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**Belgium-Brussels: IPA - Technical Assistance to strengthen the capacities for the overall planning, preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects in Albania
2018/S 135-307144**

Location — Albania

SERVICE CONTRACT NOTICE

1. **Publication reference**
EuropeAid/139665/DH/SER/AL
2. **Procedure**
Restricted
3. **Programme title**
IPA 2015 Action Programme for Albania — European Union Integration Facility
4. **Financing**
IPA 2015/038-715 National Programme for Albania
5. **Contracting Authority**
European Union, represented by the European Commission on behalf of and for the account of the Government of Albania, Brussels, BELGIUM

Contract specification

6. **Nature of contract**
Fee-based
7. **Contract description**
IPA 2015 Action Programme for Albania — European Union Integration Facility has a component for provision of Technical Assistance (TA) to the Government of Albania for capacity building for the identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring of large infrastructure projects. The aim is to support the creation of a facility to provide technical assistance to several Albanian institutions / agencies in charge for the implementation of large infrastructure project/programmes in key sectors like Transport, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure, and Business Infrastructure. The TA will provide a team of experts that will identify the needs and assist and train the beneficiary institutions / agencies for upgrading their capacities for the implementation of infrastructure projects. The TA will contribute to improve their skills in managing such projects, from the stage of identification to the closure, through coaching, on-the-job-training, and other capacity support tools. This TA also includes support to the planning and coordination, preparation and updating the National Single Priority Project pipeline.
8. **Number and titles of lots**
One lot only
9. **Maximum budget**
3 450 000,00 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. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the Contractor.

Conditions of participation

11. Eligibility

Participation is open to all natural persons who are nationals of and legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping — consortium — of tenderers) which are effectively established in a Member State of the European Union or in a eligible country or territory as defined under the Regulation (EU) n° 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 (see also Heading 29 below). Participation is also open to international organisations.

Please be aware that after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, the rules of access to EU procurement procedures of economic operators established in third countries will apply to candidates or tenderers from the United Kingdom depending on the outcome of negotiations. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in force at the time of contract award, candidates or tenderers from the United Kingdom could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

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 one 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 short-listed application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure unless prior approval from the Contracting Authority has been obtained (see Practical Guide — PRAG — 2.4.3.). Short-listed 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 PRAG.

16. Sub-contracting

Subcontracting is allowed.

17. Number of candidates to be short-listed

On the basis of the applications received, between 4 and 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

September 2018

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

February 2019

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

36 months.

Selection and award criteria

21. **Selection criteria**

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 unless specified otherwise. The selection criteria will not be applied to natural persons and single-member companies when they are subcontractors.

1) Economic and financial capacity of candidate (based on Item 3 of the application form). In case of candidate 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 closed:

— the average annual turnover of the candidate must exceed 2 000 000,00 EUR for the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017), and

— the 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 of candidate (based on Items 4 and 5 of the application form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last 5 years from submission deadline:

— at least 20 (twenty) staff currently work for the candidate in fields related to this contract, and

— at least 10 (ten) staff working for the candidate in the fields related to this contract are permanent.

3) Technical capacity of candidate (based on Items 5 and 6 of the application form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last 5 years from submission deadline:

a) the candidate has provided services for identification, preparation and/or implementation / monitoring / evaluation of infrastructure projects related to different sectors, under at least 2 (two) contracts with a budget of at least 2 000 000,00 EUR each, which were implemented at any moment during the last 5 years from submission deadline.

b) the candidate has provided at least 1 service contract concerning Technical Assistance for capacity building and/or training of public administration for planning, implementation, monitoring of infrastructure projects / programmes, at minimum amount of 1 000 000,00 EUR, which was implemented at any moment during the last 5 years from submission deadline.

Candidates / tenderers are allowed to refer either to projects completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to projects not yet completed. In the first case the project will be considered in its whole if proper evidence of performance is provided (statement or certificate from the entity which awarded the contract, proof of final payment). In case of projects still on-going only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period although started earlier will be taken into consideration. This portion will have to be supported by documentary evidence (similarly to projects completed) also detailing its value.

If a candidate / tenderer has implemented the project in a consortium, the percentage that the candidate / tenderer has successfully completed must be clear from the documentary evidence, together with a description of the nature of the services provided if the selection criteria relating to the pertinence of the experience have been used.

Previous experience which caused breach of contract and termination by a Contracting Authority shall not be used as reference.

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 a commitment 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 — notably that of nationality — and must fulfil the same relevant selection criteria as the economic operator. 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 works or services for which these capacities are required. With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the tenderer relies, become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

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

- 1) the highest number of references fulfilling Criterion 21.3.b);
- 2) for the cases of equality in line with the first re-examination criterion, the second re-examination criterion will be the cumulative value of the project references (proportion carried out by the candidate) fulfilling the Criterion 21.3.b).

22. **Award criteria**

Best price-quality ratio.

Application

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications**

15:00 Central European Time on 20.8.2018.

Any application received by the Contracting Authority 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 from the following Internet address:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=B>

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

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/annexes.do?chapterTitleCode=A>

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 in English exclusively to the Contracting Authority in a sealed envelope:

— Either by recorded delivery (official postal service) to:

Delegation of the European Union to Albania, Contract, Finance and Audit Section, ABA Business Center, Rr Papa Gjon Pali II, k.17. Tirana, Albania

In this case, the delivery record makes proof of compliance with the time-limit for receipt.

— Or hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the Contracting Authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to:

Delegation of the European Union to Albania, Contract, Finance and Audit Section, Attn. Mrs. Matilda Zinxhiria;
Tel: +355 (4) 222 8320 — ABA Business Center, Rr Papa Gjon Pali II, k.17. Tirana, Albania

Opening hours Monday — Thursday: 8:30 — 17:30.

Opening hours on Friday: 8:30 — 16:00.

In this case, the acknowledgment of receipt makes proof of compliance with the time-limit for receipt.

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.

By submitting an application candidates 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 application.

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 application 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 prior information notice**

9.5.2018. Reference Number EuropeAid/139665/DH/SER/AL

29. **Legal basis(1)**

Regulation (EU) n° 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11.3.2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and Regulation (EU) n° 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11.3.2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPAI).

(1) Please state any specificity that might have an impact on rules on participation (such as geographic or thematic or long / short term).

30. **Additional information**

N/A