

**CLARIFICATIONS NO: 1 to  
THE CONTRACT NOTICE**

**Contract Title:** Technical Assistance for Strengthening Fundamental Rights Sector Coordination

**Publication Reference:** NEAR/ANK/2021/EA-RP/0028

**Location:** Turkey

Further to the requests received from the tenderers, the following clarifications are provided:

**Question 1:**

We are informed that on 26 April 2021, Turkish authorities decided that Turkey will go under a full lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic between 29 April – 17 May 2021. All facilities, other than health and manufacturing/production sectors will be closed. It is also to our information that offices of the public institutions including the relevant contracting authorities will also be affected by this decision. The deadline for submitting Expression of Interest for the tender Technical Assistance for Strengthening Fundamental Rights Sector Coordination (NEAR/ANK/2021/EA-RP/0028) is 17 May 2021, which is the last day of the lock down. This puts the interested consortia in a difficult situation with regard to re-scheduling EoI preparation, printing, filing and other related logistics to physically prepare and submit the EoI. In light of the above, we kindly ask you to extend the deadline for EoI submission for a reasonable time.

**Question 2:**

Considering the current situation of Covid-19 pandemic and newly implemented lockdown procedures throughout the country, the working procedures and schemes of organizations were profoundly affected. Would you please kindly clarify if any extension for the submission is considered for the subject tender? Would you please kindly inform us whether the deadline of the submission will be postponed or not at your earliest convenience?

**Question 3:**

According to the recent government regulations in Turkey, there will be a lockdown starting from 29th of April to 17th of May. In the light of this, could you please kindly inform us if you would consider online submission or deadline extension for the subject tender?

**Question 4:**

As it is known the continuing coronavirus pandemic has far reaching effects on our country and latest extraordinary measures were stipulated by the April 26, 2021 meeting of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey. And complete lockdown will be implemented between April 29, 2021 and May 17, 2021 throughout Turkey. This state of affairs is having and will have repercussions for the systematic working of our firms and although we are taking precautions to adapt to this lockdown period, we will not be able to fulfil certain obligations of our profession, because of the

stipulation not to go outside of our places of residence. For instance, we will not be able to copy/multiply our Expressions of Interest, neither we will be able to get original signatures and submission may also be a problem.

In that case we would like to request the following points from your esteemed organisation, namely:

-Is it possible that the submission of the related Expression of Interest is postponed?

-In any case, is it possible that we submit our Expression of Interest files to your esteemed organisation through e-mail, thereby submitting scanned copies of the files?

In view of the urgency of the present situation we humbly request that the fulfilment of the above mentioned points will encourage us to continue work efficiently and up to your standards required.

#### **Answer 1&2&3&4:**

Please be informed that, due to the imminent contracting deadline and considering the lockdown procedures in Turkey will end on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 05:00, rescheduling of the submission deadline is not foreseen.

As indicated in the additional information about the contract notice of the subject project, under article 23, applications must be submitted until the deadline either by post or by courier service, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip or hand delivered by the participant in person or by an agent directly to the premises of the contracting authority. Applications submitted by any other means (such as e-mail) will not be considered.

Please note that the office of the contracting authority continues to work in the working days as before (although the opening hours of the contracting authority are 09:00-18:00, this may be subject to change according to local regulations and currently applied as 10:00-16:00. On the last day for submission of applications, 17.05.2021, office of the contracting authority will be open at least until 17:00).

Please also note that in line with the PRAG, tenders or proposals should be signed or contain a scanned signature. In this regard, if there are difficulties with providing originally signed documents/declarations from the authorized signatures for the applicants; the documents/declarations containing the scanned signatures may be provided. In any case, the contracting authority reserve the right to request originally signed documents/declarations.

#### **Question 5:**

In the technical criteria, it is stated that: "Only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period (although started earlier) will be taken into consideration". However, according to the previous rules, for the projects ended before the reference period, "Candidates are allowed to refer either to projects completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to projects not yet completed. In the first case the project will be considered in its whole if proper evidence of performance is provided (statement or certificate from the entity which awarded the contract, proof of final payment)" rules was applicable. Could you please clarify which will be applied in the evaluation of the references in this project?

**Answer 5:**

Please note that PRAG version 2020 is applicable for the tendering procedures of this project and all documents including the published contract notice and additional information about contract notice were prepared in line with the annexes of this version of the PRAG. Therefore, as indicated in the additional information about the contract notice of the subject project, under article 18, the following provision is applicable: *“Candidates are allowed to refer either to contracts/assignments completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to contracts/assignments not yet completed. Only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration. This portion will have to be supported by documentary evidence ...”*

In this regard, for all references submitted, portions of the contracts/assignments that are satisfactorily completed in the reference period will be taken into account. The candidates should clearly indicate the type and scope of the services provided within the reference period and the corresponding amounts for these services during the reference period together with the other information requested in the relevant sections of the experience tables in the application form. In addition, please be reminded that information provided in the application form will have to be supported by documentary evidence to be submitted in the tender evaluation stage.