



CONTRACT NOTICE

Digital Transformation of Water Sector: Strategic Planning & Capacity Development - 17 - PRO512WEB-2024

1. Name and address Contracting Authority

Official name: Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM Secretariat)

Postal address: Palau Reial de Pedralbes, Pere Duran Farell 11

Town: Barcelona

Postal Code: 08034

E-mail: procurement@ufmsecretariat.org

Internet address: <https://www.ufmsecretariat.org>

2. General information

a. Title

Digital Transformation of Water Sector: Strategic Planning & Capacity Development

b. Type of contract

Services

c. Short description of the contract

Technical assistance to establish a strategic governance framework, formulate a Digital Transformation Strategy, enhance technical capabilities in water management, strengthen communication strategies, and promote employment opportunities through digital technologies. The scope of work covers assessing digital readiness and implementing capacity-building programs across the Mediterranean region from September 2024 to December 2026.

d. Total value

The maximum budget is EUR 120,000.00 (VAT not included).

e. Type of Procedure

Open tender procedure

f. Nature of contract

Fee-based

g. Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: NO

h. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 3 months (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

3. Programme title

ENPI - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument



4. Financing

Financed through Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funds.

5. Legal basis, eligibility and rules of origin

The legal basis of this procedure is Regulation (EU) N° 2021/947 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI)¹. See [Annex a2a](#) of the practical guide.

For this contract award procedure, financed by SIDA funds.

Participation is open to all natural persons who are nationals of and legal persons which are effectively established in a Member State of the European Union or in an eligible country or territory as defined under Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) N° 2021/947. Tenderers must state their nationality in their tenders and provide the usual proof of nationality under their national legislation. Participation is also open to international organisations.

The entities of these countries can only participate in procedures where the country itself is a beneficiary of the action, i.e., countries of the European Union and 16 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean².

6. Candidature

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 5 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may participate or tender.

A consortium may be a permanent, legally established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific procurement procedure. All partners of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other partners) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation or tender of an ineligible natural or legal person 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.

7. 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 partner 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.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009; OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78.

² <https://ufmsecretariat.org/who-we-are/member-states/>



8. Grounds for exclusion

Tenderers must submit a signed declaration, included in tender dossier, to the effect that they are not in any of the situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the practical guide (PRAG). Where the tenderer intends to rely on capacity providing entities or subcontractor(s), he/she must provide the same declaration signed by this/these entity(ies).

9. Subcontracting

Subcontracting is allowed. The total value of the sub-contracted part of the services must not exceed 40% of the contract value.

10. Invited tenderers alliances prohibited

Not applicable

11. Provisional commencement date of the contract

October 2024

12. Period of implementation of tasks

28 months from the commencement date.

13. Language of the procedure

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

14. Additional information

Financial data to be provided by the tenderer in the tender submission and in the financial offer form must be expressed in EUR.

A fee-based/technical assistance contract is, by definition, one in which the actual days worked for each category of experts may differ from the number of working days estimated 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.

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

15. Selection criteria

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 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 tenderers. In the case of tender 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** (based on item 3.A 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 3 years for which accounts have been closed³.

- the average annual turnover of the tenderer must exceed EUR 30,000.00

2) **Professional capacity** (based on item 3.B of the tender form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last 3 years preceding the submission deadline.

- At least 1 staff currently work for the applicant in fields related to the proposed contract, i.e., water resources management and digitalisation within the water sector (For legal entities)
- has worked as expert in fields related to the proposed contract, i.e., water resources management and digitalisation within the water sector (for natural person)

3) **Technical capacity** (based on items 3.C of the tender form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last 3 years from submission deadline.

- the tenderer has provided services under at least 2 contracts of this contract in fields of water resources management and climate resilience carried out in the field of international affairs, sustainability, and policy dialogue. implemented at any moment during the reference period: 3 years prior to the submission deadline. This means that the 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. Tenderer are allowed

³ In the case of tenders submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole.



to refer either to projects completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to projects 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 project 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/supplies delivered if the selection criteria relating to the pertinence of the experience have been used.

16. Award criteria

Best price-quality ratio.

PARTICIPATION

17. Tender format and details to be provided

Tenders must be submitted using the tender forms, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The tender dossier is available from the following Internet address <https://ufmsecretariat.org/work-with-us/procurement/>.

The tender must be accompanied by a declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria using the template available in the tender dossier.

18. How tenders may be submitted

Tenders must be submitted exclusively via electronic submission to the following address: procurement@ufmsecretariat.org

Technical offers and financial offers must be sent into two separate e-mails: one bearing the words “E-mail A — Technical offer - 17 - PRO512WEB-2024”; and other bearing the words “E-mail B — Financial offer - 17 - PRO512WEB-2024”.

In addition, a 3rd e-mail bearing the words “E-mail C – passwords – 17 - PRO512WEB-2024” with the passwords of the folders sent in e-mails called “E-mail A — Technical offer” and “E-mail B — Financial offer” is required.

Files shall be included in protected folders or at least in compressed folder(s) or through protected IT hyperlinks to file hosting service. Where passwords, encryptions or any other IT means used to protect the confidentiality of the submitted offers, decryption key or equivalent shall be sent by the tenderer.

Tenders submitted by any other means will not be considered.

19. Deadline for submission of tenders

The time-limit for receipt of tenders is at **13:00 hours, Barcelona local time, on the 18th of September 2024.**



A tender received after the time-limit for receipt of tenders will be rejected.

Tenderers must ensure that their submitted tenders contain all the information and documents required by the contracting authority at the time of submission as set out in the procurement documents.

20. Clarifications on the contract notice

Any request for clarifications must be made in writing at the following email address procurement@ufmsecretariat.org. This concerns request for clarifications about the contract notice and also request for clarifications about the content of the tender dossier. Clarifications can be requested at the latest 21 days before the deadline for submission of tenders.

Clarifications will be published on UfM website at the latest 8 days before the deadline for the submission of tenders. The website will be updated regularly and it is the tenderers responsibility to check for updates and modifications during the submission period.

21. Outcome of the evaluation

By submitting a tender, tenderers accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means. Such notification shall be deemed to have been received on the date upon which the contracting authority sends it to the electronic address referred to in the tender submission form.

22. Alteration or withdrawal of tenders

After submitting a tender, but before the deadline for receipt of tenders, a tenderer may definitively withdraw its tender, or withdraw it and replace it with a new one. A withdrawal receipt will be provided by Procurement Service as proof of withdrawal.

23. Date of dispatch of this notice

10/07/2024