



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE AND CONTRACTING OF EU
FUNDS, WORLD BANK AND OTHER DONORS FUNDS
DIRECTORATE FOR IPA CONTRACTING

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CONTRACT TITLE: EC-ENEST/TIA/2026/EA-RP/0057

“Strengthening digital connectivity and the digital transformation of businesses and public services in Albania”

Question no.01	In relation to technical capacity requirement. Could you please clarify if we Should understand that references would be eligible only if the the beneficiary institution itself operates in one of the specified fields (digital connectivity or telecommunications deployment infrastructure or electronic communication). Or should it be interpreted more broadly as referring to institutional strengthening and capacity building in the field of digital connectivity, telecommunications deployment infrastructure or electronic communications.
Answer no.01	In line with “Additional information about the Contract Notice” document, under Section 16, point 3 -Technical capacity: “The <i>completed services by the candidate should be in the domain of institutional strengthening and capacity building or providing legal advisory services <u>to the institutions operating in</u> the field of digital connectivity or telecommunications deployment infrastructure or electronic communication</i>”. As such, for the reference to be considered eligible. the beneficiary institution to which the services were provided must itself operate in at least one of the specified fields.
Question 02	Personnel reference period – selection criteria, professional capacity Section 2 (Professional capacity) of the Additional Information about the Contract Notice states that the reference period is "the last 3 years preceding the submission deadline", while Criterion 1 refers to "the current year and the previous two years". Item 4 of the Request to Participate form uses "the current year and the two previous years". Could you please confirm which period applies, and whether "current year" means 2026, with 2024 and 2025 as the two previous years?
Answer 02	For the purposes of Professional Capacity, "current year" refers to 2026, and therefore the reference period is 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Question 03	Subcontracting by an entity that is not a candidate Point 10 of the Additional Information prohibits shortlisted candidates from allying with or subcontracting to each other. Could you please confirm whether an entity that is not itself a candidate may be proposed as a subcontractor by more than one candidate?
Answer 03	An entity that is not itself a candidate may be proposed as a subcontractor by more than one candidate, provided that this does not result in any breach of the applicable procurement requirements or conflict with the prohibition set out in Point 10 of Additional Information about the Contract Notice.
Question 04	Presentation of data for capacity-providing entities Where a candidate relies on the capacity of another entity to meet the selection criteria, could you please confirm the form in which that entity's financial and personnel data should be presented, given that the tables in the Request to Participate form are completed for the consortium members only?
Answer 04	In line with section 16. Selection criteria of the Additional Information about the Contract Notice, <i>If the economic operator relies on other entities, it must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment by those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility and notably that of nationality as the economic operator relying on them and must fulfil the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should not be included in the request to participate form but in a separate document.</i> The information should be presented in the same format and level of detail as required for the corresponding selection criteria in the Request to Participate documentation.
Question 05	Capacity-providing entities and the additional comparative criteria <i>Category: Selection criteria and evidence</i> The Additional Information about the Contract Notice provides that an entity on whose capacity a candidate relies must fulfil the selection criteria for which the candidate relies on it, and that the data for that entity are to be presented in a separate document rather than in the Request to Participate form. Item 6 of that form is completed for "the legal entity or entities submitting this request to participate", and footnote 3 provides that capacity-providing entities are not considered consortium members for the purposes of the form. Could you please confirm whether the completed contracts of a capacity-providing entity are taken into account under additional comparative criteria 1 and 2, and whether those contracts count towards the maximum of 15 references for the entire request to participate?

Answer 05	The completed contracts of an entity on whose capacity a candidate relies may be taken into account for the purposes of the additional comparative criteria 1 and 2, provided that the relevant contracts meet the requirements specified for those criteria in the Additional Information about the Contract Notice. Accordingly, the maximum of 15 references applies to the request to participate as a whole, including any qualifying references of capacity-providing entities relied upon by the candidate.
Question 06	Declaration on honour signed with a qualified electronic signature <i>Category: Declaration on honour</i> The instructions for paper submission in the Request to Participate form provide that the signed and dated original declarations on honour shall be included with the request, and that where a qualified electronic signature (QES) is used for signing, the QES-signed declaration on honour should be submitted by email. Could you please confirm the email address to which a QES-signed declaration on honour should be sent for this procedure, and whether a declaration submitted in that way satisfies the requirement in place of the original included in the envelope?
Answer 06	Section 19 of the Additional Information to the Contract Notice requires the request to be submitted “exclusively in a sealed envelope.” Accordingly, to ensure compliance with the paper-based submission format and the integrity and confidentiality of the application, the Declaration on Honour signed with a valid and duly applied Qualified Electronic Signature (QES) must be physically included in the sealed envelope. Upon request and instructions from the Contracting Authority, candidates may also be required to submit the QES-signed declaration by email.
Question 07	Point at which evidence of the selection criteria is requested <i>Category: Selection criteria and evidence</i> The declaration at point 7 of the Request to Participate form records an undertaking to provide, if required, evidence of economic and financial standing and of technical and professional capacity, the list of documents being that set out in Section 2.6.11 of the practical guide. Could you please confirm at what point in this procedure that evidence is expected to be requested — during the examination of the requests to participate, or from the presumed successful tenderer at the tender stage?
Answer 07	In line with PRAG, section 2.6.11 Selection and award criteria, the documentary evidence of the economic, financial, professional, and technical capacity according to the selection criteria specified in the additional information about the contract notice (Annex a5f) has to be provided by the presumed successful tenderer at the evaluation stage upon request of the contracting authority..