



Vilnius, 03-11-2015  
EIGE/VL/hm D/2015/769

**Tender: EIGE/2015/OPER/28**

**Study on the Economic Benefits of Gender Equality in the European Union**

**Subject: Answers to request for clarifications regarding the tender**

From potential tenderers we received questions that might be of general interest. Please find herewith the answers to these questions.

Procurement  
EIGE

## **EIGE/2015/OPER/28. Questions & Answers Nr 3**

### **Question 1:**

"We are very interested in submitting a bid for the above tender. However, we note that you require a minimum of €480,000 average turnover for the last three years. We probably do not meet this requirement. However, we are in a healthy trading position, ..... have been successfully operating at profit ..... We would be extremely disappointed to be excluded from this tender on the basis of turnover, given our strong position.

Could you please advise us on whether you can revise your turnover requirements to be more supportive of small businesses, which are otherwise amply qualified?"

### **Answer 1:**

The purpose of the selection criteria is to determine whether a tenderer has the capacity necessary to implement the contract. Therefore, it is not possible to go below the levels determined in the Tender Specifications.

An economic operator, for the particular contract, may rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in this case prove to EIGE 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.

Under the same conditions, a consortium of economic operators may rely on the capacities of members of the consortium or of other entities.

### **Question 2:**

"Could you please advise on whether you require a country researcher to be included on the bid for each EU Member State, or whether other arrangements may be acceptable to you, assuming they provide requisite expertise and coverage (for example, researchers with numerous language skills and expertise conducting research in more than one Member State)."

### **Answer 2:**

The Tender Specifications contain no such requirement of one researcher for each EU Member State.

### **Question 3**

"In case the offer shall be submitted by a consortium we wonder if each member of the consortium may fulfil the required criteria ("the average annual turnover of the tenderer must be not lower than EUR 480.000 during the past 3 years"). In other words, we would clarify if each consortium member needs to have the economic and financial capacity to submit an offer or, as it happens with the technical and professional capacity, the Economic and financial capacity shall be assessed in relation to the combined capacity of all the parties involved in the tender."

**Answer 3**

Selection criteria are applied on the tenderer as a whole, i.e. on all the economic operators involved in a tender (including joint tenderers and / or subcontractors, or third parties on which the tenderer relies to fulfil some criteria).