

5 February 2024

INVITATION TO TENDER // CALLS FOR PAPERS FOR 2024

New Direction – The Foundation for European Reform publishes reports, scientific analysis, economic studies, policy briefings and discussions papers each year.

In the coming months, the Foundation is keen to expand its work in a number of areas covering:

- Eurozone, Finance and the Economy
- Energy and the Environment
- Defence, Foreign Policy and Security
- Accountability, Transparency and Efficiency
- Immigration, Justice and Society
- Transatlantic Relations

We are seeking an academic, institution, think tank or consultancy, to carry out 2 research on:

1) **The Economic and Financial Affairs Council: An assessment**

The Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin) is redesigning the EU's fiscal rules, which determine deficit and public debt limits for member states. The report will take a look at its track-record, assess the reforms that are now being put forward and suggest a better pathway for the future with effective budget rules that actually enhance state sovereignty while creating more responsibility and reducing Brussels's interference and poor governance of this process.

2) **Public Sector Productivity and Efficiency across the EU: An analysis**

Nowadays it seems as if all problems can be fixed with more and more spending, but what about the way in which taxpayer's money is spent? Couldn't we also get a bit more for less? Couldn't public sector dynamics be made a bit less costly and more efficient?

Description of the services under this call

- Preparation of a specific research paper on the question of the ECOFIN as described above;
- Preparation of a specific research paper on the question of Public spending as described above;
- Provision of consultancy services in the form of regular interactions and discussions with New Direction staff, if required,
- Taking part in meetings in Brussels if required;
- Presentation of the research paper at a conference or similar event in Europe if required.
- Reports can be drafted in any EU official language.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

The final papers will have to be original work created in response to this call and should be about:

Comprehensive Reports: circa. 50+ pages in a word format for each report with a minimum of 1800 characters per page.

All reports have to be submitted by mid-October 2024 at latest or earlier if possible.

Authors might also be asked to possibly provide consultancy services in the form of regular interactions and discussions on the subject field with New Direction staff (amounting to no more than approximately 30 working hours).

Moreover, at the request of New Direction, authors should also be ready to present their work at a New Direction Conference, followed by comments of discussants and a general exchange of views among participants.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- If the bidder has ever made a donation to New Direction or the ECR party, the offer will be excluded from the selection;
- If there is any conflict of interest with other bidders, the offer will not be selected for the evaluation;
- If the bidder attempts to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the award procedure.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- The bidder should have the legal capacity to pursue the professional activity needed for performing the contract as required in the tender specification;
- The bidder should submit proof of previous report on EU topics to demonstrate their professional ability;

AWARD CRITERIA

New Direction will select a supplier based on:

- The overall cost and value for money (40%)
- The ability to meet our required timescale – Please do mention a clear timeline for submitting the report (30%)
- Previous experience in similar works (track record of publishing research on issues relating to the subject field) and demonstrable professional standing including if possible the CV of the potential expert in charge of drafting the report. (30%)

Each criteria will be evaluated from 0 to 4 and then weight accordingly with each category as described here above (0=unacceptable, 1= Poor, 2= Acceptable 3=Good 4= Excellent)

FEE – TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS

- In accordance with the conditions of the contract New Direction intends to pay a fee of between €10,000 - €20,000 (net) per report, and then a global fee for this entire contract between €20,000 and €40,000 (net) (paper and consultancy services).

- In addition, with respect to the meetings in Brussels, travel and accommodation arrangements, will be made by New Direction. In case of co-authorship, New Direction will provide travel and accommodation for each co-author. The author or co-author is allowed to book travel and accommodation themselves only following approval from New Direction.

All prices quoted must be exclusive of VAT, fixed and shall cover all costs borne in performance.

SUBMISSION PROVISIONS

Submission of a proposal implies that the candidate accepts all the terms and conditions set out in these specifications and in the contract.

RESERVATIONS

Withdrawal from Process – New Direction reserves the right to withdraw from the tender process described in this document for whatever reason, prior to the signing of any Agreement/Contract with any party for the delivery of goods or services described in this document.

Lowest Cost Proposal – The lowest cost proposal, or any proposal, will not necessarily be accepted.

Negotiation – New Direction reserves the right to negotiate with short-listed tenderers after the nominated closing date for tender submission.

Part Offers – New Direction reserves the right to accept tenders in relation to some and not all of the scope of activity described, or appoint one, more than one or no organization on the basis of the tenders received.

Costs - All costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal are the supplier's responsibility and New Direction is not obliged to award a contract for these services and reserves the right to withdraw from the procurement process at any stage.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Tenderers (including their officers, employees, contractors, partners and consultants) must declare to New Direction any matter or issue which is, may be perceived to be or may lead to, a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in supply of the services described. Tenderers must describe a strategy so that any conflict of interest will be avoided.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY

By responding to this call, candidates declare on honour that they have the financial and economic capacity to deliver the services.

PUBLICATION AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

New Direction envisages publishing the research papers in a volume collecting all contributions. New Direction will retain the copyright of papers and it governed by the provisions specified in the contract.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Tenders should be returned no later than midnight on 4 March 2023. Tenders received after this time will not be considered. The template for tender can be found on <https://newdirection.online/about/privacy-policy-legal>.

The tender submission must be completed as directed and returned via email to contact@newdirection.online.

The tender submission can be submitted at any time before the submission deadline specified within the document. Submissions can be re-submitted any time before the submission deadline.

Please be advised that incomplete submissions may be rejected.

New Direction cannot accept responsibility for transmission delays. It is the responsibility of the supplier to ensure that its tender response has been submitted in the prescribed manner and in accordance with the specified deadline.

All submissions must be in English or French and prices in Euro exclusive of VAT.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Information of a clarifying nature can be requested solely by email on admin@newdirection.online

This document does not constitute an offer to provide goods and/or services to New Direction.

New Direction reserves the rights to allocate all the reports to only one supplier or to allocate the reports among different providers in order to give equal chances to all bidders.