

	Tender Evaluations of international programs RVO		
	Note of information 2	5-6-2020	
	General announcement 1	The planning has been adapted: the new deadline for submitting proposals is 22 June: 12:00 CEST. The deadline for submitting questions about the answers provided in this note of information is Monday 8 June: 18:00 CEST.	
	General announcement 2	Because of the large number of questions related to the requirement on p. 10 of the Tender Document: "Please note that registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party)", we give the following additional explanation: In order to apply for both lots the composition of the Tenderer must differ. With a different composition we mean a different composition of parties per Tenderer. If a party wants to apply for both lots, the Tenderer must differ per lot with at least one party. It is never allowed to apply for both lots with <u>exactly the same</u> parties. Allowed is to Tender for one lot as a consortium, or in a principal contractor-subcontractor structure, and for the other lot as a consortium, or in a principal contractor-subcontractor structure, if the Tender consists of different parties, and to Tender as a single party for one lot and as a consortium, or in a principal contractor-subcontractor structure, for the other lot. Only switching the leading party of a consortium or Tendering with the same parties in a consortium, or a principal contractor-subcontractor structure, so not a different composition, is not enough. The reason why we explicitly ask for a choice of lot is that each lot has a very different emphasis as outlined in section 2.2 and we therefore expect Tenderers to make a deliberate choice for the lot that best fit their capabilities and expectations.	
	General announcement 3	The Contracting Authority has decided to amend the requirement that the reference assignment(s) (section 4.3.2) and the evaluation report (section 5.2.1) must have been executed or completed within three years prior to the closing date for the submission of tenders. Instead of three years, the reference assignment(s)/evaluation report must have been executed or completed within five years prior to the closing date for the submission of Tenders.	
	General announcement 4	For the award criteria relating to the methods the Tenderer is specialized in (section 5.2.3) the Contracting Authority decided to expand the amount of words in Annex 7 to a maximum of 500 for the first question ("Explanation of the experience the Tenderer has with using different evaluation methods and how they are applied.").	
	Subject	Question	Answer
1	Conflict of interest	It is required that the tenderer mentions explicitly in the offer whether they have been involved in the programs under evaluation. Where does this explanation needs to be included? If consortium member A has been previously involved in the program implementation, can consortium member B on its own apply for the respective evaluation assignment?	Questions of independency are program-specific and therefore assignment-specific and do not need to be adressed in the Tender for the Framework Agreement. When a consortium is offered a Contract under this Framework Agreement and one of the potential evaluation parties has been involved in the program under evaluation, this must be mentioned in the Concept Note (or in the Full Proposal if three or less contractors are interested) for the respective evaluation assignment (see section 7.4.1). If consortium member A is not independent regarding the respective evaluation assignment, consortium member B can still qualify for the specific assignment.

2	Reference evaluation reports	"Assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used as reference assignments if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfillment of the Contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question during the fulfillment of the assignment". (tender document, p. 24) i. Does this mean that the all firms that were involved in writing the evaluation report must be included? Or does 'subcontractor' also means implementing partners such as survey companies and local partners/consultants? ii. In case the tenderer is not planning to make use of the knowledge experience of these respective subcontractors in the future, do we still need to involve the subcontractor in the consortium as consortium member or third party? iii. In our understanding this paragraph refers only to 'subcontractors' of the main report, and not to the other reference reports. Is our understanding correct?	i. This does not mean that all the firms that were involved in the presented evaluation assignment must be included in the consortium and/or in every evaluation assignment arising under this Framework Agreement. By subcontractor we mean a third party that was responsible for a major part of the work. ii. Yes, if an evaluation assignment, in which a subcontractor was responsible for a major part of the work, is presented as the reference assignment for section 5.2.1, the subcontractor must be a consortium member or the subcontractor in a principal contractor-subcontractor structure (section 7.3.16). iii. That is correct. Section 5.2.1 only applies to the main report. However, do keep in mind section 7.3.16: "If a consortium member relies upon the capacity of another entity in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements then the entities in question must complete and sign Part II C of the 'European Single Procurement Document'". This requirements applies to section 4.3.2.
3	Consortium composition	In the tender document it is mentioned that "registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party)". Will the following difference in composition be accepted: i. Lot 1: company A [lead] and company B ii. Lot 2: company A and company B [lead]	See general announcement 2. No, this is not considered as a different composition.
4	Consortium composition	In the tender document it is mentioned that "registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party)". Will the following difference in composition be accepted: i. Lot 1: company A [lead] and company B ii. Lot 2: company A [lead], company B and company C	See general announcement 2. Yes, this difference in composition will be excepted.
5	Evaluation report (to grade the technical ability and experience of the Tenderer)	Regarding the evaluation report that will be analyzed to assess the technical ability and experience of the Tenderer, it is mentioned in the TORs that « The object of the evaluation report must be comparable with the concerned key competency and may be in Dutch or English language ». Does that mean that the presented evaluation report needs to satisfy all the core competencies (thematic coverage, country coverage, collaboration with local consultants and methods applied)?	No, the presented evaluation report in section 5.2.1 must satisfy at least one of the core competences listed in table 5 of section 4.3.2. This is because the requested evaluation report in section 5.2.1 must be one of the presented reference assignment(s) in section 4.3.2 and thus must satisfy the criteria set in section 4.3.2.
6	Baseline evaluation	Can the Tenderer present a baseline evaluation as one of the reference assignments (not the main reference assignment)?	Yes, baseline studies are allowed to be presented as one of the reference assignments (section 4.3.2).
7	Taxation	Thank you for your response that "RVO does not provide a VAT identification number." This information is insufficient for us as a German company for clarifying whether we have to add VAT or not. The German tax code says: If the LEGAL ENTITY for which the service is conducted DOES HAVE a VAT number, we do not have to pay tax in Germany. On the other hand, if RVO DOES NOT HAVE A VAT number, we must pay value-added-tax in Germany. May I thus ask: a) Is RVO a legal entity? If not, which is the LEGAL ENTITY which would pay for the evaluation services? (The tender document is not precise enough about the contracting LEGAL ENTITY.) b) Has the legal entity ever been issued a VAT number by the (respective organ) of the Netherlands ?	a) Yes, RVO is a legal entity. b) Yes, RVO has been issued a VAT number. A German company does not have to pay German VAT when exporting services to the Netherlands.

8	Request for clarifications	1. On page 20 it is stated "The subject of the reference assignment must be comparable to the core competence in question and may be in Dutch or English language". Since the DGGF-list also contains French-speaking countries, are reports in French language equally allowed (for instance, if an executive summary in English is included)? 2. On page 23, the last criterion differs for Lot 1 and 2. We assume that a suitable reference for Lot 2 (i.e. a reference that establishes a convincing causal claim) will also satisfy the criterion for Lot 1 (i.e. it equally establishes a plausible causal claim) – and hence that the same report may be submitted for Lot 1 and 2 to assess the technical ability (section 5.2.1). Could you confirm this? 3. With respect to Sections 4.3.2. and 5.2.2., we would like to ask whether an evaluation report of a subcontractor can also be used to satisfy the criteria?	1. No, the reference assignments must be in English or Dutch. A summary written in English does not suffice. 2. A report that qualifies for Lot 2 in section 5.2.1 does not automatically imply that the report also qualifies for Lot 1. Good outcome and formative evaluations ask for different skills than good impact evaluations. These differences in skills we ask for are explained in section 2.2.1. For example, Lot 1 consists of evaluations for which only a small sample size can be analysed or for which data availability and budget is limited. This doesn't mean that one study can never qualify for both Lots. For example, a larger study in which different methods are used, and outcomes and impacts of an intervention are discussed, can qualify for both. However, we recommend choosing a study for Lot 1 that best suits the requirements outlined in section 2.2.1 for Lot 1 and a study for Lot 2 that best suits the requirements outlined in section 2.2.1 for Lot 2. We also refer to table 3 on p. 12. 3. Yes, it is allowed to use a reference report of a subcontractor to show compliance with the Suitability requirements. However, see p. 35: "If the principal contractor does rely on the capacity of subcontractors in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements, then the subcontractor(s) in question must also complete and legally sign Part II C of the 'European Single Procurement Document'."
9	Definition Consortium	"1) We assume that other companies that work in the same member-firm structure, but are separate registered entities, can be seen as subcontractors in case work of the respective member is included to meet suitability criteria (eg relevant reference report). Correct? 2) We assume that (p.35) ""Submitting a tender as a principal contractor together with subcontractors"" is seen as different from applying as a single party without subcontractors. (to comply with the requirement on p. 10 ""Please note that registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party)."" Correct?"	1. Yes, correct. However, see p. 35: "If the principal contractor does rely on the capacity of subcontractors in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements, then the subcontractor(s) in question must also complete and legally sign Part II C of the 'European Single Procurement Document'." 2. This is correct. See general announcement 2.
10	Value contract	Please specify the expected value to be contracted in the potential extension of the contract for year 3 and year 4 - split by lot 1 and lot 2?	The expected value of the contract is specified for 4 years in total, so including year 3 and 4. At this point in time it is not possible to provide more detail. More information will follow after contracting.
11	Value contract	Could you please specify to which programs the guaranteed and committed evaluations apply.	At this point in time it is not possible to provide more detail. More information will follow after contracting.
12	Value contract	"Could the Contracting Authority share insights in regard to the valuations tendered under the previous framework contract (2016-2020) for lot 1 and 2? 1) Which evaluations were tendered (themes, programs)? 2) Whom have been CONTACTED/CONTRACTED for these? 3) Value of the individual evaluations under the previous framework contract 4) Total value"	The information in table 4 of the Tender document is all we have available at the moment.
13	Reference reports	Can you confirm that the minimum amount of themes we have to comply with in our reference reports is 1?	Yes, that is correct. Each core competence in table 5 (p. 20) must be covered at least once by a reference report. This means that at least one of the reference reports must cover one of the themes mentioned under nr. 1 in Table 5 (p. 20).

14	Daily tariff	Could the Contracting Authority explain the rationale why we should only submit a senior and junior tariff? Given the foreseen large scale evaluations, a medium experience and project administration activities are vital. Or will it still be possible to include these roles in actual evaluations in step 2?	In the tenders for Further agreements under this Contract, Tendereres will be scored on a more detailed budget (including the daily tariff for all proposed team members). For that reason, and for having a general indication of the range of the daily tariff, it was decided to only score the tariffs of a junior and senior employee in this Tender.
15	Legal - Indemnification in favor	"The Framework Agreement doesn't contain an indemnification in favor of Contractor. An indemnification in favor of Contractor is customary in our Industry. Therefore Tenderer requests the Contracting Authority to accept Tenderers textual suggestions for the draft agreement: "The Contracting Authority will indemnify Contractor against any and all claims of third parties arising from or connected to the Services performed or to be performed for the Contracting Authority, unless such claims result from intent or wilful recklessness on the part of Contractors executive staff."""	Not agreed. If the Contractor fails to discharge its obligations under the Contract and third parties suffer damage as a result, the Contractor must remain liable for that damage.
16	Legal - Internal file	"Since keeping internal files is prescribed for us by regulation (including rules of conduct and professional rules), we would like to propose the following provision: "The Contractor is entitled to keep a file regarding the assignment. The Contractor will take appropriate measures to ensure the confidentiality and safe storage of the file and to keep the files for a period that is acceptable for good professional practice and that is in accordance with the legal provisions and professional rules regarding retention periods. The files are the property of the Contractor. ""	Agreed, provided that the Contracting Authority can freely access the information from these files if, according to the Contracting Authority, this information is relevant in the context of this assignment.

17	Legal - GDPR	"Processing of personal data (art. 14 ARVODI-2018) In general, when providing the (envisaged) services to clients, we act as a personal data controller within the meaning of the GDPR, not as a data processor. This means that it is not necessary nor required to enter into a data processing agreement. As a data controller, we are independently obliged to comply with all applicable privacy legislation. We have internal policies and procedures concerning data privacy and security in place to ensure that personal data is duly protected and processed in compliance with the GDPR. We have designated a Data Protection Officer and have a dedicated Data Privacy Legal Department which – together with the IT Security Department – support KPMG Advisory on this topic. The GDPR does not require us to make arrangements on the data processing by KPMG as both parties are independently responsible for compliance with the GDPR. Nonetheless, a personal data protection section is included in the applicable KPMG Advisory General Terms and Conditions. This section includes provisions regarding the processing of personal data by KPMG, this concerns for example provisions re. data breaches and complaints or requests from data subjects. 1) In the context thereof, we suggest that- as we qualify as data controller when providing most of the services as an independent verification agent - we will not allow Contracting Authority giving us instructions regarding the processing of personal data and therefore we will not enter into the data processing agreement as referred to in art 14.2 ARVODI-2018 and as attached to the Tender documentation as Annex 07 Data Processing Agreement (ARVODI 2018)? Can you agree with this? 2) However, note that if we are requested to provide SAAS-services under the envisaged engagement, Contractor will not act as data controller but as data processor. In such case, Contractor will exert no influence on the processing of personal data and exclusively act -in the capacity of data processor- on the instructions of the controller. Consequently, for such specific SAAS-services we will enter into a data processing agreement with Contracting Authority. The Data Processing Agreement (ARVODI 2018) as attached as Annex 07 to the Tender documentation will not be sufficient though, as it does not include a lot of specific additional requirements for SAASservices. Therefore, we suggest to agree to specific SAAS terms and conditions (which include a data processing agreement) at the moment the tender will be awarded to us. Can you agree with this?"	No. Art 14 will be applicable.
18	Process	Will you be able to answer questions on a rolling basis, given the time sensitive nature of our actual question below?	This will not be possible. See general announcement 1. The planning has been adapted: the new deadline for submitting proposals is 22 June: 12:00 CEST. The deadline for submitting questions about the answers provided in this note of information is Monday 8 June: 18:00 CEST.
19	Consortium	We understand that the same consortia cannot apply for the two lots. We had initially foreseen to work with one of our trusted partners and each lead one lot, with the other being consortium member. Would such an arrangement qualify as a different consortium (given the difference in leadership), or not?	See general announcement 2. This is not considered as a different composition.
20	Application	"Do we correctly understand that it is NOT possible to apply as a single party for both lots? Why is this not possible and why is this change made versus the previous contract? Also it looks to be in conflict with the line in the previous paragraph on the same page (p.10 of the tendering document) : The Tenderers can register for multiple lots and can therefore also be awarded multiple lots"	See general announcement 2. Yes, it is indeed not possible to apply as a single party for both lots. Each lot has a very different emphasis (as set out in section 2.2.1) and we hope to attract parties for each lot that align very well with the lot's specific requirements. Following sentence on p.10 is leading: "registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot".
21	Definition Consortium	"1) We assume that other companies that work in the same member-firm structure, but are separate registered entities, can be seen as subcontractors in case work of the respective member is included to meet suitability criteria (eg relevant reference report). Correct? 2) We assume that (p.35) ""Submitting a tender as a principal contractor together with subcontractors"" is seen as different from applying as a single party without subcontractors. (to comply with the requirement on p. 10 ""Please note that registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party)."" Correct?"	See the answer to question 9.

22	Consortium	In case we enter the framework agreement with subcontractors, can we choose which of the partners is most suitable to submit a proposal for step 2 (further agreements?).	Yes.
23	Consortium	Could the Contracting Authority confirm that, if we prove that 1 partner (contracting company or subcontractor) complies with showing experience in managing similar evaluation assignments (annex 7 par 2), these companies together comply with this requirement?	Yes, however do keep in mind the requirement on p. 20 of the ToR "Consortium members must fulfil this Suitability Requirement jointly. If the Tender is submitted by a consortium, the reference assignments must cover at least one evaluation report from each consortium member or one report for which the consortium member was subcontracted." This requirement does not apply if the Tender is submitted as a principal contractor together with subcontractors.
24	Value contract	Please specify the number of the guaranteed and committed evaluations as well as the budget that is already committed, for lot 1 respectively lot 2 for the first two years of the contract. This also in the light of COVID-19 implications and restrictions for new commitments within the Ministry.	At this point in time it is not possible to provide more detail. More information will follow after contracting, possibly also around the implications of COVID-19.
25	Time frame evaluation/reference report	Can you please explain why for this tender only reference/evaluation reports qualify more than 3 years whereas in the previous tender this was 5 years?	See general announcement 3. The Contracting Authority has decided to change this requirement. On p. 20 and on p. 24 you must read: The reference assignment(s)/evaluation report must have been executed or completed within five years prior to the closing date for the submission of Tenders.
26	Call-off phase	Could the Contracting Authority confirm that the concept note will have to be submitted within 5 working days as it was under the previous contract (and not 5 days)?	Yes, this is 5 working days.
27	Call-off phase	Could the Contracting Authority elaborate on what is expected to be "a reasonable amount of working days" for the full proposal?	The total amount of working days provided for the full proposal differs per Tender, with a minimum of ten working days.
28	Cover letter	How would the Contracting Authority like to receive the cover letter?	For this tender no cover letter is needed.
29	Annex 7	"For annex 7 par 3-6, the Contracting Authority indicates a maximum number of words and gives the option of using a different format. 1) Would the Contracting Authority allow us to combine the answers per paragraph in a separate document? 2) Could the Contracting Authority explain how the additional documents should be submitted	1) Yes, as long as it is clear to which paragraph the information in the document refers to. 2) Please contact the TenderNed helpdesk for any questions related to the usage of the TenderNed platform.
30	Learning activities	With regard to the expected learning activities, do we read the tender document correctly that these will be incorporated in individual future RfPs as part of the scope? If not, can the Contracting Authority elaborate its expectations.	Correct, the requested learning activities will be further specified in the ToRs of the Further Agreements.
31	Maximum number of words	The Tenderer will submit a "Tender, including a general response to the Tendering Authority's award criteria". There is a limitation on the number of words allowed for sections 3 - 6 of the format response to the award criteria. 1) Is there also a limitation on the number of words allowed for the tender in general (cover letter, presentation of the firms, etc.)? 2) Can we submit a single document including both the tender and the format response to the award criteria?	1) No, there is no limitation on the number of words for the Tender in general. However please only provide the information that is requested for in the questions. We will not consider information that is not requested for. 2) Please submit according to section 7.3.14 of the Tender document. Hence please submit 3 documents: annex 1, 2 en 7.
32	Reference assignments	On page 24 in the TORs, it is written that "Assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used as reference assignments if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfilment of the contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question during the fulfilment of the assignment". We assume that this limitation only applies to the reference assignment that will be presented to assess the technical ability and experience of the Tenderer and that we can present reference assignments (maximum 9) that were conducted with subcontractors and/or consortium partners that are not part of our consortium for the RVO Framework Agreement? Is our understanding correct?	Yes, that specific limitation only applies to the report presented to score the technical ability and experience of the Tenderer in section 5.2.1. However, see section 7.3.16 on p. 35: "If the principal contractor does rely on the capacity of subcontractors in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements, then the subcontractor(s) in question must also complete and legally sign Part II C of the 'European Single Procurement Document'."

33	Randomized controlled trials	In relation to randomized controlled trials; similar as to the question above, to use the this type of method the evaluator would need to be involved from the start, i.e. can you please clarify what types of programmes will be considered for impact evaluations? Would this be programmes' (or interventions) that are about to commence?	The types of programmes considered for impact evaluation (Lot 2) are listed on page 14. Some of these programmes are in the starting phase (SDGP, Land-at-Scale, DRIVE). The evaluations under Lot 2 can include RCTs, a method that has been applied before within the infrastructure programmes (ORIO, D2B, DRIVE) and a PPP programme (FDOV, now SDGP).
34	Impact evaluations	In relation to impact evaluations; does this assume an evaluation after the programme is completed? In that case, what data is already available? As this approach - ideally - assumes a research design where primary data is collected in a consistent and systematic manner throughout the lifetime of the programme.	This differs per programme. In case the evaluation is at the end of the programme, the ToR of the Further Agreement will provide more information on the available data. In other cases an evaluation trajectory might be tendered at the start of the programme. In this case one party is contracted for multiple evaluation activities throughout the lifespan of the programme (baseline, endline, etc.).
35	Impact evaluations and randomized controlled trials	In relation to both of these - if these impact evaluations are for programmes that are about to start, will the possibility to extend (as it is referred to in the tender document) apply for the lifetime of the programme?	It is indeed possible that the lifetime of the Further Agreement under this Contract exceeds the lifetime of the Contract itself. This does not mean the Contract itself will be extended.
36	Clarification on Para 4.2: Acceptance and Satisfactory Services	Could RVO please clarify the conditions for acceptance and for unsatisfactory services. As currently outline in Para 4.2 the circumstances include that we will not be paid and will not be entitled to suspend work (as per article 18.5). This would include unacceptable risk for the supplier to have to continue delivery without remuneration.	Based on the Arvodi, the Contracting Authority has the right to suspend payment as long as the results of the work delivered have not been accepted by the Contracting Authority.
37	Clarification on Para 26.2: Insurance	Could RVO clarify if they will accept a letter from our insurance broker confirming that insurance is in place. It is not acceptable practice to disclose a copy of our policies, as this is commercially sensitive information.	Accepted.
38	Clarification on Para 21.3: Liability	Could RVO, if applicable (please confirm), clarify the limit of liability. It appears that the upper limit is €3,000,000 per event and €5,000,000 (in the aggregate?) for each year that the Contract has been in force. Could RVO also clarify Para 21.3(d): whether the exception regarding data protection breaches is included or not.	Regardless of the explanation given here, the text in Articles 21.3 and 21.3 (d) Arvodi remains the starting point. Article 21.3: Liability is limited to a maximum of EUR 3,000,000 per event with a maximum of EUR 5,000,000 per year. Article 21.3 (d): the limitation of liability does not apply to, among other things, the situation as described in Article 21.3 (d).
39	Clarification on Para 20.2: Acceptance of the proposed measures and consequences, and acceptance of the Contracting Authority for cause of delay.	Could RVO clarify if this applies to delays outside of our reasonable control? What happens if the Contracting Authority does not accept our proposals? We would like to clarify: i) That penalties payable are only applicable if delay/non-performance is other than through force majeure (which should be expressly stated). It would also be helpful to define 'Force Majeure'; and ii) That the 'penalties' stated are in the aggregate for all such events of delay under the Contract (which should be expressly stated) or whether the penalties apply in each case of delay (which I suspect is the case).	This article covers all possible causes of delay, whether or not this is caused by force majeure on the part of the Contracting Authority. As it depends entirely on the specific situation that has arisen, the Contracting Authority cannot deal with all 'what if' scenarios. Naturally, the Contracting Authority will show leniency if the Contractor is delayed due to a force majeure situation.
40	Clarification on Para 3.1: Guarantee to meet requirements.	There is a requirement for the service provider to guarantee that the services will "meet the requirements laid down in the Contract". This is formulated as a strict duty, requiring absolute performance. Could RVO please clarify that any guarantees expected from the provider will only be an absolute requirement subject to reasonable skill and care (as per para 3.2)?	The requirements that the Contracting Authority sets for the Contractor are not disproportionate and have been formulated in such a way that a Contractor can meet them with reasonable skill and care. Article 3.1 remains unchanged.
41	Request for clarifications	On page 10 it is stated "Please note that registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party)". We understand this allows two organizations to form a Consortium for both Lot 1 and 2, if for Lot 1 an additional third Consortium partner is included. Could you confirm this?	See general announcement 2. Yes, this difference in composition will be excepted.

42	Reference reports requirement	Do we understand correctly that an organization that wishes to be included in consortium A must submit a reference report in the tender to be able join that consortium as a subcontractor/third party ? Or, may this organization officially join the consortium as a subcontractor/third party without having to submit any reference documents.	If the organization wants to be included in consortium A as a consortium member, the organization must submit a reference report in the Tender (section 4.3.2). If the organization wants to be included in consortium A as a subcontractor/third party, the organization is not obliged to submit a reference report.
43	Annex 07 reference reports; 'available under framework agreement'	Regarding the reference reports in annex 07, may we indicate 'yes' at 'available under framework agreement' when the subcontractor is not an salaried employee at our organization but is interested in working with the consortium the coming years.	See also the answer to question 49. You can indicate Yes (and score points) if the sub-contractor is self-employed or a freelance-expert contracted on a fixed-term, and more than one evaluation was completed during that period of time, on the closing date for submission of the Tender. Freelance experts contracted by the Tenderer for the duration of only one study are not considered (p. 25 of the Tender document).
44	Reference report	- In case the organization applies for both tenders, do different set of reference reports have to be submitted? (ref: Evaluation experience (5.2.2) in Appendix 7 Format Response to award criteria)	If one set of reference reports comply with the requirements set for Lot 1 and comply with the requirements set for Lot 2 (section 4.3.2), the same set of reports can be submitted in both Tenders. However, do keep in mind the different requirements for Lot 1 and Lot 2 for core competence 4: Methodos applied, and the last paragraph on p. 20. See also the answer to question 85.
45	Rates	- In paragraph 3.5. of the Tender Document you mention that rates are all-inclusive, including, for example, travel and accommodation costs. Does this imply that rates must already consider costs for international travel and accommodation related to the execution of specific assignments (eg. for conducting field work)?	The requirements under section 3.5 apply to all prices provided in Further Agreements under the Contract. In section 5.2.7 we specifically ask for the daily tariff of a junior and senior employee, which should not include additional costs (travel, DSA, etc.).
46	Consortium composition	Are more than two partners per consortium allowed?	Yes, there is no maximum of partners allowed per consortium.
47	Evaluation experience	On page 19 of the tender document it says that by signing the ESPD, the tenderer confirms to have conducted at least one reference assignment for each of the core competences of RVO, however, on page 20 it says that the references must show experience in evaluating at least one of the following themes... Our questions: Do you expect the tenderer to submit for each of your competences one reference project? Can we submit the same reference for two or more competences? Can we also use the main evaluation report as reference? Do we get points deducted if one or more of the competences will not be paired with a reference?	Yes, we expect to receive a minimum of one reference assignment for each of the core competences listed in table 5 (p. 20). One reference assignment can cover more than one core competence. The 'main report' (used to score the technical ability under 5.2.1) should be one of the reference assignments provided under 4.3.2. Under 4.3.2 it is necessary to provide a reference assignment per core competency, and the Tenderer will be excluded if they do not comply. Only under 5.2.2 these reference assignments are scored (e.g. more thematic coverage will render higher points).
48	Assessment criteria	On page 25 of the tender document the 6th competence "Corporate Social Responsibility" is different to the 6th competence as stated in Annex 07 award criteria "Responsible business conduct". Which of the competences will you deem as relevant for evaluation?	There indeed is a difference in terminology between themes on p. 25 of the Tender document ('Corporate Social Responsibility) and Table 5 of the Tender Document / paragraph 2 Annex 7 (Responsible Business Conduct). As there is some overlap in these themes they will both be considered relevant when evaluating the thematic coverage.
49	annex 7 evaluation experience	With respect to filling out the Evaluation experience (5.2.2) in Annex 7, could you please explain what it means whether the team leader is still available? Does it mean that he/she has to have a contract with the tenderer, or is the existence of continued contact sufficient? A similar question is related to Other evaluators being available under framework agreement (yes/no)).	See the table and footnote 13 on p. 25 of the Tender document: you can indicate yes if the team leader/first author of the submitted evaluation report is still employed (or self-employed) on the closing date for submission of the Tender. Fixed-term contracts are also considered, as long as more than one evaluation was completed during that period of time. However, freelance experts contracted by the Tenderer for the duration of only one study are not considered. The same applies to other evaluators.
50	award criteria methods and learning	With respect to the award criteria related to methods and learning, do the examples need to stem from the reference assignment(s) requested in section 4.3.2, or could they also be taken from other (evaluation) assignments?	The examples do not have to stem from the reference assignment(s) requested in section 4.3.2. Examples from other assignments can be used.

51	references lots 1 and 2	In some cases, evaluations could be considered as both relevant for Lot 1 as for Lot 2. Can you confirm that one reference, as long as it complies with the characteristics laid down in Table 3 (p.11) for both lots, can also be submitted for both Lots?	Yes, that is correct. See also the answer to question 44 and 85.
52	references	With respect to the reference assignment(s) requested in section 4.3.2; are only mid-term or ex-ante evaluations eligible, or can ex ante evaluations also be considered?	Ex-ante studies are allowed as long as the evaluation work is finalized and as long as the evaluation quality can be assessed by RVO.
53	Submission in TenderNed - Annexes 1 and 7	Are we right in assuming that Annexes 1 and 7 should be submitted in the 'quality' section of this tender in TenderNed?	Please follow the instructions on TenderNed. If you have any functional or technical questions regarding TenderNed, you can contact the TenderNed service desk. For more information regarding the later, please refer to section 7.3.1.
54	Submission in TenderNed - Annex 2	The 'price' section in TenderNed includes numerical and text fields in which bidders should indicate one single price, with and without VAT, in numbers and words. However, Annex 2 asks for two different fee rates (junior and senior experts). Is it possible to upload Annex 2 but leave the numerical/text fields empty?	Yes. Although it might ask you to fill in something before submitting. In that case just fill in the number 1.
55	Fee rates and VAT	Do the tax-related requirements in Section 3.2 of the ToR only refer to financial offers for specific evaluations contracted through the Framework Agreement, or do they also apply to the maximum fee rates to be indicated in Annex 2? That is, should the fee rates in Annex 2 be stated without and without VAT (if applicable)?	Please submit your rates including and excluding VAT.
56	Prices/rates with travel and accommodation costs	Page 17 of the ToR require that "The prices/rates to be all-inclusive. This means they must include [...] travel and accommodation costs". Does this refer to financial offers for specific evaluations contracted through the Framework Agreement, or does it also apply to the maximum fee rates to be indicated in Annex 2 (the financial offer for the Framework Agreement itself)? If the latter is true, does this imply that contractors won't be allowed to charge separately any travel costs (such as international and domestic flights, train tickets, car hire) nor DSAs/per diems in their financial bids for specific evaluations under the Framework Agreement?	See also the answer to question 45. The requirements under section 3.5 apply to all prices provided in Further Agreements under the Contract. In section 5.2.7 we specifically ask for the daily tariff of a junior and senior employee, which should not include additional costs (travel, DSA, etc.).
57	References for the Suitability Requirement 'Evaluation Experience'	Is it correct that the Contracting Authority will assess the Suitability Requirement 'evaluation experience' based on the 10 references submitted in Annex 7 for the Award Criteria (and checking whether each of the core competencies in Table 5 (p.20) is covered by at least one of the references from that list)? If so, are we supposed to indicate somewhere which of the 10 references in Annex 7 we believe to also satisfy the previous Suitability Requirement?	No. Please note that the reference assignments required under section 4.3.2 are not to be submitted with your tender documents but only after the first assesment of the Tendering Authority and on request. See also the answer to question 58.
58	Submission of evidence for 'evaluation experience'	The box on page 21 of Section 4.3.2 of the ToR states that the evidence relating to the Suitability Requirement 'evaluation experience' should not be submitted together with the tender but only on request. However, points a), d), e) and f) from that list will necessarily be submitted through the list of 10 reference assignments in Annex 7. Does the previous statement thus only refer to points b), c) and g) being submitted on request?	Correct, in section 5.2.2 we score the reference assignments on the award criteria relating to evaluation experience by means of Annex 7. The information in Annex 7 will not be used to asses the core competences in table 5 (p. 20). Besides the information we request in Annex 7, no information is required before we request it. See also the answer to question 57.
59	3-year period for reference assignments	The ToR essentially mention reference reports in three places: Section 4.3.2 (Suitability requirements 'evaluation experience'), Section 5.2.1 (Award criterion 'technical ability and experience in evaluation methods'), and Section 5.2.2 (Award criterion 'evaluation experience'). The first two explicitly restrict the required references to evaluations "executed or completed within three years prior to the closing for the submission of tenders" (p. 20, p.24). However, the last criterion (Section 5.2.2) does not mention this restriction, and neither does Annex 7. Can we assume that the list of references in Annex 7 may hence include assignments completed more than three years ago, as long as there are also sufficient references in the list to comply with the criteria in Sections 4.3.2 and 5.2.1?	The evaluation assignments scored in section 5.2.2 and for which information has to be provided in Annex 7 are the reference assignment(s) requested in section 4.3.2. This means that the evaluation assignments scored cannot deviate from the reference assignment(s) in section 4.3.2 and thus fall under the same restrictions. Regarding the restriction that the assignments have to be executed or completed within three years prior to the closing for the submission of tenders, see general announcement 3. The assignments have to be executed or completed within five years prior to the closing for the submission of tenders.

60	Annex 7 for different consortium members	In the case of a consortium, should Annex 7 be submitted by each consortium member separately? If so, are we right in assuming that the sections “Sustainability and integrity policy / code of conduct” and “Composition of the Tenderer” of Annex 7 should be left blank by consortium members other than the consortium leader (or the other members can just copy the text provided by the consortium leader)?	There will be only one set of answers from a single consortium. It is not allowed to submit answers per member of the consortium. Please also see section 7.3.17 of the Tender document.
61	Award criteria scores for a consortium	In the case of a consortium, how do you aggregate the scores from the different consortium members for each award criterion in Section 5.2 of the ToR / Annex 7? For example, do you compute the average score per criterion across all members?	There will be only one set of answers from a single consortium. It is not allowed to submit answers per member of the consortium. Please also see section 7.3.17 of the Tender document.
62	Author of reference report	Regarding the reference report used for the award criterion ‘technical ability and experience in evaluation methods’, p.24 requires that “the author should have contributed substantially to the evaluation quality under assessment for this tender”. Is it correct that this author (the salaried employee) does not need to be the team leader of the report? If so, which other expert roles in an evaluation team do you consider as ‘substantial contributors to the evaluation quality’, and do you need any evidence for this?	The requirement "the author should have contributed substantially to the evaluation quality under assessment for this tender" (p. 24) is met when the employee is listed as one of the authors. We do not require any evidence for this.
63	Employment status	Are the terms “still employed” (p.25), “a salaried employee on the closing data for the submission of the tender (p.24)” and “available” (p. 21, 25, Annex 7”) equivalent?	Yes, these terms are equivalent. Because we are not able to assess whether an employee will still be employed during the fulfilment of the Framework Agreement the terms “still employed” (p.25), “a salaried employee on the closing data for the submission of the tender (p.24)” and “available” (p. 21, 25, Annex 7”) are equivalent. See also the answer to question 49.
64	Local partners	In the ToR, e.g. on pp. 20 and 25, you refer to “local partners and knowledge institutions”. In Annex 7, you refer to “local partners/consultants”. In Annex 7, can we also list individuals who formed part of the evaluation team as local consultants, or do you only count cooperation with local organisations/institutions/companies?	Yes, local consultants count as local partners.
65	Fee rates for experts	Annex 2 asks bidders to indicate their maximum fee rates for two expert categories (in the ongoing framework contract, there are four categories). Does the definition of senior and junior employees in Section 5.2.7 and Annex 2 correspond to that given in Section 3.4 (i.e. senior employee: at least 10 years of relevant experience, junior employees: 0-2 years of relevant experience)? If so: (i) Will the maximum rate we indicate for the senior employee also apply to team leader positions?, (ii) Will there also be a maximum rate for medium-level employees with 3-9 years of relevant experience, and where we could indicate this rate?	See also the answer to question 14. Yes, the definition of senior and junior employees in section 5.2.7 and Annex 2 correspond to that given in section 3.4. (i) Yes, the maximum rate for team leader positions cannot exceed the maximum rate of a senior employee. (ii) The maximum rate for medium-level employees should fall between the rate for a junior and a senior employee. In the Tender for Further agreements under this Contract, Tenderers will be scored on a more detailed budget (including the daily tariff of all proposed team members).
66	Registration and submission via TenderNed - consortium	Are all members of a consortium required to register in TenderNed and submit their application packages separately, or is it sufficient that only the consortium leader registers and submits the application packages (Annexes 1, 2 and 7) of all consortium members together through its account (if technically feasible)?	Yes, only the consortium leader must register.
67	'Single tender' requirement	Does the ‘single tender’ requirement apply for each lot, that is, may the bidder submit one single tender for Lot 1 and another single tender for Lot 2?	Yes, the ‘single tender’ requirement applies for each lot. See general announcement 2. The composition of the Tenderer must differ per lot. It is not allowed to Tender for both lots as a single party.
68	Contract extension	The ToR state on page 13 that the contract may be extended “once by 2 years”, but the draft contract in Annex 3 mentions “2 optional extensions of 1 year” (point 2 under ‘WHEREAS’ and Article 2.1 of Annex 3). Which of the two previous modalities of extension does apply (i.e. extendable in 2022 once until 2024; or extendable in 2022 until 2023, and then once more until 2024)?	Section 2.3 in the Tender document is leading: 'The Contracting Authority intends to conclude Contracts in both lots for a period of two (2) years, including a unilateral option for the Contracting Authority to extend the contract once by two (2) years.'

69	Annex 2 - consortium	In the case of a consortium, is it sufficient that only the consortium leader submits Annex 2 in TenderNed, or should/can it be submitted by all consortium members (with the same fee rates for all members)?	Yes, only the consortium leader must submit Annex 2 in TenderNed. The maximum fee rates apply to all consortium members.
70	Invoicing in call-off contracts	Article 4.1 of the draft contract says that the contractors of a call-off contract may invoice monthly to RVO, based on the number of days/hours actually worked. Is monthly invoicing optional or the standard/preferred modality of payment for call-off contracts? And how would RVO measure 'the number of days/hours actually worked'? Will contractors have to provide timesheets or similar? To our knowledge, the call-off contracts under the ongoing framework contract apply global price budgets and thus no need to provide evidence on the number of days actually worked.	Monthly invoicing is optional but not common. The standard payment option is payment based on delivery moments (e.g. part at the start of the assignments, part after the inception report, draft report and final report). Invoicing will not take place based on the number of days actually worked. As in the ongoing Framework Agreement we will apply global price budgets. Thus there is no need to provide evidence on the number of days actually worked.
71	Evaluation methods	In annex 7, chapter 3, tenderers are requested to demonstrate their experience with different evaluation methods. Could you please provide your definition of evaluation methods? Does "methods" refer to the 'type of evaluation' (summative, formative, process), or methods to collect information (interviews, focus groups, surveys quantitative, qualitative, empirical) or e.g. methods to design evaluation criteria?	With evaluation methods we mean the methodology used to demonstrate whether a (plausible or convincing) causal relationship can be established and how you collect and analyze the data. For example, you can think of: quasi-experimental approaches (e.g. difference-in-differences), experimental methods (e.g. Randomized controlled trials) etc.
72	Innovative evaluation methods	In annex 7, chapter 3, tenderers are requested to provide an example of an innovative method applied in practice. "Innovation" is a time-based concept. Could you please clarify the definition of innovative? Often the evaluation method is defined by the client, restricting degrees of freedom in designing innovative evaluation methods	Because 'innovative' is a time-based and subjective concept we want to give the Tenderer the space to show what they think are innovative methods for the specific type of evaluation. For more information on this subject, we refer to section 2.2.1, Lot 1, last sentence: "It is considered as an advantage if parties in this lot can demonstrate innovative approaches for outcome evaluation and innovative approaches for small-n impact evaluation." and Lot 2, last sentence: "It is considered as an advantage if parties in this lot can demonstrate innovative approaches for impact evaluation, cost-benefit analysis and/or system analysis."
73	Amount of words	For award criteria 3-6 you have given a maximum amount of word of either 250 or 350. In the description of the award criteria as in the method of assessing the proposals there are several topics that must be addressed in the answer of the tenderer. We can only briefly touch the surface of each subject in 250-350 words. We understand that you cannot assess several pages for each proposal so we would like to propose an amount of 750 words for each of the subjects. In this way we can A. explain the subject B. explain how this manages itself on an operational level and C. What kind of benefits this will bring. Could you expand the amount of words accordingly, an other amount or explain the amount of 250 which you have chosen?	We request Tenderers to formulate concise answers to award criteria 3-6 in Annex 7. However, it is allowed to refer to additional information, for example by including a link to a relevant webpage. See general announcement 4. For the award criteria relating to the methods the Tenderer is specialized in (section 5.2.3) the Contracting Authority decided to expand the amount of words to a maximum of 500 for the first question ("Explanation of the experience the Tenderer has with using different evaluation methods and how they are applied.").
74	Implementing partners	Is there a specific format or are there specific requirements how to include our implementing partners in the tender documents? The only place they logically fit is in Annex 7: Format Response to Award Criteria. However, this is not clear from the onset.	Please refer to Annex 1, section 1.5.
75	CVs	The tender documents do not contain information how to submit the CVs, therefore, can you please provide us with information how to submit the CVs? Is there a specific format required?	It is not requested to submit CVs. Please keep to the format as used in Annex 7, no additional information is needed.
76	Reference assignments subcontractors	What does it mean for a subcontractor to "be involved in the fulfillment of the Contract"? Does it mean that any subcontractor that was used in any of the reference assignments should be (a) a consortium member, (b) a pre-approved subcontractor /third party to the consortium, or simply (c) a party that we intend to hire again as subcontractor during the implementation of the framework? In our view, it is only practical to use interpretation (c).	See also the answer to question 2. If an evaluation assignment, <u>in which a subcontractor was responsible for a major part of the work</u> , is presented as the evaluation assignment for section 5.2.1, the subcontractor must be a consortium member or the subcontractor in a principal contractor-subcontractor structure (section 7.3.16).

77	Reference reports	Our proposed reference report (main report) that best satisfies the criteria was co-authored with another firm, but the main authors of the report were all from our own firm (including the first author). Are we in that case allowed to use this reference report as our main report, even if the other firm is not a proposed consortium partner or subcontractor for this framework? In the recent IOB evaluation framework for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this was allowed, as the requirement there was only that the consortium member should have been the main author of the report. We would highly appreciate it if you could use a similar requirement.	Yes, you are allowed to to use an evaluation assignment as your main report if at least one author of the report is a salaried employee of the Tenderer and this author contributed substantially to the evaluation quality. This criteria is fulfilled when the salaried employee is the first author of the report.
78	Arvodi	Intellectual Property. This article states a complete transfer to the Contracting Authority of all intellectual property rights to the results of the agreement. This is objectionable to us for multiple reasons. We understand the wish of the Contracting Authority to freely use the results/deliverables of the Contract. However, we object to the unlimited and unrestricted use of such deliverables on several grounds. If we would transfer the intellectual property rights of our deliverables to the Contracting Authority, the Contracting Authority would have the right to amend/change and exploit such deliverables. Given the character of the deliverables, this is not favourable. If that would be the case, we cannot vouch for the correctness and completeness of the deliverables and therefore cannot exercise our professional responsibility with regard to the deliverables. With regard to any advice as contained in the deliverables, we would lose our grip on the content and distribution of such advice, if we would transfer the intellectual property rights. This is objectionable for us if the Contracting Authority would want our name and logo on the deliverables. We believe, based on the above, that a use license should suffice for the purpose of this contract. We also refer to rule 3.9.1.2 of the Proportionality Guide. Can you agree to change this article 24 accordingly? “(Intellectual) property rights that vest in the Contracting Authority or the Contractor, or is licensed to them by a third party, before the execution date of the Contract, shall remain vested in the original owner. The Contractor reserves all intellectual property rights in relation to products of the intellect that it uses or has used and/or develops or has developed within the framework of the execution of the Contract in which it holds or can exercise copyrights or other intellectual property rights. The Contracting Authority may use the results of the Contract for its own internal use, insofar appropriate within the purpose of the Contract.”	In the opinion of the Contracting Authority, Article 24 Arvodi largely satisfies the tenderer's wishes. Pursuant to Article 24, paragraph 3, intellectual property rights remain with the Contractor when the results of the Services rendered are realized using existing intellectual property rights that do not accrue to the Contracting Authority (Client), and in that situation the Contracting Authority (Client) obtains a license as described in Article 24, paragraph 3, Arvodi. In the opinion of the Contracting Authority, it is therefore not necessary to amend Article 24.
79	Arvodi	Liability. Pursuant to article 21.3 of the ARVODI, in our line of business it is common practice to align the limitation of liability with the contract value, whereby it is usual to limit the liability to a maximum of three times the fee. The limitation in article 21.3 ARVODI is based on a graduated scale. The amount based on this graduated scale in most cases exceeds the limitation cap that is common in our line of business, based on three times the annual fee. We also refer to rule 3.9 D of the Proportionality Guide, issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (and Climate Policy) in April 2016. Are you willing to include in the framework agreement the following provision, which states that the liability is limited to three times the annual fee? “In deviation of article 21.3 of the ARVODI-2018 the following shall apply. The Contractor’s liability for any errors that would have been prevented if Contractor had exercised due care, is limited to a maximum of three times the fee paid and/or owed by the Contracting Authority for the specific services provided under the Contract from which the errors resulted. This limitation of liability shall not apply to liability that according to the applicable law cannot be restricted, to liability for death, bodily injury or damage to health and to liability in case of intent or gross negligence on the part of the Contractor.”	Not agreed. The Contracting Authority considers the liability limitation included in Article 21.3 Arvodi to be reasonable.

80	Arvodi	Security checks. Because of the protection of privacy of our employees and as a matter of good employment, we make an objection to show certifications of good conduct of our employees and/or let our employees submit to security checks by the Contracting Authority. We suggest the following. If necessary, we will guarantee in full the quality and integrity of our employees. When required we can perform a screening ourselves (by DSI) on employees who will carry out the assignment in question. We are willing to confirm the outcome of the screening to the Contracting Authority. Can you agree to the proceedings described in the above and, if yes, to declare the articles 15.2 and 15.3 of the ARVODI-2018 not applicable in the Contract?	Agreed.
81	Arvodi	Retention of information. Article 13.4 of the ARVODI does not provide us the possibility to maintain working papers, after the engagement is completed. We are, based on our bona fide retention policies obliged to keep working papers regarding the engagement for a certain retention period, which retention period starts running as from the date of completion of the engagement. Can you include the following provision in the framework agreement? “Contractor may keep a copy of the information to the extent this is required by applicable law, regulation, professional requirements and/or internal compliance or document retention policies, under the condition that Contractor will take all the appropriate measures to keep the information confidential. These files stay property of Contractor.”	Agreed. Please see answer to question 16.
82	Tenderdoc	In 3.4 you indicate the 'Requirements relating to the profile of a junior and a senior employee'. While the requirements are formulated in a way that implies the tenderer must demonstrate the requirements with a profile/CV of a junior and senior employee, this is not explicitly requested and no annex/format is included to provide information on the employees. Can you clarify if the tenderer should submit this information and if so, how (in what format)?	No CV's are required. The Tenderer explicitly consents to this and all other requirements and conditions specified in the Tender document and declares that he will continue to comply with these throughout the entirety of the contract period.
83	Tenderdoc	In 2.2 you state 'a separate proposal for each lot needs to be submitted addressing the specific criteria of each lot.' Can reference reports to meet the suitability requirements under 4.3.2 be used for both Lots? And is it allowed to submit a report for both lots carried out by a consortium for which one partner is included in one of the Lots?	See the answer to question 44 and 85. It is allowed to submit a report that is carried out by different parties. In that case we refer to section 7.3.16, p. 35: "If the principal contractor does rely on the capacity of subcontractors in order to demonstrate compliance with the applicable Suitability Requirements, then the subcontractor(s) in question must also complete and legally sign Part II C of the ‘European Single Procurement Document’."
84	Tenderdoc	In 3.1 you state 'Acceptance of independence of potential evaluators in the Further Agreement: Potential evaluators must have no previous, present or future involvement in the design of implementation of the program or project under evaluation, nor in the design, implementation or evaluation of a preceding project phase.' In our reading this requirement would also exclude organisations that have carried out previous (advising) studies and evaluations, from carrying out following evaluations. Is this requirement not to strictly described and should it not be possible for parties with sufficient independence from the design and implementation of the programme to carry out following evaluations?	This requirements does not exclude organisations that have carried out previous advising studies and evaluations from carrying out following evaluations. Indeed, parties with sufficient independence from the design and implementation of the programma can carry out a following evaluation assignment.

85	Tenderdoc	In 2.2 you state 'a separate proposal for each lot needs to be submitted addressing the specific criteria of each lot.' Regarding reference reports to meet the suitability requirements under 4.3.2, would meeting requirement 4 (Methods applied) for Lot 2 (testing a convincing cause-effect relationship) automatically imply meeting these for Lot 1 (testing a plausible cause-effect relationship)?	No, see also the answer to question 8. A reference report that meets the Suitability requirements under section 4.3.2 for Lot 2 does not automatically imply meeting these for Lot 1. Good outcome evaluations ask for different skills than good impact evaluations. These differences in skills we ask for are explained in section 2.2.1. For example, Lot 1 consists of evaluations for which only a small sample size can be analysed or for which data availability is limited. This doesn't mean that one study can never qualify for both Lots. For example, a larger study in which different methods are used, and outcomes and impacts of an intervention are discussed, can qualify for both. However, we recommend choosing a study for Lot 1 that best suits the requirements outlined in section 2.2.1 for Lot 1 and a study for Lot 2 that best suits the requirements outlined in section 2.2.1 for Lot 2. We also refer to table 3 on p. 12.
86	Tenderdoc	In 5.2.3 you state that 'The Tenderer – alone or in conjunction with the consortium/subcontractor(s) – must enclose maximum one evaluation report per lot'. Our understanding is that the submitted report can come from any of the consortium members, also a sub contractor. Is this correct?	We assume you mean section 5.2.1. It is correct that the submitted report can come from any of the consortium members, also a subcontractor. However, assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfilment of the Contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question (last paragraph section 5.2.1). See also the answer to question 2 and 74.
87	Tenderdoc	In 4.3.2 you state that; The reference assignment(s) must have been executed or completed within three years prior to the closing date for the submission of tenders. Tenderer assumes that if the publication date for the reference assignment is less than three years old this assignment is a valid reference assignment. Is this correct?	Yes, that is correct. See general announcement 3. The assignments have to be executed or completed within five years prior to the closing for the submission of tenders.
88	Tenderdoc	In 4.3.2 you state that; Consortium members must fulfil the Suitability Requirement jointly. If the Tender is submitted by a consortium, the reference assignments must cover at least one evaluation report from each consortium member or one report for which the consortium member was subcontracted. Tenderer assumes this applies to consortium members only and not for (possible) subcontractors. Is that correct?	Yes, that is correct.
89	Tenderdoc	In 3.1 you state that all tenderers should accept working according to the IOB Policy Guidelines for Evaluation. IN 1.2 you state that 'In order for IOB to do a proper evaluation of RVO's programs in accordance with the Order on Periodic Evaluations (https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0040754/2018-03-27), RVO is obliged to conduct external impact evaluations of the development programs that spend over € 10 million per year.' Does the IOB Policy also apply to Lot 1 (formative evaluations)?	Yes, the IOB Policy Guidelines for Evaluation apply for all the evaluations of RVO.
90	Tenderdoc	In 3.5 you state that the prices/rates must be all-inclusive, including travel and accommodation costs. In the max tariffs we must provide it is not possible to include travel and accommodation costs since they can vary a lot per assignment. Of course, we can include them in our individual offers for the individual assignments under this framework contract. Do you agree?	See also the answer to question 45. The requirements under section 3.5 apply to all prices provided in Further Agreements under the Contract. In section 5.2.7 we specifically ask for the daily tariff of a junior and senior employee, which should not include additional costs (travel, DSA, etc.).
91	Handwritten signature	In the light of the current circumstances (working from home) and travel restrictions, is a digital signature on the European Single Procurement Document accepted?	If obtaining a handwritten ("wet") signature poses insurmountable practical problems, a qualified electronic signature will suffice. The Contracting Authority must be able to rely on it that the person signing the ESPD is actually the right person.
92	Tender	Can the Tenderer include in its tender other sections than the sections outlined in Annex 7 (management of potential conflict of interest, CVs of experts, etc.)?	No. Please keep to the information requested in section 7.3.14.

93	p37, par 7.4.1	p37, par 7.4.1 Further agreements within the Contract •How many pages do you expect for the concept note? •How many pages do you expect for the full proposal? •Could you please elaborate on "Most economically advantageous full proposal". What are the scoring criteria?	The answer to these questions differs per Further Agreement. Upon contracting more information will be provided on the range of pages that can be expected for a Concept Note and a Full Proposal. The scoring criteria differs per Further Agreement as well. Upon contracting we also try to provide more information on the scoring criteria used in general. We refer to section 7.4.1 for the information available at the moment.
94	Par 2.2 Lots, p10	The Contracting Authority aims to select a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 10 contractors for lot 1 and a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 8 contractors for lot 2. The Tenderers can register for multiple lots and can therefore also be awarded multiple lots. Please note that registering for both lots can only be done if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party). Also, a separate proposal for each lot needs to be submitted addressing the specific criteria of each lot. According to par 7.3.16 it is possible to tender in a lead-sub construction. We intend to tender with 3 parties, A, B and C. Is it allowed to tender for lot 1 and 2 as follows: Lot 1: Lead Party A, subs Party B and C Lot 2: Lead party B, subs Party A and C	No. Please see general announcement 2.
95	Par. 1.3 Time schedule Tender, p8	Is it possible to extend the deadline for submission of the proposal? The reason is that searching for partners and specific requirements regarding M&E references is time consuming.	Please see general announcement 1.
96	section 3.1	In section 3.1 ; To what extent is an organization within the consortium sufficiently “independent” to contribute to an evaluation of a project or program when it has participated in the implementation of a similar project / program (for example, can you evaluate the PFW program when you have once submitted and won a proposal to PFW?)	An organization is not considered independent if it has participated in the implementation of a project of the programme under evaluation. However, this does not mean the Tenderer can not apply for the Framework Agreement itself, this only applies to specific Further Agreements under the Contract. See also the answer to question 1 and 84.
97	section 5.2.2. 10	In section 5.2.2. 10 points are appointed to local authority / knowledge research institute; would a local office of a consortium partner count as local authority...	Yes, this would count.
98		We have a question regarding our eligibility to submit for both lots and the difference between consortium and principal contractor-subcontractor relationship. We note that we can only register for both Lots if the composition of the consortium differs per lot (or one in consortium, one as a singular party). We would like to register for Lot 1 as a singular party and Lot 2 under the principal contractor-subcontractor relationship. Is this possible? Or do we need to register for Lot 1 as a singular party and then Lot 2 as a consortium?	See general announcement 2. Yes, it is possible to register for Lot 1 as a singular party and for Lot 2 in a principal contractor-subcontractor relationship or as a consortium.
99		· In section 3.5 (p. 17) it is stated that the prices offered for juniors and seniors must also include overhead costs and travel and accommodation costs. Since these other costs (government and travel and accommodation costs) vary greatly per study, can these costs be kept out of the pricing for juniors and seniors?	See the answer to question 45 and 56.

100		On page 10 you indicate that offers for both lots may not be submitted by one and the same consortium. We see great advantages in submitting with the same consortium for both lots. Can you indicate why this is not possible?	See general announcement 2. Yes, it is indeed not possible for the same Tenderer to apply for both lots. Each lot has a very different emphasis (as set out in section 2.2.1) and we hope to attract parties for each lot that align very well with the lot's specific requirements.
101		Is it permissible for the same parties to opt for one lot in the consortium form and to register for the other lot as a 'principal contractor-subcontractor' construction?	See general announcement 2. It is not considered a different composition if the same parties opt for one lot as a consortium and for the other lot as a principal contractor-subcontractor construction. It is required that the Tenderer consists of different parties per lot.
102		In section 7.3.16 you indicate the conditions that must be met if a subcontractor is used. You refer to Part II D and Part II C. The enclosed Annex 01 does not contain Part II D and Part II C. Can you indicate which party (main contractor / subcontractor) must fill in which information in Annex 01 and whether both parties must also sign the documents?	Please follow the instructions in paragraph 1.5. of Annex 01.
103		In annex 7, one evaluation report must be provided that is assessed on technical ability and experience in evaluation methods. The following is stated: The object of the evaluation report must be comparable with the concerned key competency. What exactly is meant by this? Does the specified report have to meet all four criteria, or is one of the criteria sufficient? If the latter is the case, can you indicate which criterion the report must meet?	See the answer to question 5.
104		You ask for references that are not older than 3 years (at the time of submission). We have also gained a lot of relevant experience before 2017; can you indicate where we can show this expertise in the offer?	See general announcement 3. The reference assignment(s)/evaluation report must have been executed or completed within five years prior to the closing date for the submission of Tenders.
105		You indicate on page 34 (7.3.15) that a digital signature is not allowed. In view of the corona era, does this provision still apply?	Please see the answer to question 91.
106		You indicate on page 10 that a tender must be submitted for each lot in order to address the lot-specific criteria. Is it permitted to use the more general references twice (one for each lot)?	See the answer to question 44.