Request for Expression of Interest

National Development Agency (Nemzeti Fejlesztési Ügynökség)
H-1077 Budapest, 20-22 Wesselényi u.

as Managing Authority of the Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013, in its capacity as Contracting Authority of this tender, hereby requests expressions of interests for a competitive negotiated procedure implemented according to Article 3.4.2 of the Practical Guide to Contract procedures for EU external actions.

Contract title: Drafting the ex-ante evaluation and SEA reports for the Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020

Contract description: The consultant has to elaborate on the ex-ante evaluation including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Hungary-Croatia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020, as required by Point 33 of the Preamble and by Article 48 of the draft regulation on the common provisions of the CSF Funds.

As outputs, the consultant has to produce two separate reports such as the final draft of the ex-ante evaluation and the SEA report for the Hungary-Croatia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020.

The role of the ex-ante evaluation is reinforced in the new programming period. It should ensure that the operational programmes clearly articulate their intervention logic and can demonstrate their contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy. It should also help to put in place functioning monitoring systems which meet evaluation requirements. Its recommendations should be clear, based on evidence and adapted to the particular needs of the programmes.

The objective of the SEA is to describe, identify and assess the likely significant effects on the environment while implementing the programme, to be taken into account in the course of its preparation.

With regard to the budget allocated for the contract and the implementation rules set out in Article 121. of COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 718/2007 the Managing Authority will carry out a competitive negotiated procedure according to the Practical Guide to Contract procedures for EU external actions.

The tender dossier will be circulated among the invited applicants after the deadline for the submission of the expression of interest has expired. Accordingly, you are kindly informed that the Contracting Authority keeps the right not to invite all companies which send their expressions of interests. Consortia are encouraged to participate.

The selection criteria of the tender will be as follows:
The tenderer should meet the following criteria:

1) Economic and financial ability:

The total turnover of the candidate in the three previous years (from 2009 to 2011) has to reach net EUR 100,000 altogether. (Exchange rate to be calculated based on average yearly exchange rate of the national currency/EUR – based on InforEuro)

2) Professional capacity:

Permanent staff: average number for the three past years: at least 6 permanent persons
3) Technical capacity criteria:

The candidate has to enclose a proof of its professional activity - at least 1 in the three previous years - in
- evaluation or monitoring or management of regional development or interregional or transnational or cross-border programmes (especially NUTS 2-5) or
- evaluation or monitoring or management of regional development or interregional or transnational or cross-border projects.

If the candidate is a consortium, it shall fulfil the above mentioned criteria together with its members.

**The deadline for the submission of the expressions of interest is: 18 January 2013 (12.00 Local time)**

Please, provide your expression of interest by post (address: National Development Agency, Managing Authority for International Co-operation Programmes – 1077 Budapest, 20-22 Wesselényi u. - please indicate on the envelope: "do not open" and "Tilos felbonatni!"). In your application, please also give your name and contact details and the address where the tender dossier can be sent.

Participation is open to all legal persons [participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers] which are established in a Member State of the European Union or in a country or territory of the regions covered and/or authorised by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed. Participation is also open to international organisations.

**Budapest, 11 January 2013**

[Signature]

Balázs Simó
Head of the Managing Authority