

Belgium-Brussels: Research consultancy services

OJ S 111/2015 11/06/2015

Contract notice

Services

Directive 2004/18/EC

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: WHO Regional Office for Europe

Postal address: Eurostation, Place Victor Horta 40/10

Town: Brussels

Postal code: 1060

Country: Belgium

For the attention of: Suszy Lessof and Gabriele Pastorino

E-mail: gpa@obs.euro.who.int

Telephone: +32 25249240

Internet address(es):General address of the contracting authority: www.healthobservatory.eu**Additional information can be obtained from:**

the abovementioned address

Specifications and additional documents (including documents for competitive dialogue and a dynamic purchasing system) can be obtained from:

the abovementioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted: the abovementioned address**I.2. Type of the contracting authority**

European institution/agency or international organisation

I.3. Main activity

Health

I.4. Contract award on behalf of other contracting authorities

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no

Section II: Object of the contract

II.1. Description**II.1.1. Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority**

Assessment of Health System Funding on Project: Review of the Health System in Slovenia (International Expert for Activity 3).

II.1.2. Type of contract and place of performance or delivery

Services

Service category No 8: Research and development services

NUTS code

II.1.3. Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The notice involves a public contract

II.1.4. Information about framework agreement

II.1.5. Short description of the contract or purchase(s)

Description of Project:

The Ministry of Health of Slovenia has commissioned a review and analysis of the health system from World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO) and The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (OBS) to:

- Inform the Minister on the performance of the health system;
- Assist the Government in gathering national and international evidence in order to identify possible reform options;
- Facilitate discussions around tentative reform options to be pursued with policy advisers.

The analysis will inform government policy on health expenditure and financing reform measures as well as on the optimization of the health services network. The government aims to develop, approve and implement reform measures to improve service delivery and efficiency in the health sector and to enhance the financial sustainability of the health system given growing costs and ageing demographics, while preserving and continuing to improve health outcomes.

The technical work for the project will identify key issues, and provide evidence on reform options and priority actions to improve the functions and structure of general public sector efficiency and performance. The analysis will also use administrative and facility-level datasets to examine patterns and trends in service delivery and identify opportunities for optimizing service delivery, so contributing to improving system efficiency and performance.

Project structure:

The project will consist of 5 evidence-generating Activities/work-programmes, with 1 team dedicated to each Activity:

- Activity 1: Fast track health systems review;
- Activity 2: Health system expenditure review;
- Activity 3: Assessment of health system funding;
- Activity 4: Purchasing and payment review;
- Activity 5: Optimizing service delivery: coordinated delivery at the primary-secondary and health and long-term care interfaces.

Each team will be guided by WHO/OBS and will include technical experts external to WHO-OBS, where necessary, with knowledge of and access to the data sources needed to support the analysis. The teams will be led by a Slovenian focal point and a WHO — OBS focal point. Each Activity work-programme will include a work-shop with relevant national experts and policy-makers to review and validate the draft findings and map tentative policy options.

In addition to the evidence-generating Activity work-programmes, the project will include a round of consultation with the Minister and Ministry of Health on key policy areas, as well as the organization of a set of Policy Dialogues that will present the evidence on priority topics and validate the findings of the evidence generating Activities.

The project has very tight deadlines for delivering outputs and will end on 31.12.2015.

Terms of Reference for International Expert: Assessment of health system funding.

The aim of Activity 3 is to provide an overview of options for funding of the health system in Slovenia. It aims to identify how more equitable and efficient funding systems could be designed to deliver quality healthcare services that are sustainable in the long term. The activity will draw heavily on the experiences of other countries.

We are seeking a highly qualified senior health policy analyst who will:

- 1) Collect evidence and analyse options for reforming various dimensions of health care financing, including:
 - i) Strengthening public sector revenue generation and pooling: The analysis will discuss the

options for improving the reliability and sustainability of the system of public financing for health in Slovenia. This section will describe key characteristics and consequences of current public financing arrangements, and will review the pros and cons of alternative approaches to collecting and pooling public revenues, drawing on international evidence and experiences. The analysis will focus on the potential for increasing revenues from existing sources (including but not limited to payroll taxes) and diversifying funding by identifying new sources of funding, in an effort to increase the level and reliability of resources. The analysis will also investigate the factors that contribute to gaps between health system revenues and expenditures, such as the heavy reliance on payroll tax revenues, vulnerability to economic cycles and shocks, high level of unemployment and changing demographics; inequities in the burden of funding; and the division of financing between the private and public sectors.

ii) Reconsidering the benefits package: The analysis will consider the range of services covered within the health system and — particularly in light of cost pressures — evaluate the appropriateness of the benefits basket and the extent to which private financing arrangements are equitable or sustainable.

iii) Reassessing the role of voluntary health insurance: The analysis will describe voluntary health insurance in Slovenia and review its impact on health system performance in terms of equity, efficiency (including strategic purchasing and administrative costs) and financial protection. The analysis will consider possible alternative roles for voluntary health insurance, drawing on international evidence and experience.

2) Undertake a mapping exercise on: The sustainability of long-term care.

The analysis will review current methods for financing long-term care and explore alternative approaches to sustainable funding for long-term care based on compulsory public insurance and other social benefits. It will examine the scope for better coordination of resources, expanded tax-based financing or the introduction of specific contributions for long-term care provision, and will assess options for managing out-of-pocket payments.

3) Produce a Final Report consisting of 2 parts:

Part I on health system financing in Slovenia and the options for funding diversification, incorporating the evidence and analysis under (1) above; and

Part II — Mapping of long-term care financing issues.

The Report will be developed in 2 stages:

i) a preliminary draft used for verification of findings, consultation and review (July 2015); and

ii) a final Report (October 2015).

4) The international expert will attend all necessary consultation workshops and/or Policy Dialogues associated with evidence gathering, analysis and finalization of the Report. In particular, two site visits to Slovenia are anticipated — 1 in July and 1 in October 2015.

5) The international experts will co-operate with the focal points of the project's other Activities, in particular, to facilitate information exchange between work programmes.

It is expected that the work will take place over (about 25) working days over a period ending on 31.12.2015.

II.1.6. CPV code(s)

73210000 Research consultancy services

II.1.7. Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

II.1.8. Lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.1.9. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2. Scope of the procurement

II.2.1. Total quantity or scope

Estimated value excluding VAT:

Range: between 10 000 and 14 000 USD

II.2.2. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.3. Information about renewals

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.3. Duration of the contract or time limit for completion

Start 5.7.2015. Completion 30.12.2015

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1. Conditions related to the contract

III.1.1. Deposits and guarantees required

N/A.

III.1.2. Main financing conditions and payment arrangements and/or reference to the relevant provisions governing them

Payments will be released in several instalments and only against deliverables, in line with WHO's administrative and financial regulations.

III.1.3. Legal form to be taken by the group of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded

N/A.

III.1.4. Contract performance conditions

The performance of the contract is subject to particular conditions: no

III.2. Conditions for participation

III.2.1. Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

III.2.2. Economic and financial ability

III.2.3. Technical and professional ability

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

The role requires high-level skills and extensive experience in health policy analysis.

Contractors are expected to have:

— A minimum of 10 years in a senior academic post in Health Policy or Health Economics (candidate must hold a PhD and an appointment as Professor or Professorial Fellow).

— Sound and demonstrable experience in conducting research on health system, health services evaluation/ cost-effectiveness, health system funding and/or long term care as evinced by explicitly related research and consultancy projects in these areas (eg. as Principle Investigator of international studies) over a minimum of 15 years.

— Specific knowledge of Social Health Insurance systems as well as Voluntary Health Insurance, demonstrated by specific research on these topics.

- Robust track record of scientific publications on the subjects outlined above (a minimum of 15 peer reviewed articles as first author in scientific journals, and main author of a minimum of 10 book chapters in edited volumes).
 - A high level understanding of health policy and financing across Europe at national and European level as evinced by relevant qualifications or evidence of engagement with senior policy makers.
 - Proficient knowledge of the English language and proven ability in writing in English.
- Applications will be judged based on CV and cover letter stating the price.

III.2.4. Information about reserved contracts

III.3. Conditions specific to services contracts

III.3.1. Information about a particular profession

Execution of the service is reserved to a particular profession: no

III.3.2. Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract: yes

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Type of procedure

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Open

IV.1.2. Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

IV.1.3. Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

IV.2. Award criteria

IV.2.1. Award criteria

The most economically advantageous tender in terms of Criteria below

1. 1. A minimum of 10 years in a senior academic post in Health Policy or Health Economics (candidate must hold a PhD and an appointment as Professor or Professorial Fellow).

Weighting 5

2. 2. Sound and demonstrable experience in conducting research on health system, health services evaluation/cost-effectiveness, health system funding and/or long term care as evinced by explicitly related research and consultancy projects in these areas (eg. as Principle Investigator of international studies) over a minimum of 15 years. Weighting 5

3. 3. Specific knowledge of Social Health Insurance systems as well as Voluntary Health Insurance, demonstrated by specific research on these topics. Weighting 5

4. 4. Robust track record of scientific publications on the subjects outlined above (a minimum of 15 peer reviewed articles as first author in scientific journals, and main author of a minimum of 10 book chapters in edited volumes). Weighting 5

5. 5. A high level understanding of health policy and financing across Europe at national and European level as evinced by relevant qualifications or evidence of engagement with senior policy makers. Weighting 5

6. 6. Proficient knowledge of the English language (C1 level) and proven ability in writing in English. Weighting 5

7. 7. Familiarity with the Observatory's health systems review and health performance assessment programmes is desirable but not essential. Weighting 2

IV.2.2. Information about electronic auction

An electronic auction will be used: no

IV.3. Administrative information

IV.3.1. File reference number attributed by the contracting authority

N/A

IV.3.2. Previous publication concerning this procedure

no

IV.3.3. Conditions for obtaining specifications and additional documents or descriptive document

Payable documents: no

IV.3.4. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

26.6.2015 - 10:00

IV.3.5. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

IV.3.6. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English.

IV.3.7. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

IV.3.8. Conditions for opening of tenders

Date: 26.6.2015 - 15:00

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.2. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: yes

Identification of the project: The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies is a WHO hosted partnership that include Member States, WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission and others.

VI.3. Additional information

The contractor will be contracted through WHO, the Partner hosting the Observatory, and is/are expected to sign a declaration of interests.

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

VI.4.2. Review procedure

VI.4.3. Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

Official name: WHO regulation applies

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

5.6.2015