



Social Economic Council (SER)
– Assessment tool on International
Responsible Business Conduct –
Market consultation



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1 | Introduction

This document presents a market consultation intended to explore the solutions available in the market that may address the needs of the SER. The SER operates a program referred to as IMVO (or International Responsible Business Conduct; IRBC in English) which requires a tool that enables external companies to submit data to meet their reporting obligations.

Through this market consultation, the organization aims to further examine and understand the options currently offered by the market that could support these requirements.

1.1 | Client Social Economic Council (SER)

The Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER) is an advisory body in which entrepreneurs, employees and independent experts work together to reach agreement on important social and economic issues. The SER advises the Dutch Government and Parliament on social and economic policy. Furthermore, the SER also facilitates agreements. Examples are the creation of the Dutch Energy Agreement for Sustainable Growth and various agreements on International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC). In addition, the SER conducts administrative tasks, for example to promote employee participation. The SER is an independent government body in the Netherlands.

1.2 | Background market consultation

The SER has a program for International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC). The Netherlands is part of the OECD and as such Dutch companies are required to do due diligence as described in the OECD principles. Dutch companies practice trade, investments, and other business activities across international borders. These international operations contain risks such as human right violations or environmental damage. Practicing IRBC means that a company actively seeks to manage these risks in its production chain.

To support companies with their due diligence, the SER facilitates several IRBC Sector Agreements. These are multistakeholder initiatives in which companies, industry associations, trade unions, NGOs, and knowledge institutes work together on due diligence in a certain sector and agree on a set of goals. The SER and her IRBC program handle the secretariat's duties for these sector agreements. Companies that are part of a sector agreement must report (bi-)annually on their execution of due diligence in an assessment framework. The secretariat subsequently assesses the reports by the companies.

The SER has the responsibility to provide the participants of the IRBC sector agreements with the infrastructure to adhere to their reporting mandate. In the past, each sector had its own assessment framework. For reasons of scalability, the SER intends to create a cross-sectoral assessment tool. Therefore, an informal tendering procedure with multiple invited suppliers for such a tool will be created.



1.3 | Goal of this market consultation

With this market consultation we would like to obtain information from the market to help us to refine our upcoming informal tendering procedure with multiple invited suppliers. We would like to achieve the following two goals with this market consultation:

Assessment of the program of Requirements

We would like to verify whether the requirements are realistic and feasible for the current market. We want to ensure that our program of requirements is aligned with the capabilities and expectations of the market.

Determine market interest

We would like to determine if there are sufficient parties interested and willing to participate in the upcoming informal tendering procedure with multiple invited suppliers.

We would like to thank you in advance for your efforts. With all the information we want to better align our request to what the market has to offer.

2 | The intended assignment

2.1 | Description

The intended assignment is to supply and maintain software that fulfills the needs mentioned in the statement of requirements. This software will enable SER to provide the necessary infrastructure for participants in the IRBC sector agreements to meet their reporting obligations. The main purpose of the software is to facilitate a platform on which data is gathered in a questionnaire format e.g., assessment tooling, questionnaire tooling, or form tooling.

Every company that has signed an IRBC sector agreement has to complete their (two-)yearly reporting obligation before the end of October. In total there will be over five hundred unique companies using this system. They report by answering predetermined questions and submit supporting evidence and justification by uploading documents. The assessment will consist of a set of around fifty cross-sectoral questions and a limited number of sector-specific questions (around 8-10). The questions will remain mostly the same for every reporting cycle.

The scope of the future assignment:

- The supply and maintenance of a software tool that complies with the statement of requirements (see attachment 2).
 - Provide hosting services for the software.
- A support service for users and administrators of the software.
 - This will take form as an SLA.



2.1.1 | Financing and budget

For supplying the tool and financing maintenance, hosting, and bug-fixing in 2026 **65.000 to 80.000 euros excl. VAT** will be available. For hosting, maintenance and if possible, updates with new features in the subsequent years (2027, 2028, 2029) **15.000 to 30.000 euros excl. VAT** will be available. The intended project timeline will be: 2026 to 2029. In the event the existing government subsidy continues beyond 2029 an extension will be possible.

2.2 | Planning

Activity	Date
Publication of market consultation	10-12-2025
Response deadline for participants in the market consultation	15-01-2026
Discussion round(s)	21-01-2026
Target date publication market consultation report	Approximately 30-01-2026

2.3 | Market consultation report

A summary of this market consultation will be created and anonymized. All information that can be traced back to a specific supplier or product will not be shared.

3 | Procedure market consultation

3.1 | Procedure and methodology

To minimize the workload for respondents the SER has chosen to put together a questionnaire. Answering the questions is to be done inside the document and by uploading it to TenderNed. Input and feedback on the Statement of Requirements is done within the documents in the last column of the requirements table. This document needs to be uploaded to TenderNed. If you are interested in participating in this market consultation, we ask you to submit your input and answers before 15-01-2026. The questionnaire mentioned can be found in attachment one. The Statement of Requirements can be found in Attachment 2.

3.2 | Discussion Round

The SER will analyze the written responses and reserves the right to invite selected parties for an in-depth discussion based on this analysis. This is explicitly not a selection process, and no rights can be derived from it. The SER also reserves the right not to invite interested parties for a follow-up discussion. Parties will be invited to an in-depth discussion based on diversity in responses to obtain the most comprehensive possible picture. These discussions will take place on the date indicated in the schedule.

The expected duration of each discussion is approximately one hour. The SER project team anticipates individual meetings with interested parties. All discussions will take place online (through MS Teams). The discussions will have an interactive character, where SER aims to explore topics in greater depth that require further clarification. This deepening will be guided by the written responses you have submitted.



3.3 | Contact

During this market consultation Pepijn Stufkens will be the primary contact. He can be contacted through the TenderNed message module or on the following phone number: +31(0)6 4206 0525.

3.4 | Information notice

This market consultation will have an information notice. All questions can be asked through the message module in TenderNed.

3.4 | Conditions

Participating in this market consultation has the following conditions:

- This document is not a tender and cannot be seen as an assignment in any way.
- The SER will not reimburse any costs for partaking in this market consultation.
- Participants cannot derive any rights from their participation.
- Participants will not get any preferential treatment in the upcoming informal tendering procedure with multiple invited suppliers by participating in this market consultation.
- The SER will not share any information that is marked as confidential.
- The market consultation language(s) are English or Dutch.
- The information shared in this market consultation can differ from the information that will be shared in the upcoming informal tendering procedure with multiple invited suppliers.
- Responding to this market consultation does not guarantee an invitation for the upcoming informal tendering procedure with multiple invited suppliers.