

179255-2026 - Result

Ireland – Research and development services and related consultancy services – Developmental Evaluation and Supporting Research SEUPB PEACEPLUS-funded - Skills Connect Programme
OJ S 52/2026 16/03/2026
Contract or concession award notice – standard regime
Services

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: NOW Group

Email: tenders@nowgroup.org

Legal type of the buyer: Organisation awarding a contract subsidised by a contracting authority

Activity of the contracting authority: Economic affairs

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: Developmental Evaluation and Supporting Research SEUPB PEACEPLUS-funded - Skills Connect Programme

Description: NOW Group is a multi-award-winning social enterprise with operations in Belfast, Dublin, Galway, Donegal and expanding across the island of Ireland. The organisation supports people who are neurodiverse, including those with autism, ADHD, and learning disabilities to secure sustainable employment. The Skills Connect project aims to reduce skills gaps in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland by addressing systemic barriers to education and employment for people with disabilities or long-term health conditions. Skills Connect is a project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Skills Connect is seeking a suitably qualified evaluator to undertake an independent, in-depth developmental evaluation of its multi-site programme. This exciting opportunity involves working closely with project teams to support continuous learning and improvement across curriculum design, training delivery, and stakeholder engagement. This contract offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of skills development and contribute to policy recommendations through evidence-based insights.

Procedure identifier: 703415ff-fd5e-4d2b-a3bf-9e60b0afbd2c

Previous notice: 848852-2025

Type of procedure: Open

The procedure is accelerated: no

Main features of the procedure: Interested parties must submit an application by the deadline indicated in this notice. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility and selection criteria set out in the procurement documents. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to negotiate terms and conditions before final award. The purpose of this stage is to ensure that the final offer represents the most economically advantageous solution while maintaining transparency and fairness. Participation in negotiations does not guarantee contract award; the final decision will be based on the criteria specified in the procurement documents. The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender based on the criteria specified.

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 73000000 Research and development services and related consultancy services

2.1.2. Place of performance

Country: Ireland

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: NE of NI and Border Regions of NI/ROI

2.1.4. General information

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0001

Title: Developmental Evaluation of the Skills Connect Programme

Description: Skills Connect is seeking a suitably qualified evaluator to undertake an independent, in-depth developmental evaluation of its multi-site programme. This exciting opportunity involves working closely with project teams to support continuous learning and improvement across curriculum design, training delivery, and stakeholder engagement. Key Responsibilities Include: • Developing a Theory of Change framework • Identifying Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) • Designing and implementing mixed-methods data collection • Supporting iterative programme development • Producing interim and final evaluation reports • Facilitating a co-designed strategy and implementation roadmap The successful evaluator will: • Collaborate with project teams and stakeholders • Lead data collection and analysis across multiple sites in NE NI and the border areas of ROI • Provide quarterly briefings and attend key advisory meetings • Deliver a Joint Strategy Report and Final Evaluation Report This contract offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of skills development and contribute to policy recommendations through evidence-based insights.

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 73300000 Design and execution of research and development

5.1.2. Place of performance

Country subdivision (NUTS): Border (IE041)

Country: Ireland

Additional information: The regions included are the North East of Northern Ireland and the border areas of NI and ROI

5.1.3. Estimated duration

Start date: 01/01/2026

Duration end date: 31/03/2029

5.1.6. General information

Procurement Project fully or partially financed with EU Funds.

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): yes

5.1.10. Award criteria

Criterion:

Type: Quality

Description: The award criterion is based on quality, with the contract being awarded to the tender that demonstrates the highest level of qualitative merit in line with the specified standards.

Description of the method to be used if weighting cannot be expressed by criteria: If the award criteria cannot be expressed using numerical weighting. Instead, the contracting authority will assess tenders using a qualitative comparative method based on the criteria's order of importance. Evaluators will apply a holistic, non-linear assessment model, comparing the tenders against each criterion and against one another to determine which offers the most economically advantageous outcome. T

5.1.15. Techniques

Framework agreement:

Framework agreement, with reopening of competition

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: NOW Group

Information about review deadlines: 10-day standstill period between the notification of the award decision and the signing of the contract by the successful supplier

6. Results

Maximum value of the framework agreements in this notice: 150 000,00 EUR

Approximate value of the framework agreements

:

150 000,00

EUR

6.1. Result lot identifier: LOT-0001

Winner selection status: At least one winner was chosen.

Framework agreement:

Maximum value of the framework agreement: 150 000,00 EUR

Re-estimated value of the framework agreement: 150 000,00 EUR

6.1.2. Information about winners

Winner:

Official name: Root Research and Impact

Tender:

Tender identifier: DEV#EVAL#2026#C01

Identifier of lot or group of lots: LOT-0001

Subcontracting: Yes

Subcontracting value is known: yes

Value of subcontracting: 150 000,00 EUR

Subcontracting percentage is known: yes

Percentage of subcontracting: 100

Contract information:

Identifier of the contract: DEV#EVAL#2026#C01

Date of the conclusion of the contract: 12/03/2026

6.1.4. Statistical information

Received tenders or requests to participate:

Type of received submissions: Tenders

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 1

Type of received submissions: Tenders from medium tenderers

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 0

Type of received submissions: Tenders from small tenderers

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 1

Type of received submissions: Tenders from micro tenderers

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 0

Type of received submissions: Tenders submitted electronically

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 1

Type of received submissions: Tenders from tenderers registered in other European Economic Area countries than the country of the buyer

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 0

Type of received submissions: Tenders from tenders registered in countries outside of the European Economic Area

Number of tenders or requests to participate received: 1

8. Organisations

8.1. ORG-0001

Official name: NOW Group

Registration number: NOW Group

Department: Services

Postal address: Glendenning House, 12-15 Grosvenor Rd, BT12 4GN Glendenning House, 15-17 Grosvenor Rd

Town: Belfast

Postcode: BT12 5GD

Country subdivision (NUTS): Border (IE041)

Country: Ireland

Email: tenders@nowgroup.org

Telephone: 00 4428 9043 6400

Internet address: www.nowgroup.org

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

Review organisation

8.1. ORG-0002

Official name: Root Research and Impact

Size of the economic operator: Micro

Registration number: NI699929

Town: Belfast

Postcode: BT12 5GD

Country: United Kingdom

Roles of this organisation:

Tenderer

Winner of these lots: LOT-0001

8.1. ORG-0000

Official name: Publications Office of the European Union

Registration number: PUBL
Town: Luxembourg
Postcode: 2417
Country subdivision (NUTS): Luxembourg (LU000)
Country: Luxembourg
Email: ted@publications.europa.eu
Telephone: +352 29291
Internet address: <https://op.europa.eu>

Roles of this organisation:

TED eSender

Notice information

Notice identifier/version: db05107f-47ff-442a-a1c1-23a52634381e - 01

Form type: Result

Notice type: Contract or concession award notice – standard regime

Notice subtype: 29

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