

Ex-ante publicity for a low value contract

This publication is made pursuant to Annex I(3.1) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, for an ex-ante publicity on the internet for contracts with a value below the thresholds of Directive 2014/24/EU.

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

Planning (indicative):

Launch date for the submission of an offer from selected candidates: Q1 2020

Start date of the service: Q2 2020

End date of the service: Q4 2020

Title: Negotiated procedure: Support for the transition of the updated Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision

Purpose of this negotiated procedure:

The European Commission will launch a negotiated procedure for a service contract of a maximum value of EUR 60 000 (planned date: Q1 2020).

The purpose of this negotiated procedure is to assist the Contracting Authority with the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the entry into force of the updated Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision (the “Code”). This includes ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure, processes and transitional measures are in place to allow for a smooth implementation of the updated Code by 1 January 2021, which coincides with the start of the next programming period 2021-2027.

The European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision was established following the adoption of the [Communication](#) on microcredit, by the European Commission, in November 2007. It provides a common set of ethical standards in terms of management, governance, risk management, reporting, and consumer and investor relations for the microfinance sector in the European Union for the benefit of customers, investors, funders, owners, regulators and partner organisations.

The Code has been developed based on recognised best practices in the microfinance sector in close consultation with stakeholders. Signing-up to, or endorsing, the Code is a pre-condition for accessing funding under the EaSI programme's microfinance and social entrepreneurship axis.

The implementation of the Code was tested as part of a pilot phase between the end of 2013 and early 2017. Based on the lessons learned from the pilot phase, the Code has subsequently been updated to reflect the evolving market realities and capture the diversity of the microfinance sector.

In view of updating the Code, five workshops were held between December 2018 and May 2019, and attended by key stakeholders, including practitioners, the European microfinance networks, EU institutions, banks and experts.

The objective of the Code update was to fine-tune the existing clauses in the Code, where appropriate, for two reasons. First, some parts of the Code needed to be amended to better reflect market realities, including the evolving understanding of best practices, more realistic expectations of providers and additional costs/burden relative to other institutions. Second, amendments were required to ensure that the Code better takes into account the diversity of European microfinance institutions in terms of size, legal/institutional structures and national legal/regulatory frameworks.

The Code Steering Group, led by the European Commission, formally adopted the updated Code in October 2019. In view of its implementation, the Contracting Authority seeks external support regarding the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the entry into force of the updated Code.

Interested economic operators must prove experience in the field of microfinance with a particular focus on research, data collection, and drafting reports, policy notes, legislative proposals and/or recommendations. They will also need to attest proven experience in similar activities, as well as a comprehensive knowledge of the sector and its relevant stakeholders. In addition, the capacity to cover geographically the countries covered¹ by the EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) will be assessed.

Interested economic operators can express their interest to participate in negotiated procedure until 3 March 2020, 12 AM (midnight), in writing to the functional mailbox: EMPL-VT-2020-016@ec.europa.eu .

If processing a reply to the invitation to tender involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725² 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/EC. Unless indicated otherwise, any personal data will be processed solely for evaluation purposes under the negotiated procedure by the Head of Unit of Unit F4 - Programme Management & Implementation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available in the privacy statement at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures_en.

The tenderer's personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if the tenderer is in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 and 141 of the Financial Regulation³. For more information, see the privacy statement: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm.

¹ EU Member States and Albania, Iceland, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Turkey and UK.

² OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193 of 30.07.2018, p.1).