

1. As per point 2 of the invitation letter to tender and article 3.4 of President's Decision N° 19/2018 of 16 May 2018 implementing title V concerning procurement of the EUI's Financial Rules (Public Procurement Regulation), it can be inferred that companies/ entities/ not-for-profit societies registered in India are eligible to submit the tender.

Response: we do confirm that Indian nationals and legal persons are exceptionally admitted to participate into this call for tender.

2. In the prevailing pandemic situation, it is requested to accept the tender via online mode of submission.

Response: we do confirm that only submission on paper is admitted (please be sure to be in compliance with the given procedure).

3. We are two or more organisations wishing to submit a response to this tender as a consortium, is this possible?

Response: yes, consortia of two or more organisations can respond to this tender provided they meet all of the other conditions.

4. In India, getting a criminal record certificate for participation in a tender/call for proposal is not a normal practise and hence it will be difficult to obtain this certificate. Could another document, e.g. certification from the employer, be accepted as a substitute?

Response: All bidders should provide a Criminal Record Certificate / Police Clearance Certificate or equivalent certificates produced by authorised people/entities.

5. In India, not-for-profit entities can be registered as (i) a Society, under the Registrar of Societies or (ii) as a Trust, by making a Trust deed, or (iii) as a Section 8 Company, under the Companies Act, 2013. Therefore, we request you to amend the existing clause accordingly to allow above-mentioned not-for-profit entities to be eligible for this tender.

Response: the tender specifications note 'the legal entity should be eligible to work and receive public research funding from the Indian funding organisations/entities and preferably registered as a section 8 non-profit company'. As this is only indicated as a preference, other types of registered entities are not excluded from submitting tenders.

6. In light of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the requirement to physically ship the documents internationally to Italy, we request that the deadline for submitting the proposal be extended by at least two weeks to May 14, 2021.

Response: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the timeline for this tender is being evaluated and we recommend all potential bidders to regularly check the tender page for any updates to the timeline and ultimate deadline for receiving bids.

7. Could you also provide a MS Word version of the various documents particularly Annex II A, II B, IIC and IID?

Response: annexes II A, II B, II C and II D will shortly be available on the EUI tender webpage in more editable formats.