

766347-2025 - Competition

Germany – IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support – 81320021-Expert Pool for Policy and Technical Advisory Services on Artificial Intelligence for Social Protection

OJ S 223/2025 19/11/2025

**Contract or concession notice – standard regime - Change notice
Services**

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Email: giz-vergabe@bho-legal.com

Legal type of the buyer: Public undertaking, controlled by a central government authority

Activity of the contracting authority: General public services

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: 81320021-Expert Pool for Policy and Technical Advisory Services on Artificial Intelligence for Social Protection

Description: In times of multiple and overlapping crises, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) attributes high importance to the development of inclusive and adaptive social protection systems. BMZ is committed to supporting the expansion of social protection around the globe and works closely with its multilateral and international partners towards achieving this goal. The initiative "AI Hub for Social Protection of DCI" of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and its partners support this endeavor through (i) advising social protection institutions in designing, implementing and governing responsible AI systems and strategies, (ii) creating learning materials and virtual trainings for enhancing AI literacy capacities of social protection practitioners, (iii) creating and sharing knowledge products with and through a sector-wide global expert network and (iv) establishing a digital platform for developing and sharing AI Digital Public Goods (DPGs) in Social Protection (SP) including standards, data sets and software. The AI Hub for Social Protection is an endeavor of the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) which was launched in 2021 under the umbrella of the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP2030), with a view to harmonization and standardization of the digital ecosystem in social protection. Under the DCI structure, the AI Hub supports countries in navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of AI while promoting the principles of responsible, innovative and sovereign AI adoption within unique country contexts. During its inception phase the AI Hub will collaborate with a group of core partners to shape its strategic and thematic orientation. Among these core partners there are institutions with strong sectoral and technical expertise and a demonstrated commitment to contributing to global processes. This includes the Ministry for Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the construction sector (BG BAU), the Federation of German Pension Insurance Institutions (DRV Bund), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and DataPrev, a Social Security Information and Technology Enterprise of the Brazilian government responsible for managing the social data of the National Social Security Institute (INSS). Their engagement will be instrumental in driving the Hub's four key

areas of activity: country support, knowledge creation and sharing, capacity development and digital public goods and standards. The application of AI in social protection systems holds immense potential to improve efficiency, inclusion, and adaptability - essential factors for safeguarding vulnerable populations in times of crisis. Yet, challenges such as missing or weak AI governance and regulatory frameworks, lack of expertise regarding where and how to best deploy AI-driven solutions as well as limited technical expertise or low availability of high-quality data can prevent governments from fully leveraging these benefits. As AI advances rapidly, social protection institutions struggle to keep pace, limiting their ability to harness the benefits of AI for enhancing their social protection systems, while upholding human rights and ensuring equitable access to services. To date, the AI Hub's services have been primarily delivered through digital social protection experts from the field of international development cooperation with deep sectoral expertise in building inclusive, interoperable, and harmonized digital social protection systems. These experts possess extensive experience supporting governments in their digital transformation efforts, particularly within low- and middle-income countries characterized by limited resources and digital maturity. While highly valuable, this expertise alone does not encompass the full spectrum of skills and capabilities necessary to implement the AI Hub activities and particularly, deliver its strategic and technical advisory services supported by proven methodologies and tools to social protection institutions in an efficient and effective manner for guiding them on their responsible AI adoption journey. Recognizing the emerging and rapidly evolving landscape of AI technologies and their potential to transform social protection systems, this procurement aims to contract a project team encompassing interdisciplinary, specialized AI and digital transformation experts for public sector clients with an extensive background in management and technology consulting with regard to AI strategy and implementation from the private sector. These experts will complement existing sectoral specialists and bring critical additional capabilities to the AI Hub's service delivery and strategic development. Consultants under this contract shall closely work together with other AI Hub staff such as the before mentioned digital social protection experts, thereby ensuring an active and systematic knowledge exchange, beneficial for the overall project.

Procedure identifier: 31219315-c8d3-45e4-aa7a-9b7dc75376bc

Internal identifier: 81320021

Type of procedure: Open

The procedure is accelerated: no

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

Additional classification (cpv): 72200000 Software programming and consultancy services

2.1.2. Place of performance

Anywhere

2.1.4. General information

Additional information: #Bekanntmachungs-ID: CXTRY6YTS9F34D7# All communication takes place in English via communication tool in the project area of the procurement portal.

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

vgv -

2.1.6. Grounds for exclusion

Sources of grounds for exclusion: Notice

Breaching of obligations set under purely national exclusion grounds: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Participation in a criminal organisation: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Money laundering or terrorist financing: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Fraud: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Corruption: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Child labour and including other forms of trafficking in human beings: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Breaching obligation relating to payment of taxes: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Breaching obligation relating to payment of social security contributions: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Breaching of obligations in the fields of environmental law: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Breaching of obligations in the fields of social law: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Breaching of obligations in the fields of labour law: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Insolvency: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Assets being administered by liquidator: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Business activities are suspended: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Analogous situation like bankruptcy, insolvency or arrangement with creditors under national law: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Grave professional misconduct: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Agreements with other economic operators aimed at distorting competition: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Conflict of interest due to its participation in the procurement procedure: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Direct or indirect involvement in the preparation of this procurement procedure: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Early termination, damages, or other comparable sanctions: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

Misrepresentation, withheld information, unable to provide required documents or obtained confidential information of this procedure: In accordance with §§ 123,124 GWB, § 22 LkSG

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0001

Title: 81320021-Expert Pool for Policy and Technical Advisory Services on Artificial Intelligence for Social Protection

Description: The contractor will provide a pool of experts to contribute to the respective work packages detailed below. All country-specific activities will be implemented jointly with GIZ and its implementing partners. The global activities will involve cooperation with the global team at GIZ's headquarters. Work Package 1: Strategic and Technical AI Advisory Services for Country Support This work package constitutes the core offering of the AI Hub's advisory services, aimed at supporting social protection institutions across diverse countries-particularly low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)-in responsibly exploring, designing, and

implementing AI solutions. The consultants engaged under this package will provide end-to-end strategic and technical guidance tailored to each country's unique operational, regulatory, and socio-economic context. The overarching goal is to strengthen institutional capacities and processes for more inclusive, effective, and efficient social protection systems by:

- Enabling informed, ethical, and context-sensitive AI adoption and governance.
- Supporting governments in shaping AI strategies and regulatory frameworks aligned with national priorities and policy objectives.
- Promoting equity and inclusion of digital social protection systems through AI adoption, particularly safeguarding the most vulnerable population groups.
- Promoting digital sovereignty and long-term sustainability for developing, deploying and using AI systems.

Services will be delivered in close coordination with relevant stakeholders, government entities, local development partners and technology service providers, civil society, and international development cooperation organizations-to foster trust, ensure local ownership, and build robust partnerships. The consultants will deliver expertise across the following ten interlinked areas, while ensuring that relevant insights and learnings are documented and shared, so they can inform the overall AI Hub project across its other three action areas of Knowledge Production and Sharing, DPG and Standard development, as well as Skills and Capacity Building.

Work Package 2: Standards and Digital Public Goods (DPGs)

This work package focuses on promoting and enhancing the digital ecosystem necessary for the responsible and effective use of AI in social protection systems. A key priority is to harness expertise and innovation from outside the public sector-including academia, civil society, and the private sector-to support the development of Digital Public Goods (DPGs), as defined by the DPG Alliance (DPGA), tailored for government use. By facilitating the collaborative development of open-source tools, standards, guidelines, for DPGs, the AI Hub will foster AI-based solutions which adhere to open source standards such as defined by the Open Source Initiative and / or Creative Commons). Thus, AI-based software and applications are accessible, re-usable, can be modified, studied, used and redistributed without restrictions and licensing fees, and are adaptable to diverse country contexts. These tools will be designed to be interoperable, ethically sound, and scalable-enabling governments to accelerate digital transformation while maintaining sovereignty, transparency, and inclusion. This work package aims to bridge silos, promote cross-sector collaboration, and catalyze innovation across countries and partners.

Work Package 3: Skills and Capacity Development on responsible AI adoption

This package aims to equip key stakeholders in social protection institutions -policy makers, social protection experts, decision-makers, and technical staff-with the necessary understanding, skills, and practices to responsibly adopt AI within social protection systems. Developing a sound, low-threshold, low-resource intense capacity development concept for the AI Hub addresses the critical need to close skills and capability gaps in social protection institutions, so social protection practitioners and technical experts are enabled to harness AI responsibly to enhance their social protection systems. This overall concept includes designing and implementing a sound methodological learning journey tailored to the most pressing capacity building needs of different key target groups in social protection institutions. Recognizing that much of the innovation in AI originates outside the public sector, the AI Hub will curate and translate relevant insights, methods, and lessons from adjacent fields-such as health, education, and the private tech ecosystem-into actionable knowledge tailored to the social protection context. It combines self-paced e-learning (videos, modules, toolkits) with instructor-led virtual learning journeys. Through modular, persona-based learning paths, the program will build foundational AI and data literacy, demystify AI applications in social protection, and embed governance, ethics, and data stewardship at every stage-aligned with international best practices. Learning will be contextualized through real-world use cases, enabling participants to design, implement, and govern AI tools in their own institutional environments. For the implementation of work packages 1-3 described above , the tenderer is

required to provide a team leader (20 expert days), an IT/AI development lead (40 days), a project coordinator (30 expert days), as well as 3 expert pools: AI strategy consultants (150 days), technical AI consultants (140 days) and capacity development experts (45 days). Individual trips of various experts, especially in the context of Work package 1, will be required.
Internal identifier: 81320021

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

Additional classification (cpv): 72200000 Software programming and consultancy services

Options:

Description of the options: GIZ may optionally commission contract amendments and/or increases based on the criteria in the tender documents to the successful bidder of this tender. For details, please see the terms of reference.

5.1.2. Place of performance

Anywhere

5.1.3. Estimated duration

Start date: 16/02/2026

Duration end date: 30/09/2027

5.1.4. Renewal

Maximum renewals: 2

Other information about renewals: GIZ may optionally commission contract amendments and/or increases based on the criteria in the tender documents to the successful bidder of this tender. For details, please see the terms of reference.

5.1.6. General information

Reserved participation:

Participation is not reserved.

The names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to perform the contract must be given: Tender requirement

Procurement Project not financed with EU Funds.

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

This procurement is also suitable for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): yes

Additional information: #Besonders auch geeignet für:other-sme#

5.1.7. Strategic procurement

Aim of strategic procurement: Reduction of environmental impacts

Description: Climate protection

Aim of strategic procurement: Innovative purchase

Description: Consulting services regarding novel AI solutions

Aim of strategic procurement: Fulfilment of social objectives

Description: Gender equality

Approach to reducing environmental impacts: Climate change mitigation, Pollution prevention and control

Social objective promoted: Gender equality

Innovation procurement: The procured works, supplies, or services entail process innovation

5.1.9. Selection criteria

Sources of selection criteria: Notice

Criterion: Other economic or financial requirements

Description of selection criterion: EN-A1: Principles for the execution of orders (Mit dem Angebot; Mittels Eigenerklärung): The eligibility criteria are not from the same category as stipulated above, as there is no suitable category. 1. Self-declaration: name of company and address, tax ID, registration and commercial register number or equivalent register in accordance with the legal provisions of the country of origin. 2. No grounds for exclusion pursuant to § 123, § 124 GWB, § 22 LkSG, EU-Russia sanctions 3. Declaration of bidding consortium and/or declaration of subcontractors (if applicable)

Criterion: References on specified services

Description of selection criterion: EN-B1: Technical and professional ability (Mit dem Angebot; Mittels Eigenerklärung): 1. The technical assessment is only based on reference projects with a minimum commission value of 100.000,00 EUR (net). 2. At least 3 reference projects in the technical field "advisory services on AI strategy and development for social protection institutions or public sector clients" in the last 36 months

Criterion: Average yearly turnover

Description of selection criterion: EN-C1: Economic and financial standing (Mit dem Angebot; Mittels Eigenerklärung): Average annual turnover for the last three years (last-but-four financial year can be included in case of tenders held within 6 months of end of last financial year), at least: 1.200.000,00 EUR (net).

Criterion: Other economic or financial requirements

Description of selection criterion: EN-C2: Economic and financial standing (Mit dem Angebot; Mittels Eigenerklärung): Average number of employees and managers in the last three calendar years, at least 50 persons.

5.1.11. Procurement documents

Languages in which the procurement documents are officially available: English

Deadline for requesting additional information: 27/11/2025 23:59:59 (UTC+01:00) Central European Time, Western European Summer Time

Address of the procurement documents: <https://ausschreibungen.giz.de/Satellite/notice/CXTRYY6YTS9F34D7/documents>

Ad hoc communication channel:

URL: <https://ausschreibungen.giz.de/Satellite/notice/CXTRYY6YTS9F34D7>

5.1.12. Terms of procurement

Terms of submission:

Electronic submission: Required

Address for submission: <https://ausschreibungen.giz.de/Satellite/notice/CXTRYY6YTS9F34D7>

Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted: English

Electronic catalogue: Not allowed

Variants: Not allowed

Tenderers may submit more than one tender: Not allowed

Deadline for receipt of tenders: 09/12/2025 12:00:00 (UTC+01:00) Central European Time, Western European Summer Time

Duration during which the tender must remain valid: 112 Days

Information that can be supplemented after the submission deadline:

At the discretion of the buyer, some missing tenderer-related documents may be submitted later.

Additional information: GIZ asks the applicant or bidder to submit, complete or correct documents, within the framework laid down by law.

Information about public opening:

Opening date: 09/12/2025 12:00:00 (UTC+01:00) Central European Time, Western European Summer Time

Terms of contract:

The execution of the contract must be performed within the framework of sheltered employment programmes: No

Conditions relating to the performance of the contract: The execution conditions result from the information given in the contract notice and the tender documents.

Electronic invoicing: Required

Electronic ordering will be used: yes

Electronic payment will be used: yes

5.1.15. Techniques

Framework agreement:

No framework agreement

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: Vergabekammern des Bundes

Information about review deadlines: According to Article 160, Section 3 of the German Act Against Restraint of Competition (GWB), application for review is not permissible insofar as 1. the applicant has identified the claimed infringement of the procurement rules before submitting the application for review and has not submitted a complaint to the contracting authority within a period of 10 calendar days; the expiry of the period pursuant to Article 134, Section 2 remains unaffected, 2. complaints of infringements of procurement rules that are evident in the tender notice are not submitted to the contracting authority at the latest by the expiry of the deadline for the application or by the deadline for the submission of bids, specified in the tender notice. 3. complaints of infringements of procurement rules that first become evident in the tender documents are not submitted to the contracting authority at the latest by the expiry of the deadline for application or by the deadline for the submission of bids, 4. more than 15 calendar days have expired since receipt of notification from the contracting authority that it is unwilling to redress the complaint. Sentence 1 does not apply in the case of an application to determine the invalidity of the contract in accordance with Article 135, Section 1 (2). Article 134, Section 1, Sentence 2 remains unaffected.

Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Organisation receiving requests to participate: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

8. Organisations

8.1. ORG-0001

Official name: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registration number: 993-80072-52

Postal address: Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5

Town: Eschborn
Postcode: 65760
Country subdivision (NUTS): Main-Taunus-Kreis (DE71A)
Country: Germany
Email: giz-vergabe@bho-legal.com
Telephone: +49 619679
Fax: +49 6196791115
Internet address: <https://www.giz.de>

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer
Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure
Organisation receiving requests to participate

8.1. ORG-0002

Official name: Vergabekammern des Bundes
Registration number: 022894990
Postal address: Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße 16
Town: Bonn
Postcode: 53113
Country subdivision (NUTS): Bonn, Kreisfreie Stadt (DEA22)
Country: Germany
Email: vk@bundeskartellamt.bund.de
Telephone: +49 2289499-0
Fax: +49 2289499-163
Internet address: <https://www.bundeskartellamt.de>

Roles of this organisation:

Review organisation

8.1. ORG-0003

Official name: Datenservice Öffentlicher Einkauf (in Verantwortung des Beschaffungsamts des BMI)
Registration number: 0204:994-DOEVD-83
Town: Bonn
Postcode: 53119
Country subdivision (NUTS): Bonn, Kreisfreie Stadt (DEA22)
Country: Germany
Email: noreply.esender_hub@bescha.bund.de
Telephone: +49228996100

Roles of this organisation:

TED eSender

10. Change

Version of the previous notice to be changed
:
170869b1-ecc3-4677-9de1-e3a68bc20772-01
Main reason for change
:
Information updated
Description

:

Regarding the definitions of Social protection and Social Protection Institutions used in the procurement documents, both are defined in accordance with USP 2030: Social protection: Nationally defined systems of policies and programmes that provide equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihood and well-being. These mechanisms include cash or in-kind benefits, contributory or non-contributory schemes, and programs to enhance human capital, productive assets and access to jobs. Benefits cover children, people of working age (in case of maternity, disability, work injury, or unemployment) and pension for older persons. Social Protection Institutions: Social Protection Institutions are public bodies and related organizations that design, finance, manage and deliver social protection policies and programmes on behalf of the state - such as social insurance, social assistance and labour market programmes. Concretely, this usually includes organizations like: - Line ministries (Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Social Development, Social Protection, etc.) - Social insurance / social security funds (pensions, unemployment insurance, disability, health insurance). - Local social welfare offices / centres for social work that assess needs and deliver benefits and services. - Sometimes semi-autonomous agencies or mutual schemes that implement specific schemes (e.g. health mutuals, public

10.1. Change

Section identifier: PROCEDURE

Description of changes: Regarding the definitions of Social protection and Social Protection Institutions used in the procurement documents, both are defined in accordance with USP 2030: Social protection: Nationally defined systems of policies and programmes that provide equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihood and well-being. These mechanisms include cash or in-kind benefits, contributory or non-contributory schemes, and programs to enhance human capital, productive assets and access to jobs. Benefits cover children, people of working age (in case of maternity, disability, work injury, or unemployment) and pension for older persons. Social Protection Institutions: Social Protection Institutions are public bodies and related organizations that design, finance, manage and deliver social protection policies and programmes on behalf of the state - such as social insurance, social assistance and labour market programmes. Concretely, this usually includes organizations like: - Line ministries (Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Social Development, Social Protection, etc.) - Social insurance / social security funds (pensions, unemployment insurance, disability, health insurance). - Local social welfare offices / centres for social work that assess needs and deliver benefits and services. - Sometimes semi-autonomous agencies or mutual schemes that implement specific schemes (e.g. health mutuals, public

Notice information

Notice identifier/version: ab33810b-54be-437c-95c9-065fd6095369 - 01

Form type: Competition

Notice type: Contract or concession notice – standard regime

Notice subtype: 16

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Languages in which this notice is officially available: English

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