

**B-Brussels: ENPI — Medstat III (statistical cooperation in the Mediterranean region, phase 3)**

**2009/S 205-294081**

**ENPI South**

**Relaunch**

**Service procurement notice**

1. **Publication reference:**  
EuropeAid/128533/C/SER/Multi.
2. **Procedure:**  
Restricted.
3. **Programme:**  
ENPI.
4. **Financing:**  
Budget line 19.080101 European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) financial cooperation with Mediterranean countries.
5. **Contracting authority:**  
European Community, represented by the European Commission on behalf of and for the account of the beneficiary country/countries.

**Contract specification**

6. **Nature of contract:**  
Fee-based.
7. **Contract description:**  
The beneficiary countries are the ENPI Southern partner countries and territories, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, and Tunisia.  
The purposes of the project are to provide users with more and better statistical data in 6 priority thematic sectors (agriculture, energy, migration, social statistics, trade in goods and services and balance of payments, transport) and an increased use of these data. Expected results of the project are improved statistical capacities and an institutional strengthening of the national statistical institutes and systems including improved cooperation within countries, a further harmonisation of statistical data, in line with European and international standards, the consolidation of the data exchange process and the further feeding of the database at Eurostat DG, a promotion of regional exchange of experiences and cooperation and the creation of a forum of statisticians, a more user-friendly dissemination of statistics, a better understanding of and an increased awareness of the importance of statistics by the users.
8. **Number and titles of lots:**  
Not applicable.
9. **Maximum budget:**  
4 000 000 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, up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor.

### **Conditions of participation**

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of candidates) which are established in a Member State of the European Union or in a country or territory of the regions covered and/or authorised by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed (see also item 30 below). Participation is also open to international organisations. The participation of natural persons is governed by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

12. **Candidature:**

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 11 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may apply. The candidate consortia must be composed of at least 1 national authority (ministry, agency or statistical institute) relevant to the objectives of the project (as per item 7) from an EU Member State and at least 1 similar authority from an ENPI South partner country or territory (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, and Tunisia).

In addition, the consortia may include other eligible partners (for example, from the civil society or the private sector).

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 1 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 shortlisted application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure. Shortlisted 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 'Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions'.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is allowed for up to 30 % of the contract value.

17. **Number of candidates to be shortlisted:**

On the basis of the applications received, 4–8 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:**  
20.11.2009.
19. **Provisional commencement date of the contract:**  
1.3.2010.
20. **Initial period of implementation of tasks and possible extension of the contract:**  
2 years with a possible extension.

**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:

1) Economic and financial capacity of candidate (based on item 3 of the application form). In the case of the applicant being a public body, equivalent information should be provided:

(a) the average annual turnover (or managed budget) of the leader of the consortium must have exceeded 2 000 000 EUR in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

2) Professional capacity of candidate (based on items 4 and 5 of the application form):

(a) at least 10 permanent staff currently work for the consortium (considered as a whole) in fields related to the objectives of the contract (as described in 7).

3) Technical capacity of candidate (based on items 5 and 6 of the application form):

(a) the candidate has played a central role in at least 3 international cooperation programmes with a minimum budget of 250 000 EUR related to technical assistance covering the fields relevant to the objectives of the project in the past 10 years (from 1999 onwards). The candidate's participation in these programmes (i.e. by 1 or more of its members) must be significant (i.e. of a proportion of at least 50 %). The contracts implementing these projects must have been signed at the latest on 1.9.2008;

(b) the candidate has played a central role in at least 3 international cooperation programmes with a minimum budget of 250 000 EUR related to technical assistance in the past 10 years (from 1999 onwards) in the ENPI South countries listed in 7. The candidate's participation in these programmes (i.e. by 1 or more of its members) must be significant (i.e. of a proportion of at least 50 %). The contracts implementing these projects must have been signed at the latest on 1.9.2008.

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 an undertaking 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 and notably that of nationality, as the economic operator.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the applications of these candidates must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications for the tender procedure. In such a case, the factors which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination will be by priority order:

1) the number of cooperation projects fulfilling the technical criterion 3(a) in the past 5 years, i.e. since 2004. The contracts implementing these projects must have been signed at the latest on 1.9.2008;

and in case of equality following the application of this factor 1:

2) the amount of the consolidated budget managed by the candidate as a whole for projects fulfilling the technical criterion 3(b) in the past 5 years, i.e. since 2004. The contracts implementing these projects must have been signed at the latest on 1.9.2008.

22. **Award criteria:**  
Best value for money.

**Application**

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**  
30.11.2009 (16:00), Central European Time.  
Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.
24. **Application format and details to be provided:**  
Applications must be submitted using the standard application form (available from the following Internet address: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_en.htm)), whose format and instructions must be strictly observed.  
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:  
— either by recorded delivery (official postal service) to:  
European Commission, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, Finance, Contracts and Audit Unit, EuropeAid A5, J-54 01/230, 1049 Brussels, BELGIUM,  
— or hand-delivered (including courier services) directly to the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to:  
European Commission, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, Finance, Contracts and Audit Unit, EuropeAid A5, Central Mail Service, J-54 01/230, avenue du Bourget 3, 1140 Brussels, BELGIUM. Tel. +32 22955883.  
N.B. This department is open from 8:00 to 17:00 Monday to Thursday, and from 8:00 to 16:00 on Friday. It is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Commission holidays.  
The contract title and the publication reference (see item 1 above) as well as the mention 'Not to be opened before the opening session' 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.
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. **Additional information:**  
Not applicable.
29. **Date of publication of contract forecast:**  
20.5.2009.
30. **Legal basis:**  
Regulation EC/1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24.10.2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument ([http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/oj\\_1310\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/oj_1310_en.pdf)).