

REQUEST FOR QUOTES

Procurement Number:	EUROPE2020AL04o
Open Date:	August 21, 2020
Questions Deadline:	August 25, 2020
Closing Deadline:	September 15, 2020
Geographical Area Restrictions:	937
Point of Contact:	Randolph S. Kent, Program Associate, Europe Division (rkent@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, in conjunction with CEPPS and USAID, is developing the United States Albania Transparency Academy (USATA), a center of innovation around which Albanian society can coalesce to promote transparency and accountability in the Government of Albania (GoA) and the wider public and private sectors. For this program, IRI aims to establish the Academy as an independent, sustainable, and effective organization; improve public Albanian institutional transparency and accountability; improve engagement between government institutions, citizens, and the private sector; and promote the adoption of effective legal and regulatory frameworks that foster ethical behavior in the public and private sectors.

In order to establish the Academy, IRI is conducting an assessment to lay the groundwork for the establishment and operationalization of the Academy. The assessment will examine public and private sector processes vulnerable to corruption and how the legal and regulatory environment amplifies these vulnerabilities. The assessment's conclusions will inform the Academy's mission and scope of work by providing a clear understanding of the legal, regulatory, and institutional realities and the opportunities and risks in establishing, developing, and operating the Academy.

Period of Performance:

Date of signature – December 31, 2020

Statement of Work:

The Short-term Technical Assistant (STTA) Governmental Transparency Desk Researcher will be responsible for conducting desk research associated with, but not limited to,

governmental transparency laws, topics, issues, and challenges in Albania. The contractor will assist in writing the final assessment report.

The STTA Governmental Transparency Desk Researcher will mainly work with the Vulnerabilities to Corruption Analysis Technical Expert to identify non-transparent public sector processes, reasons and rationales for low transparency, and societal stakeholders that can advocate for transparency solutions.

This position will ideally be based in Tirana, Albania. The contractor will also work with other Assessment Team members where necessary.

Deliverables will include:

- 1) desk research on relevant assessment topics;
- 2) written contributions to the assessment final report.

The applicant may propose additional deliverables.

Technical Bid:

All bids submitted to IRI must include:

1. Information addressing your experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and your 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. The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the bidder (and electronic address if available);
3. Bidders shall provide contact information for a minimum of three professional references with whom the applicant has had a working relationship within the last 24-month period. IRI may contact these individuals.
4. 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 technical bids must contain Bidder's Taxpayer Identification Number.
5. Bids will not exceed 4 pages (not including cover page), using Times New Roman font, 1" margins.
6. Attachment requirements:
 - CV/Resume
 - Expert Service Rate Form provided at the end of this solicitation. IRI may contact previous clients and employers for professional references and compensation confirmation.
7. Applications must include:
 - A summary of how the applicant intends to assist CEPPS and IRI with anti-corruption research and their professional and academic background in anti-corruption (1-3 paragraphs)

- Description of relevant work experience, especially including experience with conducting research, writing reports, conducting assessments, and interacting with government officials and civil-society members
- Brief background about the applicant (1-2 paragraphs)

Price Bids must adhere to the following criteria:

IRI will pay directly (to the hotel, airline, train, etc.) for all preapproved lodging and airfare expenses for the contractors' participation in IRI activities and events. The daily and/or hourly rates submitted should, therefore, not include an assumption of costs incurred by the contractor for travel related expenses. All other expenses, including transportation, lodging, and meals should be included within the daily and/or hourly rates, as no other expenses will be covered or reimbursed by IRI. Bids must be submitted in US Dollars (USD), payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

Unit	Unit Price	Number of Units	Total
Daily Rate		11 days	

No reimbursement allowed.

RFQ 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 bids if such is within IRI's interest.
3. Payment will be made upon receipt of detailed invoices and deliverables/services.
4. 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.
5. The Bidder's initial bid should contain the Bidder's best offer.
6. IRI reserves the right to make multiple contracts or partial contracts if, after considering administrative burden, it is in IRI's best interest to do so.
7. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a bid do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
8. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share bids internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the bids.
9. By submitting a bid, Bidder 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.
10. Bidders confirm that the prices in the bid/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.
11. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the bid submission:

- a. Any close, familial, or financial relationships with IRI staff and agents. For example, the bidder must disclose if a bidder's mother conducts volunteer trainings for IRI.
- b. Any family or financial relationship with other bidders submitting bids. For example, if the bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another bid, the bidder must state this.
- c. Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

Evaluation and Award Process:

1. Bids will be evaluated by IRI for compliance with administrative requirements, recent and relevant past performance and experience in performing of similar projects by the Bidder, technical capabilities and proposed technical approach, the qualifications of the personnel for the project, and price. 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 bids and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial bids. 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 were 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 bid 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 bid 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 Offeror based on the following evaluation factors:

- a) Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications) – 30 percent
- b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 60 percent
- c) Price – 10 percent

IRI intends to evaluate Offerors' proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Offeror 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 Randolph S. Kent, at rkent@iri.org with the subject line "EUROPE2020AL02o RFQ" by the deadline listed above.

IRI Obligations

Issuance of this RFQ does not constitute a contractual commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a bid.

Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference

IRI is required to make the Bidder subject to the clauses of the prime award. The resulting agreement incorporates 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 Bidder is appropriate and applicable, references to "USAID" or "Department of State" shall be interpreted to mean "IRI", "Recipient" to mean "Contractor", and "Subrecipient" to mean "the Bidder". Included by reference are 2 C.F.R. 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

EXPERT RATE INFORMATION

Name (<i>Last, First, Middle</i>)	Proposed Rate:	Daily	Hourly
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Rates should be given for the last three (3) years. If employment history/salary information is applicable, list salaries separate for each year. If expert services is applicable, indicate the type of rate daily/hourly.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY - SALARY

POSITION TITLE	EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS POINT OF CONTACT & TELEPHONE #	Employment Period (<i>M/D/Y</i>)		Annual Salary ¹ U.S. Dollars
		From	To	

SPECIFIC EXPERT SERVICES

SERVICES PERFORMED/TITLE	CLIENTS NAME AND ADDRESS POINT OF CONTACT & TELEPHONE #	Service Period (<i>M/D/Y</i>)		Units at Rate	Daily/Hourly Rate ² In U.S. Dollars
		From	To		

CERTIFICATION: To the best of my knowledge, the above facts as stated are true and correct.

Signature	Date
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¹ Basic periodic payment for services rendered. Exclude bonuses, profit-sharing arrangements, commissions, consultant fees extra or overtime work payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living or dependent education allowances.

² A form of management fee whereby the client pays a set fee for providing professional services. Exclude cost reimbursements, bonuses, overtime work payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living, and any other allowances.