International

Republican Institute

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement Number:	EUROPE2018M01o
Open Date:	April 5, 2018
Questions Deadline:	April 12, 2018
Closing Deadline:	April 20, 2018
Geographical Area Restrictions:	937
Point of Contact:	Ilina Mangova,imangova@iri.org

Background

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization dedicated to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide. Since 1983, IRI has worked to develop democratic institutions and ideals, carrying out a variety of international programs to promote freedom, self-government and the rule of law worldwide. IRI provides technical assistance in the areas of political party strengthening, developing civic institutions and open elections, promoting democratic governance and advancing the rule of law.

IRI is implementing the program "Improved Political Competitiveness and Accountability" implemented by the Consortium for Strengthening of Electoral and Political Processes (CEPPS). In order to support the successful completion and implementation of the Macedonian Government's reform agenda, IRI will need to develop an online platform for citizen access to government budget data, termed "Open Finance Portal". Through the platform, the Ministry of Finance will publish data on all budget transactions made by the Macedonian national budget users to promote greater transparency about public spending. The main objective of the Portal is to provide detailed information i.e. data at the level of individual transactions made by budgetary institutions on a daily basis, and publishing this data on the "Open Finance Portal". The data will be sourced from the transactions processed through the Treasury Department (hereafter: Treasury) and the Treasury Information System (TRIS) solution. The Treasury is established within the Ministry of Finance and is directly responsible for budget execution i.e. spending of the budget adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. In addition, it performs the role of a (special) payment operations carrier for the budgetary users, i.e. due to the payment operations it performs, it is also a "quasi bank" for the budgetary users.

To develop the Open Finance Portal, IRI will need to contract with a vendor to provide web-application or web portal development, which will be hosted by Ministry of Finance.

IRI will pay for the portal development and initial warranty period
The vendor is obligated to develop the portal according to the specifications and terms described in the Statement of Work

Period of Performance
Date of Contract Signature to June 30, 2018

Statement of Work

Scope of work

The scope of this project includes four main areas of work:

1. Developing the Open Finance Portal (open.finance.mk). The portal will use the data form the existing TRIS of the MoF

2. Warranty period 12 months, including maintenance.

3. Search engine optimization and analysis**.**

1. Development
The Treasury has implemented **the concept of a "Single Treasury Account (STA)"**, denoting a single treasury account, managed by the National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia (NBRM), where all payment transactions (from the budgetary entities) are executed, and currently only through Macedonian Interbank Payment System (MIPS) or Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS). The account has a pyramidal structure, with one main account and many multiple level sub-accounts. The entire sub-accounts_architecture under the Treasury is a 15-digit numerical characters that contains the following:

- the number of the organizational classification within the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia - Section (the first five account digits)
- the unique registration number of the user (URN) (the second five account digits)
- the user account type (third three digits account digits) or XXXXX-YYYYY-ZZZ-NK, where:
  - XXXXX denotes the section,
  - YYYYY denotes the URN of the budgetary user,
  - ZZZ denotes the account type (603, 631, 787, 785, 786, 660 etc.),
  - N denotes the account numeration 1, 2, etc., depending on the number of same type accounts the budgetary user possesses, and
  - K denotes the control number.

Accordingly, data on all revenues and expenditures at the level of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia and the budgets of the units of local self-government, by type of revenue and expenditure items, can be extracted from the Treasury database (from TRIS) at the most individualized level, i.e. at the level of budget users and expenditure units, for approved budgets and their execution.

The data to be presented through the “Open Finance” system will be drawn from the existing Treasury Information System; therefore, it is necessary to enable data exchange on

the data-base level between “Open Finance” and the existing treasury information system. TRIS data include:

- Database of daily transactions in payment operations
- Database of expenditures and approved and executed budget specifications within the fiscal year.

The data on the individual transaction will have the following fields:

- receipt date
- currency date
- payee account
- name of the payee
- expenditure items
- name of the expenditure item
- budget program
- name of budget program
- amount
- unique tax number
- recipient's name

The aggregated data section will have the following fields:

- section (razdel)
- name
- URN
- name of URN
- account type
- budget expenditure item (number)
- name of budget expenditure item
- budget program
- name of budget program
- planned amount by the budget
- budget expenditures

When publishing the data, especially those relating to transactions of individuals, the system is required to either delete or anonymize the name and surname of the individual after a certain period. This will be additionally defined in the "Open Finance" guidelines.

Updating the database of the "Open Finance" portal will be done every 15 days. Within the "Open Finance" guidelines, the timespan of the data to be made available through the portal will be accurately defined.

The "Open Finance" solution will offer the option to search for data after a certain time interval, period, and after a specific date. Search should be enabled and by name it should be a natural or legal person or a budget user.

The application should allow:

- that all data may be exported in a format that is readable for standard computer programs such as Microsoft Office, Libre Office, and so on, and as requested by the Law on Use of Data of Public Sector.

- to extract and arrange the transaction data by payer, recipient, expenditure item or sub-set, purpose, group of payers (for example, cultural and high-education institutions), group of recipients (natural or legal entities), above or below a certain value etc.

- that various data categories are enabled, which can be defined in advance, as well as the option for the user to be able to set (define) them, for example, transactions to legal entities only, to natural entities only, etc., or transactions above a certain amount of money only, expense items, etc.

- a search for data by its time of publication, allowing the user to specify date ranges in searches.

- an option to disable the publishing of certain transactions or modify them prior to publication, such as covering the name and surname with "Unknown Person (UP)" or excluding all or some of the transactions of certain budget users that are considered and classified as confidential. Such exclusions can be made by the Unique Registration Number (URN) by budget program, account type, payee account and by expenditure items.

- Graphic visualizations of the data will be displayed for data searches. Updates to data bases should automatically update corresponding graphic visualizations will automatically update.

From the aspect of the account balancing, the Treasury Account turnover is settled the next day, but there are payment accounts cleared once a week, and therefore the time period for publishing updated information on the website "Open Finance" will be a period of 15 days.

In addition to serving as a tool that allows data categorization from the transaction databases, the portal will allow data to be uploaded according to the spending specifications per budget user in a different format and from a different database, where the aggregated data displays a comparison of the approved budget and the budget executed at a user level, provided for a different period of time, but always limited by an individual fiscal year (from 01.01.YY to 31.12.YY).

These specifications should generate a variety of comparative reviews, for example, the

largest consumers, or costs of a particular budget user or group of users, by item, by period, etc.

Technical (IT) requirements

The "Open Finance" electronic system solution should be scalable, flexible, modular and modifiable - adjustable according to the increase in the amount of data that enters the system and its processing.

The modular internal structure of the key parts of the software solution should enable easy implementation of possible changes, that is, it is characterized by the possibility of simple and rapid expansion and upgrading.

The proposed system architecture should be a multi-layered (n-tier), set in at least 3 levels, namely, the presentation level, the business logic level and the data access level. Preferably, the server part should be accessed by Representational State Transfer (REST) web services, which should be fully documented, in order to provide for their possible re-use for other purposes.

The solution should be web-based and accessed by the same users through a web browser. It should use current modern technologies, and work on the latest versions of popular search engines such as Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Opera and more. The webpage should also be accessible on mobile devices. Avoid using any active components on the client side through a browser that is flagged as a security risk, such as Java Applet, ActiveX.

The solution should support different platforms and operating systems on the server side, at least GNU / Linux and Microsoft Windows. The solution should allow future upgrading and enhancement with options for further improvement and enhancement.

The solution on the server side should be set on the existing IT infrastructure of the Ministry of Finance using the following technologies, because it will be hosted by the MoF:

- x86-64 architecture, in a virtual environment using KVM virtualization.

- Operating system, GNU / Linux: Debian, Ubuntu

- Application server: JBOSS, Tomacat

- Database: PostgreSQL, MySql v.5,

- Web: Apache web, server, PHP, Perl, Drupal CMS

All third-party technologies should be listed with their internet addresses. If the solution requires licenses and permits for use, they should be provided by the bidder and to be registered on behalf of the contracting authority.

It is preferable to use free software.

After the development of the solution, the source code, technical documentation for the code and comments on the code for the application software solution remain in the ownership of the Ministry of Finance.

The selected offeror in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and IRI should prepare the description of the portal, which will give the users all necessary information for use of the portal.

The applications should be developed on the basis of commercially available software or on the basis of free and/or open source software regardless of the licensing model, with included support. If the supplier will offer an open source software, he should clearly define and include all related expenses for redistributing and maintenance of such software in their financial offer.

IT characteristics of the database include:

- Compatibility with the hardware platform – Good performance and scalability of all hardware elements of the platform
- The database server has to ensure a unique portability in regards to all platforms and will enable the applications to run without modifications even when the platform is changed.

The software interface should be multilingual (Macedonian, Albanian and English language), however, the data that is pulled from the TRIS database is in Macedonian and it is not expected for the data to be translated. The data in the TRIS database is in Macedonian with a Latin entry, so the software will have to make the conversion of the display data to Cyrillic alphabet.

All documents that will arise from the application should be in Macedonian and in English. (system documentation, user and administrative instructions).

2. Maintenance

Together with the delivery of the solution, the delivery of the technical documentation for the same (installation instructions and system settings as well as the description of the implemented program interfaces and data model) as well as the source code, technical documentation for the code and comments on the solution code should be performed. The Ministry of Finance shall retain the right, only or with the engagement of a third party, to modify and supplement the source code, and to use the solution without limitation solely for its own needs, without the right of distribution to third parties.

After the testing period and technical acceptance of the portal, a 12-month warranty period should be provided by the contractor, including preventive and intervention maintenance. After the 12-month warranty period, the contractor should provide maintenance support on a weekly basis, which will include updates and bug-fixes.

3. Search Engine Optimization, analysis and security

The response time should meet the following parameters:

- The response time for templates loading from the interface should be less than two seconds
- 90% of the time, the interactive queries of the system have to be processed by the end users within 4 seconds
- On-line reports have to be generated within time frame of 2 minutes
- The total time for a report preparation in batch mode should not exceed 2 (two) hours.

The requirements for security and authentication should meet the following criteria:

- The applications should contain all logs of the activities performed by the users and administrators
- The application should contain information that certain activity is performed using the parameters: administrator identification, date, type of activity etc.
- The access of the personnel for support of the applications should be protected by a corresponding password.
- The applications should ensure administrator identification on the basis of a combination of user name and password.
- The applications have to have regular changes of administrator passwords, as well as a possibility of forced change of passwords at certain time.
- The application system should provide isolated access to data (adding, reading, modification, deleting, archiving) based upon administrative access.
- The application system has to ensure a possibility for blocking and/or banning an access to part of the system functionalities or data for individual users as well as for group of users.

• System protection from the failures should ensure:

- Restoration of the database where the database administrator should provide an adequate guaranteed level of service.

• Automatic backup and restoration for maximal availability of the system.

• Active operations for maintenance for the continuous system availability.

- The responsible person for restoration of the database should make a complete or phase backup of the data when the database server is active.

• The system for backup should ensure making a complete or partial backup of data and system software in intervals defined by the user with minimal interventions of the operator (administrator)

• The process of making backup should not influence the availability of the system to the users in the specified time, or to cause a decrease of the performances of the system below the allowed level.

• There has to be ensured the so called "Off-site backup" which will enable the entire system to restore to the function of alternative server in case of some disaster event.

• There have to be ensured backup and recovery procedures

An effective database which ensures minimal time of system down situation without any loss of data – the database should take care of all scenarios which might lead to inaccessibility of

data, such as system down, data errors disasters, and human errors, operations for system maintenance or maintenance of the database.

Developer Staff Resources:

IRI requests that offerors provide the names and CVs for the following key project personnel:

- Project Lead: Responsible for sign-off on key decisions, providing project steering, oversees entire contract.

- Project Manager: Responsible for keeping the project on schedule and within the budget. Maintains communication between Ministry of Finance/IRI and the project team.

*Indicate if this is the same person.

IRI Macedonia invites potential offerors to provide information including technical details on how each of these requirements will be implemented.

IRI Macedonia welcomes proposals which include alternative solutions to any of the detailed technical requirements presented in this scope of work, provided that the tenderer explains that this would yield at least a comparable service level.

Subcontracting all or part of the work is not allowed.

Working with IRI

1) The Contractor must respond to IRI's questions via email or phone in this scope of work within an hour to acknowledge receipt of request and prepare drafting response.

2) Principal must refrain from publicly giving an impression of political bias, including in traditional and social media.

3) Time is of the essence in the performance of the obligations under this scope of work.

Deliverables

1) Platform wireframe and statement of specifications
2) Developed web application or web portal
3) Administrator/User manual
4) Source code
5) Technical documentation for the code and comments on the code for the application software solution.

IRI will consider the web application or web portal completed when the Ministry of Finance and IRI agree that the initial description of specifications has been met.

Technical Proposals

All proposals submitted to IRI must include:

1. Information addressing Bidder's experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and Bidder's proposed specific approach for providing those services to IRI under this contract, including sufficient information to determine a clear definition of services as it relates to other providers that may be involved.

2. Service Delivery Plan with clear timeline for conducting the services identified in the above Statement of Work.
3. CVs for the key project personnel
4. The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the Bidder (and electronic address if available). If the Bidder is a firm, name(s) should be provided for individuals authorized to conduct business on behalf of the firm.
5. Bidders may provide a list of up to three references for work performed of a similar nature during the last three years, along with contact details. IRI may contact the references to evaluate past performance.
6. If the Bidder is a U.S. organization/resident, or a foreign organization/resident which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., the information submitted must contain Bidder's Taxpayer Identification Number.
7. Proposals will not exceed 10 pages (not including cover page).

Price Proposals

Bidders must propose a firm-fixed Unit Price for each of the deliverables identified below and in the format of the table below. The Bidder's pricing must be valid for at least 60 (sixty) calendar days after the due date for proposal submission. The proposed Unit Price should be fixed and inclusive of all costs to perform, including inspection services, transportation, taxes, import duties (if any), and other levies. To the extent that a Bidder proposed to include any pricing not reflected in the table below, such pricing must be fully described in the proposal. Proposals must be submitted in MKD, payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

Unit/Deliverable	Unit	No. of units	Unit Price (MKD)	Cost (MKD)
Platform wireframe and statement of specifications	wireframe	1		
Portal Development including warranty period	Web portal or web application	1		
Maintenance and updates	Monthly	1		
Additional web development	Hourly	1		

Evaluation and Award Process

1. IRI may contact any Bidder for clarification or additional information, but Bidders are advised that IRI intends to evaluate the offers based on the written proposals, without discussions, and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial proposals. IRI may but is not obligated to conduct additional negotiations with the most highly rated Bidders prior to award of a contract, and may at its sole discretion elect to issue contracts to one or more Bidders.
2. Mathematical errors will be corrected in the following manner: If a discrepancy exists between the total price proposed and the total price resulting from multiplying the unit price by the corresponding amounts, then the unit price will prevail and the total price will be corrected. If there is a discrepancy between the numbers written

out in words and the amounts in numbers, then the amount expressed in words will prevail. If the Bidder does not accept the correction, the offer will be rejected.

3. IRI may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or sub-line items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if IRI determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk.
4. IRI will conduct a source selection based as follows:

   IRI intends to make an award to the responsible Bidder based on the following evaluation factors:

   a) Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications) – 45 percent
      a. Quality of the proposed methods and portal design (30)
      b. Level of relevant technical education, certifications, and experience (10)
      c. *Methods stated in the proposal to ensure portal security (5)*
   b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 20 percent
   c) Price – 20 percent
   d) Timeliness of proposed service delivery – 15 percent

IRI intends to evaluate Bidders' proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the program.

5. If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered in evaluating performance or price.

Submission Instructions

Bids must be submitted via email to POC, Ilina Mangova,imangovai@iri.org with the subject line "EUROPE2018M01o" by the deadline listed above.

RFP Terms and Conditions

1. Prospective Bidders are requested to review clauses incorporated by reference in the section "Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference".
2. IRI may reject any or all proposals if such is within IRI's interest.
3. Proof of costs incurred, such as but not limited to receipts, pictures and financial documents, may be requested during and for up to three years after the end of the contract period.
4. The Bidder's initial proposal should contain the Bidder's best offer.
5. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoices and deliverables/services.
6. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
7. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and submissions shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share proposals internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the proposals.

8. For any currency conversion, the exchange rate to US Dollars listed on oanda.com on the closing date of this solicitation shall be used.
9. Every contract will contain provisions governing termination for cause and termination for convenience.
10. By submitting a proposal, offeror agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to the services identified above, and will specifically identify any disagreement with or exceptions to the terms, conditions, and provisions.
11. Offerors confirm that the prices in the proposal/proposal/application/quote have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Bidder or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
12. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the proposal submission:
    - Any close, familial, or financial relationships with IRI staff and agents. For example, the Bidder must disclose if an Bidder's mother conducts volunteer trainings for IRI.
    - Any family or financial relationship with other Bidders submitting proposals. For example, if the Bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the Bidder must state this.
    - Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference

IRI is required to make the contractor subject to certain flowdown clauses of the prime award. This awarded contract will incorporate one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Where "flow-down" to the contractor is applicable, references to "USAID/Department of State" shall be interpreted to mean "IRI", "Recipient" to mean "Contractor", and "Subrecipient" to mean "lower-tier subcontractor." Included by reference are the applicable provisions contained in Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

IRI Obligations

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal or quotation.

Required Certifications

The following certificates need to be signed by all Bidders. These certifications are an integral part of the quotation/proposal. Please print them off and send back to us with your proposal after signature on each certificate. They are:

- Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility and voluntary exclusion lower tier covered transactions
- Authorized Individuals

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

This certification implements Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and the requirements set forth in 2.C.F.R. 180, Subpart C."

Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the person to which this proposal is submitted.

1. By signing and submitting this proposal/application/quote, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal/application/quote is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the IRI.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals.
8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a

person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Entity Name: _____

Address: _____

Authorized Individuals

The offeror/bidder/applicant represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with IRI and to bind the recipient in connection with this procurement:

Name	Title	Telephone	Email

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Entity Name: _____

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - No. EUROPE2018M01

The following questions, related to the Request for Proposal No. EUROPE2018M01 were submitted to the imangova@iri.org email address and received by April 12, 2018 at 5:00PM (Skopje local time). The names of specific organizations or individuals have been removed.

1. ***Do you want to keep a duplicate of the TRIS records in our own database, and are there legal limitations involved in keeping duplicate records?***

   Answer: The Open Finance Portal database will store only the already defined fields from the TRIS database records, and nothing more or less. If there are some legal issues they are the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) responsibility.

2. ***What is the number of database connections the TRIS database can provide for OpenFinance?***

   Answer: OpenFinance will collect data only once during every 15 days.

3. ***What is the number of records stored per day in the TRIS database?***

   Answer: This information does not affect the OpenFinance project.

4. ***Are there any limitations to accessing the TRIS we should be aware of?***

   Answer: OpenFinance will have privileges to access only the selected data and nothing more

5. ***Is there a way to have different types of databases and software installed on the MoF IT infrastructure for the needs of the application?***

   Answer: The infrastructure is written in the technical specification and everything that is different cannot be supported by MoF IT department. Please refer to the Request for Proposal, page no. 5 "If the solution requires licenses and permits for use, they should be provided by the bidder and to be registered on behalf of the contracting authority."

6. ***What's the expected size of the reports in each of the categories specified you expect to be exported in the defined time frame?***

   Answer: If someone wants to export a report of detailed transactions for 1 year, the file should roughly be between 2.1 GB and 6.5GB.

7. ***What's the rough estimate of the number of users the OpenFinance system needs to support?***

   Answer: Based on the previous experience with similar portals, it is expected that the Portal will have at least 15,000 visits during the first months.

8. ***When you talk about scalability are you referring to auto scaling or the scalability of the system in general?***

   Answer: The scalability of the system in general.

9. ***Can you share with us your budget for this project or you are in the phase of collecting proposals so you can define your budget?***

   Answer: We cannot share the proposed budget for this project at this moment.

10. ***Can you give us a more detailed description of communication between the Open Finance Portal and TRIS. Will it be throw web services or flat files? Who will make the web services? Will they be provided by MoF?***

    Answer: Both ways are possible, but the web services must be provided by the Bidder.

11. ***What is the available hardware specification at the existing IT infrastructure of MoF?***

    Answer: The MoF currently uses virtualization.

12. ***Which is the intersect start date for transaction data? 01.01.2019 or data form the previous years will be uploaded in the system?***

    Answer: The data from the previous years will be uploaded in the system once and they cannot be changed because the fiscal year is closed. Only aggregated data for the present year can be changed.

13. ***The Open Finance Portal will keep data only for one fiscal year or for all available transaction data, regardless of the fiscal year?***

    Answer: For all available transaction data regardless of the fiscal year

14. ***What is the average amount of transaction data for period of one year?***

    Answer: 2 GB

15. ***How shall we recognize transactions from natural and legal entities?***

    Answer: According to the unique tax number, (EDB in Macedonian). For legal entities it starts with 4, 6, 7, 8; and for a person it starts with 0,1, 2, 3.

16. ***What are the expected different file formats that will be uploaded for comparative reviews? (page 4 of the Request for Proposals)***

    Answer: In response to this section of page 4: “In addition to serving as a tool that allows data categorization from the transaction databases, the portal will allow data to be uploaded according to the spending specifications per budget user in a different format and from a different database, where the aggregated data displays a comparison of the approved budget and the budget executed at a user level, provided for a different period of time, but always limited by an individual fiscal year (from 01.01.YY to 31.12.YY).” -

    The Open Finance Portal will communicate, use and take data only from one database, TRIS. But the data will be taken from different tables and it will be at least two different files, with different data but not different formats. The format will always be a txt file.

17. ***What kind of reports should be prepared in "batch mode"? (Please provide a detailed description)***

    Answer: For example: When a search by date is made for a period of 3-4 years. A graphic view of this period should be presented and offer a possibility to export the data in the requested format (as excel or csv...so on).
    Another example is when someone wants to get all the transactions for the period of 2 years.

18. ***What is the period of time for technical acceptance of the Scope of Work?***

    Answer: September 2018

19. ***Who will provide the remote server for “Off-site backup”?***

    Answer: The MoF has its own backup infrastructure and the Open Finance Portal will follow the same procedures. The Bidder, the company that will make the portal, will be asked only to set the backup on the server and to write down where the backup is and the MoF will take it from there and put it on the backup second location and so on, according to the MoF backup policy.

20. ***Can we install a virtual server on the KVM (Windows Server and SQL Server) for running the web application and the database, based on .NET technologies?***

    Answer: No.

21. ***Are the required licenses for this purpose (Windows Server and SQL Server) going to be provided by your side or are they are our responsibility to provide?***

    Answer: If the solution requires licenses they should be provided by the bidder. Please refer to the Request for Proposal, page no. 5 “If the solution requires licenses and permits for use, they should be provided by the bidder and be registered on behalf of the contracting authority.”