



TENDER SPECIFICATION FOR THE EU CO-FUNDED ACTION

Pillars of the Sea 3: Project implementing part of the SSDC Work Programme roadmap towards socially sustainable fishing

Grant Agreement Project 101051878

External contractor: Development of a training programme for the medical examination of fishers

Brussels, 12 October 2022

1. Background

Sea fishing is a remote and challenging professional activity. The International Maritime Organization Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (IMO STCW-F) and the International Labour Organization Convention Work in Fishing (ILO C188) are the most relevant instruments in regard to working conditions and occupational health of fishers. According to article 10 of the ILO C188, no fisherman shall work on board a fishing vessel without a valid medical certificate. However, in contrast with merchant seafarers who are covered by the joint ILO/IMO guidelines on medical examination, no specific guidelines for the medical examination of fishers existed.

Therefore, in the previous project 'Pillars of the Sea 2: Project implementing part of the SSDC Work Programme' (VS/2019/0013), the Social Partners for Sea Fisheries have together with the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) developed appropriate criteria for the medical fitness for fishers within the EU to harmonise the existing systems of medical examinations of fishers within the Member States.

These Guidelines, published in 2021¹, also suggest additional requirements in the competences of the medical practitioners to contribute towards the harmonisation of standards for the medical examinations of fishers and to improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care provided for fishers. There is evidence that fishers often operate under stressful working conditions, long workhours, lack of good sleep, unhealthy diet, and lack of physical exercises, that contributes to fatigue, impaired well-being, mental ill-health, stress, and chronic diseases. As the medical practitioners may not be trained in health and safety prevention in fishing, it is recommended that the competent authorities develop a training programme to comply with the requirements, as evidently the competency of authorised medical practitioners is of crucial importance to the fishing industry. Such requirements include initial training when first authorised and continuing training in the specific occupational health risk for fishers and the notification of diseases and injuries that may be identified as part of the medical examination to ensure ongoing knowledge and competency.

As a continuation of the guidelines on examination, the Social Partners aim to develop this training programme for authorised medical practitioners performing the medical examination of fishers and

¹ [EU Guidelines on the medical examinations of fishers.](#)

issuing medical certificates. It is essential that training can be given via guidance which fit the specificities of sea fishers.

The medical practitioners should be experienced in general and occupational medicine, and in the fisher's occupational health risks and prevention. Additionally, they should have knowledge of the living and working conditions on board fishing vessels, the job demands on board and in the harbour, such as unloading the catch and work in port in so far they relate to the effects of health. Their competency is of crucial importance to the fishing industry as authorised medical practitioners who perform medical examinations of fishers may also perform occupational health examinations.

2. Purpose of the contract

The contract is aimed at providing Social Partners with the specific expertise on occupational health and safety for maritime professions, required to perform the above-mentioned action.

3. Tasks to be performed by the contractor

3.1 Description of tasks

The contractor should perform the following tasks:

- Research existing maritime medical practitioners' training programmes. National training programmes (if any) must be analysed and may be of use as best practices for a uniform European training programme.
- Develop a training programme for medical practitioners. Using the existing guidelines on the medical examination of fishers, a training for the medical examination will be written and documented.

The contractor will be required to attend 5 steering group meetings and 1 conference.

3.2 Guidance and indications on tasks execution and methodology

The contractor will work under the guidance of the project's steering group and of the ETF and Europêche's Secretariats. The deadlines for deliverables will be set jointly by the contractor and the project partners according to the project's timeline.

4. Expertise required

Candidates should meet the following criteria:

- Sound expertise on maritime health and especially in the subjects included in the scope of the action.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Sound experience in drafting documents and reports.
- Respect of budgetary constraints.

5. Time schedule and reporting

The contractor will be required to work for a total of 70 days between December 2022 and August 2024, including the participation to steering group meetings and the final conference (the first meeting will take place on 7 December 2022 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands). The time schedule for deliverables and reports will be established jointly by the contractor and the project partners according to the project's timeline and will be indicated in the contract signed by the two parties.

6. Payments and standard contract

The contractor will receive an advance and a final payment according to the time and modalities that will be indicated in the contract between the parties. The project promoter will draft a contract which will be submitted to the contractor.

7. Price

The maximum budget available is EUR 35,000 VAT included. This does not include travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses related to the attendance of meetings, which will be reimbursed upon the presentation of receipts if previously authorized by the project promoters. The amount eligible for reimbursement follows the thresholds set in the project's budget and the general European Social Fund+ Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines Guidelines (Version 1.0, 1 June 2021).

8. Legal obligations

The basis of the contract is the grant agreement between the European Commission and Européche. The terms of this grant agreement are also applicable to the Contractor.

9. Selection criteria

The offers will be examined by the Steering Committee against the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Value
Price	Best value for money	30 per cent
Quality and expertise	Proven expertise as specified in point 4.	40 per cent
Approach	Structured and open approach	10 per cent
Ability to write and speak in clear and concise English		20 per cent
TOTAL:		100 per cent

10. Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the best value for money – taking into account the evidence provided to prove their expertise in the fields indicated under point 4. The respect of the principles of transparency and equal treatment with a view to avoid any conflict of interest will be undertaken. It should be noted that the contract will not be awarded to a tenderer that receives less than 70 % of the award criteria.

11. Content and presentation of the bids

11.1 Content of the bids

The bids must indicate how candidates meet the criteria listed above, present a draft working plan, a draft schedule for the tasks to be performed and indicate the total price of the consultancy. In case of bids submitted by individual candidates, a CV should be attached. This should include a list of publications and works done by the applicant in the fields relevant for the tasks to be performed. References should also be provided.

In case of bids submitted by organisations, a list of the organisation's activities in fields relevant for the tasks to be performed should be attached as well as the CVs of the people who will be involved in the project. Organisations should also indicate a contact person who will be responsible for the supervision of the tasks and who will report to the project promoters.

Only bids in English will be considered.

11.2 Presentation of the bids

Bids must be submitted by email to: rosalie.tukker@europeche.org by **10 November 2022**. The title of the task for which the candidate applies must be specified in the bid.