

Vienna, 3.09.2010
Reg. 1403

Tender: Inequalities and Multiple Discrimination in Access to
Health - D/SE/10/09
Subject: Additional information regarding the Tender and
Technical Specifications

European Union Agency for
Fundamental Rights

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de l'Union Européenne

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Dear Sir / Madam,

We received questions of general interest from the tenderers.

Please find herewith the answers to these questions.

Yours faithfully,



Morten Kjaerum
Director

Inequalities and Multiple Discrimination in Access to Health
D/SE/10/09

Questions and Answers I

- Q1.** The dates of the stakeholder consultation meetings are stated as being arranged by the FRA for between weeks 2 and 4 after the signing of the contract on page 14 but 2 weeks in deliverable 1 on p. 19. In addition, would the contractor/coordinator have to attend all 5 meetings or could the stakeholder meetings being undertaken in member states where there is a sub-contractor be attended by the sub-contractor?
- A1.** The 5 national stakeholder meetings are expected to take place within 2 to 4 weeks from the signature of the contract. There is no contractual obligation for the coordinator to attend all the national stakeholder meetings.
- Q2.** In Deliverable 2 on p. 19, 3 semi-structured questionnaires are mentioned but only 2 (covering users and professionals) are mentioned on pp. 14-15
- A2.** There are 2 semi-structured questionnaires.
- Q3.** Deliverable 4 Draft comparative report of 1020 pages. We assume this is a typo and it should be 100 or 120 pages.
- A3.** Deliverable 4 should be between 100 and 120 pages long.
- Q4.** In terms of the timing, if we assume that the contract is signed in November, then the completion of the desk research has to be undertaken within a 2 month period which includes a substantial Xmas-New Year, making this deadline extremely tight.
- A4.** The planning regarding timing for the deliverables is set out in the Technical Specifications, but if there are unforeseeable and exceptional situations which prevent from keeping the initial planning, then a change in delivery dates for interim deliverables might be discussed.
- Q5.** Also in relation to timing, whilst the tender states that the project should be undertaken with due regard for ethical considerations, research on health is an area where ethical approval will have to be obtained, at least in the UK, not just from the institution for which we work but also from the appropriate NHS Committee. This currently takes 2-4 months before which we cannot finalise the questionnaires. The whole project would have to be submitted to the Committee before any of the fieldwork, including contacts with prospective interviewees, can be started.
- A5.** The contractor will have the full support of FRA during project implementation in the process of obtaining the ethical approval from the relevant authorities, if needed. In case of a delay due solely to this reason and beyond the contractor's control, namely caused by the authorities responsible for granting ethical approval, the deadline for conducting the fieldwork may be modified accordingly, but in any case, the final results must be delivered by 30 November 2011.

- Q.6** The terms of payment are outlined on page 13 of the tender specifications where it says that a pre-financing amount of 40% will be made available upon reception by the Contracting Authority of a duly constituted financial guarantee (e.g. bank guarantee). Article 1.4 (Payment Periods and Formalities) of the draft service contract (page 6) does not stipulate the need for a financial guarantee to receive the pre-financing amount. Could you kindly clarify whether we can assume the draft service contract to be correct?
- A.6** The information contained in clause 22 of the Tender Specifications is correct. A pre-financing payment of 40% of the total value of the contract will be made to the Contractor upon reception by the Contracting Authority of a duly constituted financial guarantee (e.g. bank guarantee). Accordingly, Article 1.4 of the draft contract shall be read as follows:
- "Within 30 days of the date on which the contract enters into force, a pre-financing payment of 40% of the total amount referred to in Article 1.3 shall be made, upon reception by the Contracting Authority of a duly constituted financial guarantee as provided for in Article 2.4 of the Contract".
- Q.7** Is this tender aimed just for EU countries or some pre-accession countries (i.e, Serbia) can also apply?
- A.7** Serbia has not ratified the GPA (Agreement on Government Procurement), and therefore, economic operators from Serbia cannot demand to be allowed to participate in the above mentioned tender procedure as sole tenderers or as partners of a consortium. Nevertheless, economic operators from Serbia may be included as subcontractors in a tender submitted by an economic operator from an eligible country.