1 Introduction and background

The British Council has been awarded a grant contract to manage the EU-funded ‘Technical Assistance for the development of Social and Solidarity Economy in Greece’ project. The overall objective of current TA project is as follows: “The capacity of Greek stakeholders is strengthened in order to put in place the effective support structures needed to foster an enlarged and thriving Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) sector.” The beneficiary is the Greek Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity (MOLSSSS).

Social Economy in Greece

Due to the long-lasting economic crisis, public spending and the welfare budget in Greece has been increasingly reduced, resulting in social degradation. In addition, the increasing public debt and the disintegration of the private business sector led to the expansion of high rates of unemployment. While structural and market changes (promoted through the Economic Adjustment Program of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Financial Assistance to Greece)\(^1\) will help the economic recovery, Greece has a great opportunity to support economic and business activity as well as social cohesion through the development of social economy. Indeed, as the Council of the European Union stated “Social enterprises may be regarded as vehicles for social and economic cohesion across Europe as they help build a pluralistic and resilient social market economy. Acting in the general interest, social economy enterprises create jobs, provide socially innovative services and goods, facilitate social inclusions and promote a more sustainable and locally anchored economy.”\(^2\) If Greece manages to develop the sector of social economy, it will succeed in alleviating the social and economic complications of the current crisis.

Relative to the rest of Europe, where conducting dialogue on social innovation has been continuing for up to 30 years, the social economy sector in Greece is still emerging. In September 2011, a law for Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship was passed by the Greek parliament. This was the first formal acknowledgment of social enterprise in the Greek economy. Following the introduction of the 2011 law, the Greek government has started to make efforts to promote the development of the social enterprise sector and public policy has focused on trying to create an eco-system for social enterprises to operate and thrive in. Recently, a new law for Social and Solidarity Economy has been signed. The 4430/2016 “Social and Solidarity Economy and development of social enterprises and other provisions” law, aims to create a legislative framework for Social and Solidarity Economy, as an alternative organisational form for economic activities. At the same time, the 4430/2016 law provides for the establishment of the National Committee for the Social and Solidarity Economy, in charge of promoting the social dialogue for the policy making on the development of Social and Solidarity Economy activities as well as for the revision, specialisation and implementation of the National Social Economy Action Plan.

2 Scope of Work/Specification/Outputs

One of the key requirements for the creation of an enabling ecosystem for SSE is the provision to aspiring and existing SSE organisations with skills training, consultancy and mentoring schemes.

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\(^1\) [http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/assistance_eu_ms/greek_loan_facility/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/assistance_eu_ms/greek_loan_facility/index_en.htm)

The TA project aims to collect good practices from local and international level and provide MoL with recommendations on SSE curriculum, knowledge partnerships and accreditation systems.

The provider is expected to
i) Submit a state of the art & best practice review on SSE education and training
ii) Develop recommendations on SSE curriculum, knowledge partnerships and accreditation systems
iii) Develop the concept, support the organisation and draft reports of three round table discussions that will aim to gather policy makers, education providers (formal and non-formal education), accreditation bodies and practitioners in order to discuss the implementation challenges of the recommended curriculum and opportunities for collaboration between various education providers.

All the above actions should be presented in a final report.

Intellectual Property Rights
The intellectual property rights of any pre-existing materials provided to the provider by the British Council and of any reports, materials, and documents produced by the provider for the contract, will be owned by the British Council.

3 Conditions and contractual requirements

The Contracting Authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time.

The place where the services will be provided will be Athens, Greece. During the contracting period the attendance in regular meetings of the consultant at British Council’s and/or Ministry of Labour Affairs, Social Security and Social Solidarity premises will be required.

The awarded contract will have duration of 6 months, from October 2017 until March 2018. Based on project requirements, the contract may be extended for a further month.

The appointed provider will only process personal data accessed in performance of the services in accordance with the British Council’s instructions and will not use such data for any other purpose. The contracted provider will undertake to process any personal data on the British Council’s behalf in accordance with the relevant provisions of the national and UK Data Protection Act 1998 and ensure appropriate and legislative consent is acquired where necessary.

The provider will comply with all applicable legislation and codes of practice, including, where applicable, all legislation and statutory guidance relevant to the safeguarding and protection of children and vulnerable adults and with all the British Council policies; in addition the provider will ensure that where it engages any other party to supply any of the services under this agreement that that party will also comply with the same requirements as if they were a party to this agreement.

All relevant policies that providers are expected to adhere to can be found on the British Council website – http://www.britishcouncil.org/about/policies. The list of policies includes (but it is not limited to):

- Anti-Fraud and Corruption
- Child Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Fair Trading
- Health and Safety Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Records Management
- Privacy

This document does not constitute an offer to provide goods and/or services to the British Council.

All costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal are the provider’s responsibility.

The British Council reserves the right to request reference information.
The British Council is not obliged to award a contract for these services and reserves the right to withdraw from the procurement process at any stage.

4 Instructions for Responding

Detailed Response: Please submit proposal to Maria.Nomikou@britishcouncil.gr no later than 17:00 local time, Friday 29 September 2017.

In addition, the following key points must be considered when responding to this RFP:

- Suppliers can be freelancers either private institutes/organizations/companies or public bodies constituting a formal legal entity.

- Please ensure that you send your submission in good time to prevent issues with technology - late submissions may not be considered.

- Do not submit any additional documentation with your RFP response except if specifically requested.

- Supporting evidence (PDF, JPG, PPT, Word and Excel formats only - other formats should not be used) can be provided to substantiate your response – please ensure that all attachments/supporting evidence is clearly labelled.

- It is not acceptable to submit a generic policy in answer to a question. If you submit a generic policy you must indicate the page and paragraph reference to the appropriate content.

- Completion and submission of your response does not guarantee award of any contract from the British Council.

5 Overview of the British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Its purpose is to build engagement and trust for the UK through the exchange of knowledge and ideas between people worldwide. It seeks to achieve its aims by working in education, science, governance, English and the arts.

The British Council was established in 1934 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1940. It is registered as a charity in England and Wales (charity no. 209131) and Scotland (charity no. SC037733). It is also an executive non-departmental public body, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as its sponsoring department.

Its primary charitable objects are set out in the Charter and are stated to be:-

- Promote cultural relationships and the understanding of different cultures between people and peoples of the United Kingdom and other countries;
- Promote a wider knowledge of the United Kingdom;
- Develop a wider knowledge of the English language;
- Encourage cultural, scientific, technological and other educational co-operation between the United Kingdom and other countries;
- Otherwise promote the advancement of education.

The British Council works in more than 110 countries around the world and employs over 7000 staff worldwide. It has its headquarters in the UK, with offices in London, Manchester, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

Further information can be found at www.britishcouncil.org