

BA-Sarajevo: IPA — support to agricultural policy and IPA-RD compliant structures
2009/S 149-217234

Service procurement notice

Pre-accession countries — Bosnia and Herzegovina

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):

Main object: 75130000 Supporting services for government.

1. **Publication reference:**
EuropeAid/128351/C/SER/BA.
Internet address: Delegation-BiH-Procurement@ec.europa.eu
2. **Procedure:**
Restricted.
3. **Programme:**
IPA.
4. **Financing:**
Budget line.
5. **Contracting authority:**
European Community, represented by the European Commission, on behalf of and for the account of the beneficiary country.
6. **Nature of contract:**
Fee-based.
7. **Contract description:**
The purpose of this project is to harmonise sectoral policies and measures for enhanced performance of the agri-food sector and to create structures and capacity for managing the future IPA-RD funds.
Results to be achieved by the consultant:
R1: Administrative capacity at all BiH levels created for coordination and harmonised implementation of policy and support measures for improved competitiveness of the agriculture sector and compliance with international trade agreements.
R2: Establishment of IPA-RD compliant structures for programming, policy harmonisation and information support services at State and entity level.
R3: Establishment of sector 'acquis' approximation priority programme.
R4: Human resource management services at State and entity level strengthened according to the sectoral and public administration reform requirements including HR development plans for an uptake of IPA-RD support.
R5: Establishment of sector public awareness programme to support IPA-RD programme and its implementation in rural areas.
R6: Establishment of IPA-RD compliant finance, budgeting and payment system for BiH.
8. **Numbers and titles of lots:**
The contract is divided into lots: No, 1 lot only.
9. **Budget:**
Maximum budget: 2 400 000 EUR.

10. **Scope for additional services:**

The contracting authority may, at its own discretion, extend the project in duration and/or scope, subject to the availability of funding, up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract.

Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor.

Conditions of participation

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of candidates) 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 (see also item 29 below). Participation is also open to international organisations. The participation of natural persons is governed by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

12. **Candidature:**

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 11 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may apply. A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e. the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation of an ineligible natural or legal person (as per item 11) will result in the automatic exclusion of that person. In particular, if that ineligible person belongs to a consortium, the whole consortium will be excluded.

13. **Number of applications:**

No more than 1 application 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 an application). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than 1 application, all applications in which that person has participated will be excluded.

14. **Shortlist alliances prohibited:**

Any tenders received from tenderers comprising firms other than those mentioned in the shortlisted application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure. Shortlisted candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

15. **Grounds for exclusion:**

As part of the application form, candidates must submit a signed declaration, included in the standard application form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.3.3 of the 'Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions'.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is allowed:

- maximum percentage of the contract value which may be subcontracted: 30 %,
- activities which may be subcontracted: public awareness programme, preparation of promotional material, advertising, development of websites, organisation of internship programme.

17. **Number of candidates to be shortlisted:**

On the basis of the applications received, at least 4 and at most 8 candidates will be invited to submit detailed tenders for this contract. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite the candidates who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender.

Provisional timetable

18. **Provisional date of invitation to tender:**

30.9.2009.

19. **Provisional commencement date of the contract:**

30.1.2010.

20. **Initial period of implementation of tasks:**

24 months.

Selection and award criteria

21. **Selection criteria:**

Same criteria for legal and natural person.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. In the case of applications submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole:

1) Economic and financial capacity of candidate (based on item 3 of the application form):

In case of applicant being a public body equivalent information should be provided:

1. the annual turnover of the candidate in each of the last 3 years (2006, 2007, 2008) must have exceeded 1 200 000 EUR;

2. the averages of cash and cash equivalents of the candidate at the beginning and the end of the year were positive for the last 2 years (2007, 2008).

2) Professional capacity of candidate (based on items 4 and 5 of the application form):

1. at least 10 persons of all permanent staff working for the candidate currently work in the fields related to this contract.

3) Technical capacity of candidate (based on items 5 and 6 of the application form):

1. The candidate must have successfully finalised within the last 36 months before the launch of this tender at least 2 projects in which the candidate's contribution was in excess of 600 000 EUR (proportion of the project carried out by the candidate(s)) in the fields related to this contract:

(a) institutional development and capacity building in EU agricultural policy and rural development; or

(b) support to 'acquis' approximation for access to/implementation of EU financed/co-financed rural development programmes;

of which 1 must have been carried out in the EU Member States or any of the countries with official status of the EU candidate or potential candidate country.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility and notably that of nationality, as the economic operator.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the applications of these candidates must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications for the tender procedure. The only factors which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination are:

(a) the number of completed relevant projects in the fields related to this contract as per point 3) above that have been carried out in the Member States or any of the countries with official status of the EU candidate or potential candidate countries within the last 36 months prior to the launch of this tender;

(b) the total financial value of the relevant projects selected under criterion a) above.

22. **Award criteria:**

Best value for money.

Application

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**
30.8.2009 (16:00), Central European Time.
Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.
24. **Application format and details to be provided:**
Applications must be submitted using the standard application form, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The application form is available at the following Internet address:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_en.htm
Any additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with an application will not be taken into consideration.
25. **How applications may be submitted:**
Applications must be submitted exclusively to the contracting authority in the following language: English,
— either by recorded delivery (official postal service) to:
Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, attention: Contract and Finance Section —
Procurement Team, 1st Floor, Skenderija 3a, 71000 Sarajevo, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
— or hand-delivered (including courier services) directly to the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to:
attention: Contract and Finance Section — Procurement Team.
As in abovementioned address.
The contract title and the publication reference (see item 1 above) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the application and must always be mentioned in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority.
Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered.
26. **Alteration or withdrawal of applications:**
Candidates may alter or withdraw their applications by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of applications. No applications may be altered after this deadline.
Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with item 25.
The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal' as appropriate.
27. **Operational language:**
All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.
28. **Date of publication of contract forecast notice:**
4.4.2009.
29. **Legal basis:**
Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17.7.2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).
30. **Additional information:**
4. Financing:
BGUE-B2009-22.020200-C8-ELARG DELBIH.
This procurement notice is launched with suspension clause (reference Section 2.4.12 of the 'Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions').
11. Eligibility:
Participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of candidates) 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 (see also item 29 above and <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/>

[implementation/eligibility/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/index_en.htm) next enter 'General Annex A2 Eligibility programmes 2007–2013' and go to 'Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance' (Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 — OJ L 210/82 of 31.7.2006)).

Participation is also open to international organisations. The participation of natural persons is governed by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

24. Application format and details to be provided:

Applications must be submitted using the standard application form (available from the following Internet address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/index_en.htm), next enter 'Implementation', choose service contract and go to relevant annexes.

The format and instructions of these forms must be strictly observed.

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

31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

27.7.2009.