

GUIDELINES ON PARTICIPATION IN EU EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

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SUMMARY

- Introduction
- Basic rules for service, supply & work contracts
- Services
- Supplies
- Works
- Mistakes to avoid
- Claims and Disputes
- Information tools



INTRODUCTION

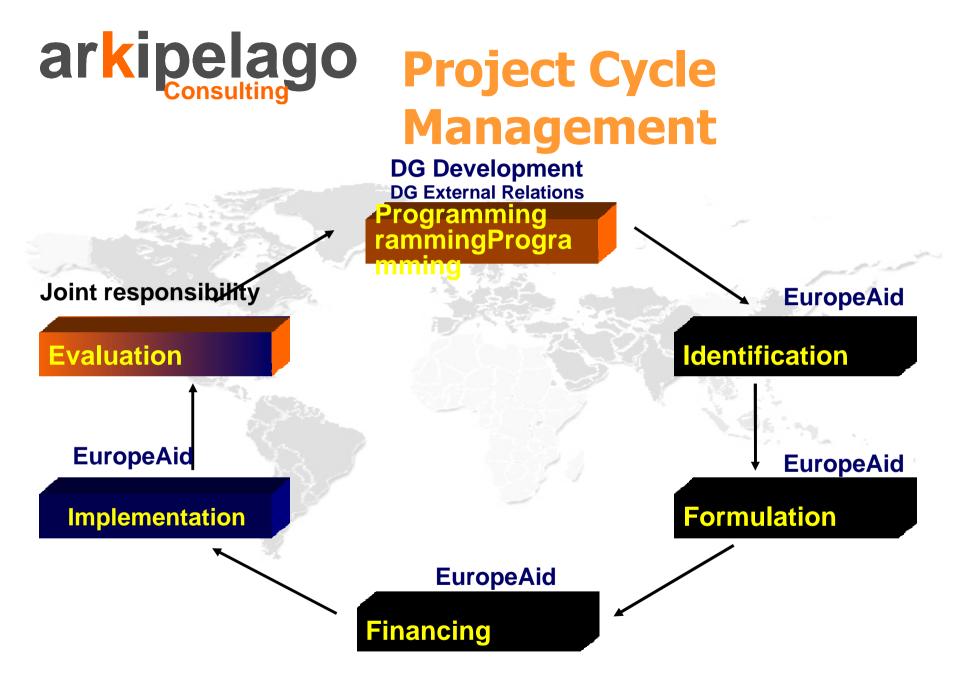
- External Actions in EU
- Project cycle Management
- New Instruments
- Legal Bases



AID by EU

External Relations family in the European Commission:

- RELEX, DEV, EuropeAid, ELARG, ECHO
- Manage together the External Service
- Supervised by the RELEX Group of Commissioners, chaired by Mr Barroso



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New Instruments

2007-2013

Geographical coverage

- Pre-accession: IPA
- Neighbourhood: ENPI
- Development: DCI and 10th EDF
- Industrialised countries: ICI

General coverage

- New: Thematic programmes: included in DCI
- New: Human rights: EIDHR
- New: Stability: IFS
- New: Nuclear safety: NSI
- Humanitarian aid and Macro-financial aid



New Instruments

- Three main policies: enlargement, neighbourhood, development
- Delivering more, better and faster
- Simplified and harmonised: from + 35 to 10
- Updated on EU commitments: Millenium development goals, untying of aid, alignment etc
- More flexible: less restrictions on type of beneficiary, measures and financing



Legal Bases

BUDGET

EDF

Cotonou Agreement

Council regulation

Legal base of programme Financial Regulation

Comm regulation

Implementing Rules of Financial Reg.

Comm decision

AIDCO Rules and Procedures

ACP-EC Council regulation

General Regulations & General Conditions contracts

Council regulation

Financial Regulation

AIDCO decision

Practical Guides (Contract/Finance/Programme

Instruction Notes



BASIC RULES FOR SERVICE, SUPPLY & WORK CONTRACTS

- Procedures
- Eligibility
- Grounds for exclusion



SERVICES	≥€200,000 International restricted tender procedure	< €200,000 but > €10,000 (BUDGET) €5,000 (EDF) 1.Framework contracts 2.Competitive negotiated procedure (BUDGET) Simplified procedure (EDF)		≤€10,000 Single tender (BUDGET) ≤€5,000 Single tender (EDF)
SUPPLIES	≥ €150,000 (BUDGET) > €150,000 (EDF) International open tender procedure	<€150,000 but ≥ €60,000 (BUDGET) ≤€150,000 but ≥ €30,000(EDF) Local open tender procedure	<€60,000 but > €10,000 Competitive negotiated procedure (BUDGET) <€30,000 but > €5,000 Simplified procedure (EDF)	≤€10,000 Single tender (BUDGET) ≤€5,000 Single tender (EDF)
WORKS	≥€5,000,000 (BUDGET) > €5 000 000 (EDF) 1.International open tender procedure 2.International restricted tender procedure (exceptional cases BUD)	<€ 5,000,000 but ≥ €300,000 (BUDGET) ≤€5 000 000 but ≥ €300 000 (EDF) Local open tender procedure	< € 300,000 but > €10,000 (BUDGET) €5,000 (EDF) Competitive negotiated procedure (BUDGET) Simplified procedure (EDF)	≤€10,000 Single tender (BUDGET) ≤€5,000 Single tender (EDF)



Eligibility

Eligibility of legal and natural persons

Budget: in legal Bases

EDF:

- Member States who contribute financially to the agreement
- ACP signatories
- International Organisations
- a country participating in a regional initiative, where the financed action is implemented under such an arrangement
- a 3rd state, in the case of co-financing



Grounds for exclusion

Tenderers will be excluded from participation in a procurement procedure if:

- they are bankrupt;
- they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct;
- they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions;
- they have been the subject of a judgment for fraud, corruption etc....;
- they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract in another procurement procedure financed by the Community budget.



SERVICE CONTRACT

- Definition
- International Restricted Procedure "step by step"



Definition

Contract

- between a service provider and the Contracting Authority
- provision of services such as technical assistance or studies



International Restricted Procedure

- 1. Publication
- 2. Shortlist
- 3. Tender launch
- 4. Evaluation
- 5. Contract Award
- 6. Contract Signature



Publication

- Forecast
- Procurement Notice
 - 30 days to reply
 - Content legally binding
 - Defines criteria
 - Budget
- Award Notice



Shortlist

- 4-8 companies will be invited to tender
- Selection criteria applied
- Result = Shortlist
- Report approved by Contracting Authority



Criteria

- Exclusion
 Bancruptcy, taxes
- Selection
 Experience, financial capacity
- EvaluationQuality of offer
- Award
 Price, economically most advantageous



Selection

How many eligible Candidates meet the selection criteria?





- May invite the tenderers which satisfied criteria
- Examine comparative criteria
- Justify changes in Shortlist Report



Tender Launch

- Dispatch Tender Dossier
- Unsuccessful candidates informed + publication of shortlist notice
- Deadline for Submission = min. 50 days
- Questions 21 days Answers 11 days
- Tenders are valid 90 days



Evaluation

5 phases

- Tender Opening Session
- Administrative compliance
- Technical Evaluation
- Financial Evaluation
- Conclusion



Contract Award

Committee recommends to

 Award the contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer

OR

Cancel the procedure

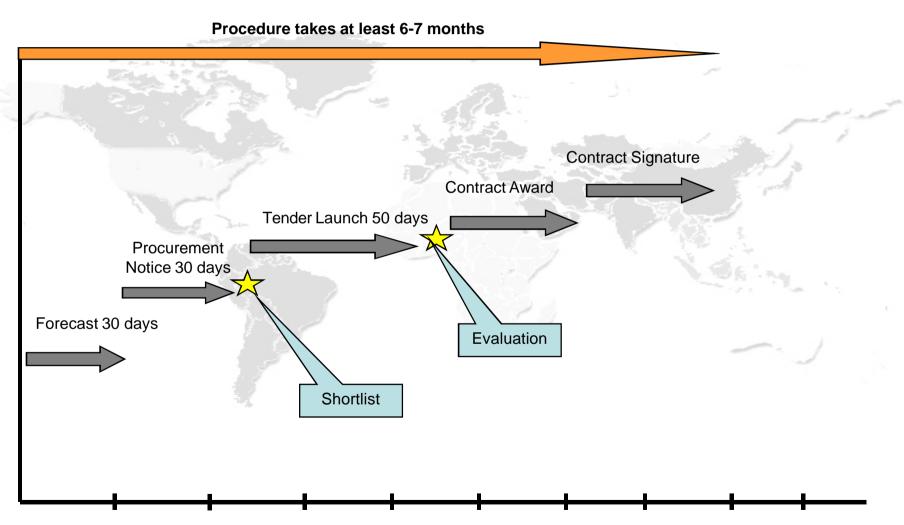
Contracting Authority must approve the evaluation report

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- Inform successful Tenderer and ask for "Proof documents" (15 days)
- Prepare contract
- Sign and send contract (30 days)
- Publish Contract Award Notice
- Inform unsuccessful Tenderers (15 days)



Time Line









Definition

 Purchase, leasing, rental or hire purchase (with or without option to buy) of products

 May include commissioning, installation, maintenance and other ancillary services



Publication

- Open tender
- Tender dossier must be ready before publication
- All documents are published
- Clarifications and information also published
- Selection criteria as for service



Evaluation

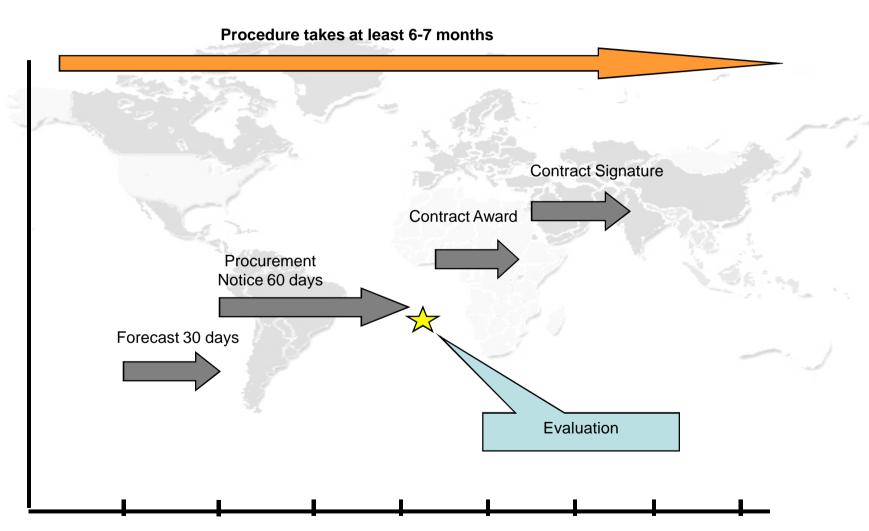
- Public opening
- No judgement in evaluation compliant YES/NO
- Common with clarification requests
- Award criteria lowest price



Evaluation Committee recommends to award contract to compliant offer with lowest price



Time Line





WORK CONTRACT

- Definition
- Specificities





Definition

- Outcome of building or civil engineering works
- Fulfills an economic or technical function

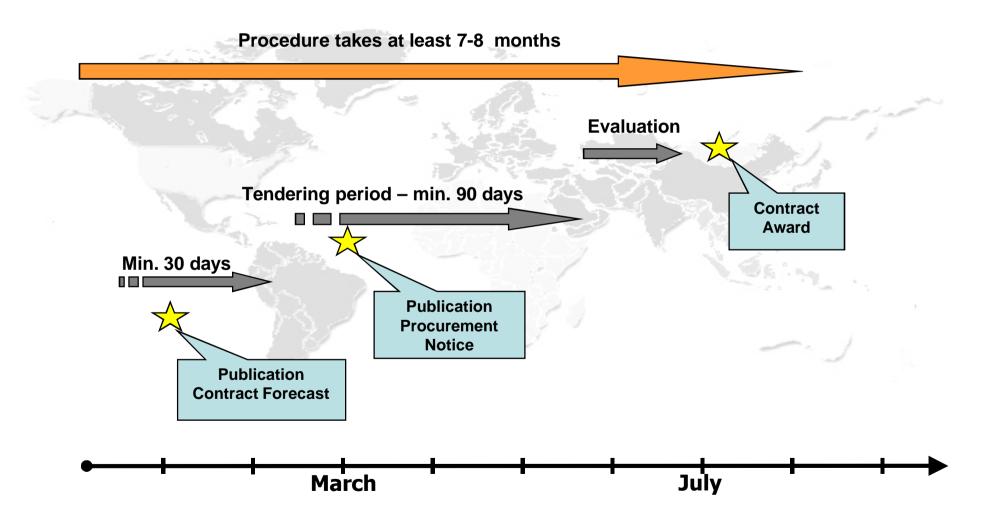


Specificities works tenders

- Scope of works
- Financing
- Budget
- Clarification meeting or site visit
- Payment schedule
- Supervisor
- Tender submission
- Evaluation



Time Line





MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Administrative mistakes
- Technical mistakes

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- Late arrival
- Incomplete documentation
- Not in accordance with templates
- Lack of original documents or required translations
- Not signed
- Lack of or copy of Tender Guarantee (Supplies and Works)
- Tenderer/Applicant/partner not eligible
- Financial offer not in separate envelope (Services)



Service:

- Experts are not available on required dates
- Experts do not have the required experience
- Copy and paste of Terms of Reference

Supply:

- Offer not exactly compliant with Technical Specification
- Ineligible origin of supply



If your entity does not fulfill the selection criteria....

-Form a consortium (the consortium as a whole must meet the criteria, not each individual company)!

- -Try and gain relevant experience as consortium partner or subcontractor!
- -An economic operator may rely on the capacities of other entities for a particular contract (undertaking)!



COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES

Complaints:

- During the tender process
- After attribution of the contract

Prevention of disputes

Disputes:

- Conciliation/Good offices
- Arbitration



Complaints

- During the tender process:

When tenderers believe that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity (90 days to reply)

- After attribution of the contract:

Beneficiary country's national legislation And/or The European Ombudsman



Prevention of disputes

- In the tender procedure phase and the precontractual phase
- In the commencement phase
- In the performance phase



Settlement of Disputes

- Amicable settlement between the parties
- If no amicable settlement, possibility to request intervention of a third party as conciliator (e.g. the Commission Good Offices)
- Absent amicable settlement or settlement by conciliation, arbitration
- Beneficiary country's national legislation
- European Ombudsman



INFORMATION TOOLS

EuropeAid Webpage

Contracts and Procedures

Funding opportunities





http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm

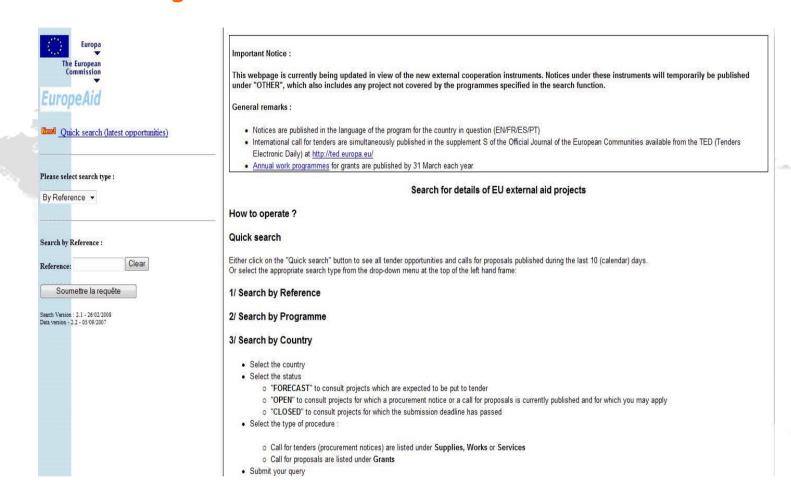


Contracts and Procedures



http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/index_en.htm

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http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl