



Vilnius, **07. 07. 2017**  
EIGE/zm D/2017/ **455**

**Subject: Ex-ante publicity notice for procurement procedure (€60 000.01 – Directive threshold)**

**Opportunities and risks of digitalisation for young people in the area of gender equality: research and policy review and methodology**

**Reference number: EIGE/2017/OPER/09**

### **Description of the contract**

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) envisages awarding a middle-value contract for providing a review of literature, data and policies on opportunities and risks of digitalization for young people from a gender perspective and a proposal of methodology for a qualitative research in the area.

### **Description of the requested services**

Digitalisation and youth is high on EU political agenda. The EU strategy for youth 2010-2018 calls for active participation of young people in the society, and more recently, the Paris declaration focuses on active citizenship among young people and children. According to the EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018, youth and cross-sectional cooperation shall be strengthened to ensure multiple aims including increased social inclusion of all young people and stronger participation of young people in democratic and civic life in Europe. Despite the political goals, little is known about how youth are gaining real benefits from the new technologies or what strategies really work to empower girls and boys online. There is also a need to understand why girls and teenagers are increasingly likely to experience harm linked to internet use (Children's Use of Online Technologies in Europe, 2014) and what are the urgent gender issues related to digitalization.

The subject of the contract will be (1) a thorough review of available quantitative data and literature on opportunities and risks of digitalization for young people in the EU from a gender perspective; (2) a proposal of sound methodology for a qualitative research; (3) policy review aiming at identification of evidence-based good practices of policy measures or legal provisions in Member States, which strengthened gender equal access and usage of digital technologies and improved safety in digital spaces. The study shall cover all 28 EU Member States.

More specifically:

- (1) A thorough review of literature and quantitative data shall be provided, aiming at identification of gender specific opportunities and challenges of digitalization for young people (15-18) in the EU. The focus should be on new opportunities for social, economic and political participation of young women and men, new barriers to their participation

and main gender-related risks of digitalization (hate speech, cyber violence, societal pressures/body image, games that pose risks in terms of suicides/physical harm, etc.).

- (2) Based on the literature and data review, a methodology should be provided for a qualitative study that would improve an understanding of:
- different risks and opportunities that digital technologies bring along for girls and boys;
  - different forms of online social, cultural and political participation of girls and boys linked to gender equality;
  - how new digital technologies can be used to promote gender equality and increase social inclusion;
  - digital skills as a broad group of skills including skills to recognize gender stereotypes, cyber harassment and gender based cyber violence; to avoid these practices when using digital technologies; to know when and where to seek support if needed; to counter harming practices.

The methodology shall provide a detailed description of every step of the research including the selected research methods, the selection of Member States for the study, sampling of respondents, ethical concerns, risk assessment and quality assurance. The contractor shall organise a meeting of 10-15 experts to discuss the proposed research methodology.

- (3) The policy review should provide an overview of EU and national/regional policies addressing opportunities and risks of digitalization for young women and men. It should also identify good practices supporting participation of young people and promoting gender equality via new technologies as well as good practices of policies and legal provisions to prevent various forms of cyber violence and other gender-related risks of digitalisation.

Outcomes of the contract shall support the monitoring of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in the EU, in particular two strategic objectives in the area L 'The Girl Child': L7. Eradicate violence against the girl child; L8. Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life.

### **Description of the procedure**

This ex-ante publicity is the first stage of the negotiated procurement procedure through which EIGE may award the above-mentioned contract.

All parties interested in providing the services described above should express their interest 400 words maximum, by e-mail, to [procurement@eige.europa.eu](mailto:procurement@eige.europa.eu) with the subject reference: **EIGE/2017/OPER/09, before 21.07.2017, 12:00 Vilnius time.**

Economic operators who do not express their interest before the deadline and to the address above will not be invited to submit an offer. The latter restriction will not apply to the minimum five economic operators directly invited by EIGE.

Tender documents will be sent by e-mail.

This publication constitutes no obligation for EIGE to launch the mentioned procurement procedure.

We look forward to receiving your declaration of interest.