

GREEN ASSIST - PRIOR INFORMATION NOTICE

With this Prior Information Notice, CINEA wishes to advise interested economic operators of its intention to seek assistance for providing advisory services for EU green investment, in the context of the GREEN ASSIST Initiative

Background of GREEN ASSIST:

The European Green Deal requires a significant stepping up of green investments in support of the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy by 2050. The Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission has entrusted CINEA, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, with the implementation of GREEN ASSIST: a new InvestEU advisory initiative aiming at developing high-impact investment pipelines greening investments in the economy, notably in natural capital and circular economy management but also in greening of non-environmental sectors. GREEN ASSIST is stemming from the LIFE Regulation and is resourced through the LIFE Multi Annual Work Programme 2021-2024.

CINEA intends to launch a procurement procedure to contract out the establishment and management of a Roster of experts, the management and coordination of requests for advisory services and the provision of analytical studies and capacity building related to the greening of investments under the banner of GREEN ASSIST, a new InvestEU advisory initiative.

GREEN ASSIST's Scope and Beneficiaries:

The scope of GREEN ASSIST may cover the following types of services organised in two lots:

- 1) designing, developing and implementing the tools, procedures and processes for the operation of a Roster of experts under GREEN ASSIST. This includes: the implementation, operation and management of a Roster of Experts, the management and handling requests for Green investment advisory support emanating from private or public beneficiaries, and the management, implementation and coordination of the provision of related support services.
- 2) Provision of specific support services for GREEN ASSIST, such as support to strengthening the capacity and investment readiness of organizations, environmental and/or social sustainability, structuring and impact assessments, green public procurement, compatibility with State Aid rules, market development and other analytical studies, communication and awareness raising.

Each of the following entities, may be eligible to benefit from the support of GREEN ASSIST:

- a. project promoters (private or public) and their investment teams, possibly in association with InvestEU implementing or advisory partners;
- b. InvestEU implementing or advisory partners needing green expertise;
- c. CINEA who as Contracting authority may want to support the objectives of GREEN ASSIST through Capacity building and Market development activities.

Subject to eligibility of the requests, Advisory Services will be provided to the beneficiaries, either by selected individual expert(s) from in the Roster of Expert set up under Lot 1, or directly by the selected contractor under Lot 2.

Envisaged framework contract:

The framework contract subject of this Preliminary Information Notice is a mixed framework contract that consists of 2 lots corresponding to the types of services referred to above¹. The expected duration of the mixed framework contract is 4 years and the expected combined budget is 30 000 000 EUR.

Lot 1

Lot 1 will be implemented through a single framework contract and through successive requests for services and specific contracts. It will be implemented in 2 steps, a design phase and an implementation phase, that may, for certain tasks, run in parallel.

During the design phase, the framework contractor will develop all the required reference documents, methodologies, procedures and templates (e.g. for expert contracts), tools (e.g. expert search tools) and encode in the Roster profiles of experts, collected notably in the context of targeted communication campaigns.

During the implementation phase, the framework contractor will implement the agreed methodologies, processes and procedures and operate the tools, as developed and agreed to by CINEA during the design phase. CINEA will conclude specific contracts to procure the implementation of advisory services. The number and size of specific contracts will vary upon the number of requests for advisory received and the size of the assignments.

The tenderers for Lot 1 will need to demonstrate their ability to perform the following tasks:

- select and manage a pool of experts from across EU Member States, proficient in the improvement of environmental performance of projects and corporate entities and with sufficient business acumen to provide economic and/or financing advice. This includes assistance to the identification of adequate profiles and experts, formulating proposals with regard to terms of contracting, expert community management, etc...
- analyse, validate and frame requests for advisory services, interfacing with requesting entities and experts, estimating and validating workload, defining milestones and deliverables by the expert(s) to be contracted, validating deliverables etc...
- match requests with expertise available in the Roster of experts,
- contract experts individually², monitor and verify their work and provide payment to experts upon completion of their assignment,

¹ It is reminded that information provided in this Preliminary information Notice, is indicative, and provided for illustrative purpose. Consequently, the terms of the technical specifications, or any part of the tender for the framework contract may vary compared to the indication therein, at the sole discretion of CINEA and without any liability from CINEA to any interested tenderers or third-party.

² (i.e in their own name, not through an organisation)

- develop monitoring and reporting IT tools and report on the implementation and performance of GREEN ASSIST using agreed KPIs,
- identify audience, forum and media in order to promote GREEN ASSIST, and upon request from CINEA, contribute to the implementation of specific outreach and communication activities.

With regard to quality of services, interested tenderers will need to demonstrate their ability to mobilize and manage resources with both thematic and project management expertise, to negotiate and follow-up advisory agreements, to contract and manage payments, to provide reporting and business intelligence, and to ensure proper communication. The tenderers are expected to have thematic knowledge and expertise in particular in relation to environmentally sustainable investments across a range of sectors and financially sustainable investments to enhance sustainability and environmental quality.

Last but not least, interested tenderers will need to demonstrate the highest degree of care as well as ethical standards. This is particularly applicable when implementing the agreed methodologies for checking conflicts of interest and risk of collusion, anticipating and mitigating reputational risks, and ensuring sound financial management of EU resources.

Lot 2

Lot 2 will be implemented through a multiple framework contract with re-opening of competition. At the signature of the framework contract, the specific services to be provided may not yet be known in detail. Therefore, the tender specifications will provide illustrative examples of the nature of services expected under Lot 2. CINEA will provide a detailed description of the objectives, scope of requests and activities to be performed when elaborating specific requests for services on the basis of which interested contractors will be invited to submit a specific offer.

With regard to quality, tenderers will be requested to coordinate multi-disciplinary teams to provide advisory services directly to eligible beneficiaries. The tenderers will have to demonstrate expertise in the field of scientific, economic and environmental assessment and a good understanding of the policy context, business models and of economic and financial obstacles that hamper the greening of projects or the development of sustainable strategies. Tenderers will also be expected to demonstrate knowledge of and proximity with the sectoral players that may benefit from capacity building and market development studies.

CINEA's overall objective is to select tenderers that demonstrate the highest degree of accountability and alignment with the overall objectives of GREEN ASSIST towards its stakeholders and beneficiaries, with the capacity to maximise the greening effect of advisory support provided, whilst providing the highest value for money.

The invitation to tender will provide further details about the selection, and evaluation process.