

REFERENCE: DEL/EoI 01/2023

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Cairo Office
(AICS Cairo)

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
MONITORING AND EVALUATION SERVICES IN THE FRAME OF EU FINANCED
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED BY THE ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION (AICS) – CAIRO OFFICE**

ARTICLE 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMMES

1. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Cairo (AICS-Cairo) is currently implementing as executing agency (under indirect management modality) no. 3 Programmes financed by the European Union in the sectors of water, rural development, technical education and migration as follows:
 - a) The Multi-Educational Programme for Employment Promotion in Migration-affected Areas (MEPEP) – Total budget is 6 MEUR (fully financed by the EU).
 - b) EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt (EU-Zira3a) – Total budget is 27.3 MEUR (out of with 24 MEUR financed by the EU).
 - c) WATDEV – Total budget is 7.5 MEUR (fully financed by the EU).
2. Others initiatives are in pipeline and/or under assessment.
3. MEPEP falls under the scope of the “Enhancing the Response to Migration Challenges in Egypt Programme (ERMCE, Ref. T05-EUTF-NOA-EG-01) which is funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (i.e. “Trust Fund” or “EUTF”, Egypt 2017).
4. The Action identified Sharkeya Governorate as its target area in consultation with local authorities. Sharkeya is indeed one of the Governorates in Egypt that boast the largest number of Egyptian youth who wish to leave Egypt and migrate to other countries. Secondly, the 10th of Ramadan Industrial Zone resulted being the most relevant intervention area due to the presence of a dynamic Egyptian and non-Egyptian industrial force on which the creation of a high-level and market oriented TVET Centre can have the major impact.
5. EU-Zira3a will enhance and support the economy of the rural areas in the old lands and optimise the use of the natural resources (water and soil) in order to ensure the food security

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of the population and enhance the socio-economic situation of the smallholder farmers and their families.

6. Three governorates are going to be targeted through this action: three governorates in Upper Egypt (Sohag, Asyut, and Beni Suef). Sohag and Asyut have been selected because they are amongst the poorest governorates in the country with 66% of their population being extremely poor). Beni Suef has been selected due to the serious problems and obstacles facing the agricultural sectors. Also, these 3 governorates cover the full range of the irrigated agricultural systems of the old lands.
7. The programme WATDEV – Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable DEVELOPMENT for Food and Agriculture in East Africa is funded by the DeSIRA initiative of the European Union (EU) and aims at developing an in-depth understanding of small and large-scale water and agricultural resource dynamics and management while boosting people’s resilience to climate, through innovative research, modelling, and capacity building approaches.
8. WATDEV represents the continuation and regional expansion to the Nile River basin of previous activities carried out by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in the sector of sustainable use of natural resources in Egypt. It builds upon the experience gained with several initiatives implemented in the past that aimed at the rehabilitation of irrigation canals through the use of innovative technologies, leading to increased irrigation efficiency, reduced water losses, and boost crops production.
9. WATDEV is a regional programme implemented in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan. The Italian Agency for the Development Cooperation Cairo Office (AICS Cairo) is the executive agency and assures the overall programme coordination and monitoring, whereas the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM Bari) is the technical and scientific programme lead partner. Other partners include Italian, Dutch, Finnish, Egyptian, Ethiopian, Kenyan, and Sudanese organizations.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES

1. AICS-Cairo intends to set-up a list of eligible and qualified service providers to be invited based the applicable EU-PRAG procedures to submit their best offer for the “*Monitoring and Evaluation Services in the frame of EU financed Programme*”.

ARTICLE 3. SERVICES **MONITORING**

1. The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the AICS's responsibilities.
2. To assist AICS in the establishment of a monitoring system for the concerned actions with the view to better report progress of the activities and formulate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports.
3. Selected service providers shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix (for project modality) or the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).
4. SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators as for instance per Joint Programming document should be taken into account.
5. OECD/DAC markers relevant for each Programme should be also considered.
6. Reports shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action.

EVALUATION

1. Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for the action via independent local and international experts.
2. Mid-term evaluations will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes. The final evaluations will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels. The results of mentioned evaluations will be shared with the European Union prior to the commencement of the EU evaluation mid-term and final evaluation mission.
3. The experts are bound by a declaration of impartiality and confidentiality to be signed before starting the contract. If any applicant believes there might be a situation of conflict of interests in relation to one or more applicants, the applicant must inform the contracting authority immediately. In addition, strict confidentiality is required from the expert involved in the implementation of the assignments.

ARTICLE 4. ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible service providers shall be legal persons only.
- Participation to the expression of interests is open to service providers which are effectively established in a Member State of the European Union or in a eligible country or territory as defined under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action (CIR) for the applicable instrument under which the contract is financed.
- Eligible service providers will be excluded from participation in procurement procedures if:
 - a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - b) they, or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a EU Member State which has the force of res judicata (i.e. against which no appeal is possible);
 - c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Contracting Authority can justify, including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organizations;
 - d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the Contracting Authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
 - e) they, or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the EU's financial interests;
 - f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 103(1) of the Financial Regulation (for budget-funded programmes)/Article 99 of the Financial Regulation (for 10th EDF-funded programmes).
- Interested service providers must submit a signed declaration, included in the forms, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1. of the practical guide.

- Service providers included in the lists of EU restrictive measures (see Section 2.4. of the PRAG) at the moment of the award decision cannot be awarded the contract.

ARTICLE 5. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Economic and financial capacity.**

In the last three financial years for which accounts have been closed.

- The average annual turnover for the past 3 financial years for which accounts have been closed/audited must exceed 30,000 EUR
- Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) in the last year for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1. In case of a consortium, this criterion must be fulfilled by each member.

2. **Professional capacity**

In the last six years preceding the submission deadline:

- the service providers developed a portfolio of at least two projects of similar nature and has developed similar deliverables

In the last three years preceding the submission deadline:

- the service providers employed or contracted at least 5 staff members working full time on M&E.

3. **Technical capacity**

In the last six years preceding the submission deadline:

- The service providers undertook at least two contracts of similar nature and comparable budget, within international projects carried out in synergy with international actors (i.e., EU, International Governmental Agencies, UN Agencies and Programmes, private multinationals, international foundations, international NGOs) in the field of M&E.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to invite to tender only eligible service providers, which are considered to be meeting the qualification requirements for the services requested. Additional selection criteria might be added at the time of the invitation to tender.

ARTICLE 6. MODALITIES FOR PRESENTATION

1. Interested service providers shall express their interest by submitting the following documents (no additional documents are requested at this stage):
 - Annex A dated and signed - Declaration on honour.
 - Annex B dated and signed – Expression of interests.
 - Scanned copy of a valid identification document of the legal representative.
 - Scanned copy of registration document of the Service Providers.

2. Documents must be submitted in PDF format (not editable) by email, to the following email address:
 - segreteria.ilcairo@aics.gov.it.
 - cairo@pec.aics.gov.it
3. The deadline for the submission is 07/03/2023 (11:00 am Cairo time) as evidenced by the date and time of receipt of the email as recorded in the system of the recipient. The subject of the email must bear the following reference: “**DEL/EoI 01/2023**”.
4. It is encouraged to express the interest well before the deadline date, since heavy internet traffic or connection problems could lead to difficulties in submission. The Contracting Authority cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such difficulties.

ARTICLE 7. RULES FOR THE REGISTRATION IN THE LIST

1. The Contracting Authority will first evaluate the following:
 - a) Compliance with the submission deadline. If the deadline has not been met, the Expression of Interest will automatically be rejected;
 - b) Eligibility as per Article 4 of this document;
 - c) Qualification requirements as per Article 5 of this document.
2. Eligible applicants meeting all qualification requirements will then be inserted in related list following the order of submission. The list does not represent any classification and the related insertion does not imply any rights for the eligible service providers to be invited and/or contracted.

ARTICLE 8. SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. Eligible service providers, meeting the relevant qualification requirements, might be invited to tender on the basis of the EU-PRAG (<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/ePRAG>).

ARTICLE 9. PERSONAL DATA

1. If submitting your reply to the Expression of Interest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as names, contact details and CVs), it will be processed solely for the purposes of the management and monitoring of the tender and of the contract by the data controller without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies in charge of monitoring or inspection tasks in application of EU law.

2. Details concerning processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/2.+Basic+rules>.

ARTICLE 10. SAFEGUARD CLAUSE

1. AICS Office in Cairo reserves the right to revoke the announcement for any reasons, discretionally evaluated. The AICS Cairo office reserves the right not to proceed with the assignment due to the lack of candidates' adequate requirements or the availability of financial resources.

ARTICLE 11. RESPONSIBLE OF THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. The Responsible for this expression of interest is Mr. Jacopo TAVASSI.
2. For any further information please contact AICS Cairo at the following email:
 - segreteria.ilcairo@aics.gov.it.
 - cairo@pec.aics.gov.it

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