following Funds should be looked at: FEAD, EGF, EaSI, Erasmus +.

**Task 2 - Strengths and weaknesses of the European Social Fund’s programming mode in relation to the Fund’s policy objectives;**

The analysis should cover the strengths and weaknesses of the current programming framework of the ESF in fulfilling its core mission.

The strengths and weaknesses of the following elements should be part of the analysis:

- Use of thematic objectives and investment priorities and use of horizontal principles
- Thematic concentration mechanisms;
- Programming elements such as multiannual character of funding and procedures (including partnership agreements and operational programmes);
- Multi-fund approach (ESF-ERDF-CF-EAFRD-EMFF)
- Eligibility rules (people, structural reforms, infrastructure)
- Potential need for specific and targeted Commission initiatives;

**Task 3 – Final report on lessons learned for the future**

The contractor should provide a final report which draws lessons and conclusions from the two previous reports, and issues recommendations to the Commission.

Interested economic operators can express their interest to participate in the call for tender until 7 November 2016 in writing to EMPL-VT-2016-052@ec.europa.eu

Processing your reply to the ex-ante advertisement will involve the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name and address). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, any personal data requested are required to register your interest to participate in the call for tender and will be processed solely for that purpose by the Data Controller. You are entitled to obtain access to your personal data on request and to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. If you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, you may address them to the Data Controller.

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at: http://ec.europa.eu/dataprotectionofficer/privacystatement_publicprocurement_en.pdf

You have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor for matters relating to the processing of your personal data.

For the purpose of this ex-ante advertisement, the Data Controller shall be the Head of Unit of Unit F1 – ESF and FEAD Policy & Legislation. Any queries concerning the processing of personal data of the Candidate can be addressed to the data controller by using the e-mail address mentioned under Point "Purpose of this call for tenders" of the present ex-ante advertisement and by indicating the reference of the ex-ante advertisement.