

SERVICE CONTRACT NOTICE

Expert for external evaluation of grants for the purposes of Project Implementation - EU Support to REDI Phase II: Advancing Roma Entrepreneurs in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, Location: Serbia

1. Reference

IPA III/2024/457-197/SRB-014

2. Procedure

Simplified

3. Programme Title

EU Support to REDI Phase II: Advancing Roma Entrepreneurs in the Western Balkans and Türkiye

4. Financing

Budget Line: 5.10.2

5. Contracting Authority

Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative Serbia REDI Serbia

CONTRACT SPECIFICATION

6. Nature of Contract

Global Price

7. Contract Description

The Contracting Authority engages the Contractor (Grant Evaluator) to support the implementation of the project “EU Support to REDI Phase II: Advancing Roma Entrepreneurs in the Western Balkans and Türkiye” in Serbia during the 2026–2027 period. REDI aims to strengthen the financial and investment status of Roma and Egyptian entrepreneurs and but also the unemployed through the job-creation-based grant disbursements. The Grant Evaluator will support the REDI granting program directly through a high-quality and transparent grant proposal evaluation process. Through these activities, the Contract contributes to advancing economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities for Roma and Egyptian communities in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

8. Number and Titles of Lots

This Tender is not divided into LOTS.

9. Maximum Budget

4.000,00 EUR

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

10. Legal basis, eligibility and rules of origin

[For IPA III 2021/1529¹]:

The legal basis of this procedure is <Regulation (EU) No [1529] establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)>. See Annex A2 of the practical guide.

For this contract award procedure, participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping – consortium – of candidates/tenderers) which are effectively established in a Member State of the European Union or in an eligible country or territory as defined under Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No [1529] establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III).]

Participation in this procurement procedure is open on equal terms to all legal persons falling within the scope of the Treaties.

11. Number of tenders

No more than one tender can be submitted by a legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or member of a consortium submitting a tender). In the event that a legal person submits more than one tender, all tenders in which that person has participated will be excluded.

No restrictions may be made in the number of lots a tenderer can be awarded.

The tenderer may submit a tender for one lot only, several lots or all of the lots, but only one tender per lot. Contracts will be awarded lot by lot and each lot will form a separate contract.

12. Grounds for exclusion

As part of the tender, tenderers must submit a signed declaration, included in the tender form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1. of the practical guide.

Tenderer 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.

13. Sub-contracting

Subcontracting is allowed.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

14. Provisional commencement date of the contract

31/08/2026

15. Implementation period of the tasks

31/08/2026 – 31/08/2027

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III); OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1–26.

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

16. Selection criteria

Capacity-providing entities

An economic operator (i.e. candidate or tenderer) may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links 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 the tenderers. In the case of tenders 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.

The selection criteria for each tenderer are as follows:

1) Economic and Financial Capacity of the Tenderer (Based on Item 3 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 three financial years for which accounts have been closed.

The objective of this criterion is to examine whether or not the tenderer (i.e. the consortium as a whole, in the case of a tender from a consortium) will not be economically dependent on the contracting authority in the event that the contract is awarded to it;

2) Professional Capacity of the Tenderer (Based on Item 4 of the Tender Form).

The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years preceding the submission deadline.

- University degree (minimum Bachelor's) in Business Administration, Economics, Finance, Development Studies, Social Sciences, Law, or a closely related field;
- Minimum five (5) years of relevant professional experience in business development, entrepreneurship support, SME financing, or project evaluation;
- Demonstrated experience evaluating business plans, grant applications, or project proposals;

- Fluency in Serbian and working proficiency in English, Montenegrin and Bosnian (written and spoken);
- Resident in, or with demonstrable knowledge of, the Serbian socio-economic context

Specific Work as described in the 6. B. II. Terms of Reference

- Administrative eligibility check: verify completeness and conformity of each application with the submission requirements; flag applications failing administrative criteria for rejection with documented reasons;
- Independent technical and financial evaluation: assess each eligible application against the five evaluation criteria using the standardised Evaluation Grid, with narrative justification for each criterion;
- Scoring and ranking: score each application out of 100 points and produce a ranked list;
- Discrepancy resolution: where two evaluators' scores diverge by more than 30%, participate in a reconciliation session; if discrepancy persists, a third evaluator is appointed and the final score is the average of the third evaluator's score and the nearest of the first two;
- Participation in assessment sessions: attend the reconciliation session with the co-evaluator and, where required, a session with the Selection Committee;
- Completion of evaluation forms with full written justification for each score;
- Confidential reporting: submit all completed evaluation forms and a consolidated summary ranking report within the agreed timelines.

Professional Conduct

All assigned personnel (Key Expert if applicable) shall demonstrate strong organizational, communication, facilitation, and problem-solving skills, and shall maintain a high standard of professionalism, confidentiality, and beneficiary-centered service at all times.

Availability

All assigned personnel must be available throughout the duration of the assignment and actively participate in planning, implementation, coordination meetings, and reporting activities as requested and previously agreed with REDI.

Preferably, but not mandatory

Education: A relevant academic background in economics, business administration, social sciences, development studies, finance, or a related field shall be considered an asset.

All assigned personnel must be independent and free from conflicts of interest in the responsibilities they take on.

3) **Technical Capacity of Tenderer** (Based on Items 5 and 6 of the Tender Form). The reference period which will be taken into account, will be the last two years preceding the submission deadline.

17. Award criteria

Best Price-Quality Ratio.

TENDERING

18. Deadline for submission of tenders

The deadline for submission of tenders is specified in point 8 of the Instruction to Tenderers.

19. Tender format and details to be provided

Tenders must be submitted using the standard tender form for simplified procedures, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The tender form is available from the following internet address:
[https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesB\(Ch.3\):Service contracts](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesB(Ch.3):Servicecontracts), under the zip file called Simplified Tender dossier.

The tender must be accompanied by a declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria using the template available from the following Internet address:

[https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA\(Ch.2\):General](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA(Ch.2):General)

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

20. How tenders may be submitted

Tenders must be submitted in English exclusively to the contracting authority, using the means specified in point 8 of the instructions to tenderers.

Tenders submitted by any other means will not be considered.

By submitting a tender, the tenderers accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means.

21. Alteration or withdrawal of tenders

Tenderers may alter or withdraw their tenders by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of tenders. No tender may be altered after this deadline.

Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with point 9 of the instructions to tenderers.

22. Operational language

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

23. Additional information

Financial data to be provided by the candidate in the standard application form must be expressed in EUR. If applicable, where a candidate refers to amounts originally expressed in a different currency, the conversion to EUR shall be made in accordance with the InforEuro exchange rate of month and year of the applicable InforEuro exchange rate, which can either correspond to the month and year of the publication of the present contract notice or the month and year corresponding to the deadline for submitting applications, which can be found at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>.