

**DK-Copenhagen: call for expressions of interest to support the
development of decision support tools for strategic environmental policies**

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No EEA/IEA/09/001

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1. Contracting authority:

European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050 Copenhagen K, DENMARK. Tel. +45 33367100. Fax +45 33367199. E-mail: procurement@eea.europa.eu

2. Type:

Notice of a call for expressions of interest (CEI) to support the development of decision support tools for strategic environmental policy issues with the following objectives:

A. Support the application of available analytical tools (e.g. models) and methods (e.g. scenarios) at all levels to the simulation of policy options for strategic policy decisions, building on methods (e.g. accounting, spatial analysis) developed at EE A, and using relevant European data sets.

B. Support the development of visualisation tools, model interfaces and diffusion methods at different spatial and temporal scales (including web, games, capacity strengthening), so as to provide decision support tools in the appropriate format for decision makers.

C. Support the EEA in applying the tools/methods or results obtained under A and B to its integrated environmental assessments, most notably, its mandated 5-year state and outlook reports (2010, 2015) and the European Ecosystem Assessment (Eureca) 2012.

Projects carried out under the auspices of this CEI should deal with strategic issues from a short-term (1–3 years), medium-term (5–10 years) and long-term perspective (10–50 years). They will cover the area of EU-27 as a minimum, but ideally all EEA member countries (for a list of EEA member and collaborating countries, see <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/countries>).

Natural or legal persons interested are invited to submit an application in accordance with the provisions stated in this notice. The contracting authority will draw up a list of candidates meeting the criteria in point 8 below. This list will comprise sub-lists corresponding to each of the 3 fields described in point 5.

Each time the contracting authority intends to conclude a contract relating to 1 or more of the fields described in point 5, a selection, based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria, of all or some of the candidates on the relevant sub-list(s) will be made, followed by an invitation to the selected candidates to submit a tender in accordance with the tender documentation. Should the contracting department have to set a maximum number of candidates who will be invited to submit a tender for a given contract, the number is 15.

Inclusion on the list entails no obligation on the part of the contracting authority to send an invitation to tender to candidates on the sub-list(s), or to award them a contract.

3. The list resulting from this notice will be used exclusively for public contracts of the following types:

— Service contracts under Annex IIA to Directive 2004/18/EC, except for research and development contracts in category 8 in that Annex, worth less than an estimated 133 000 EUR.

— Research and development service contracts in category 8 of Annex IIA to Directive 2004/18/EC worth less than an estimated 206 000 EUR.

4. Background for this CEI:

The challenges decision makers in the environmental policy arena face today differ substantially from the challenges faced back when European environmental policy was started and subsequently extended into its current format and structure.

Since the 1970s, the focus of European environmental policy has been primarily on the design and implementation of EU environmental legislation, with a main focus on regulation and standard-setting, and multilateral environmental agreements. Over the last 30 years, Europeans have seen emissions of air pollutants significantly reduced, production of ozone-layer damaging chemicals cut by 95 %, creation of a treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protection of animals and plants, improvements in the quality of fresh water and coastal seas, and universal access to safe drinking water. Many of these improvements have been delivered through implementation of the environmental 'acquis communautaire'.

Since the early 1990s, rapid globalisation of the economy and fast changing patterns of increasing consumption, as reflected in growing urbanisation, transport and energy use, tourism and trade, have amplified pressures on natural resources, especially ecosystem services on which our livelihoods depend, increasing impacts and vulnerability due to climate change, and more multi-faceted exposure of people to a range of environmental stressors — air quality, noise, chemicals to name a few. The repercussions on the strategic decision-making agenda in the environmental policy arena are highly visible. One example is climate change where the policy focus has shifted from a primary attention to limiting greenhouse gas emissions, to how to adapt to the expected impacts and increased vulnerability caused by climate change. Another example is the field of protecting biodiversity where a similar shift has occurred from a primary focus on implementation of the nature directives, to halting biodiversity loss by 2010, to maintaining the health and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services through market and other mechanisms. Similar shifts in policy focus can be seen for other strategic environmental policy priorities.

As a consequence of these changes and dynamics, some of the main capacities of the environment to buffer disturbance have been altered. We can no longer take for granted a sustained flow of goods and services, underpinned by healthy ecosystems that are essential to our economic and social well-being. This is no longer a 'simple' environmental policy agenda. These rapidly evolving policy domains need analytical approaches that bridge the gap between decision makers' realities and what is available and possible through using and adapting existing analytical tools, methods and data, so as to better meet these realities. It is no longer enough to support decision makers only with assessments based on compliance with legislative requirements; or with selected indicators that highlight key trends and prospects; or to rely mainly on reactive policy responses. It is also no longer justifiable to continue only targeting decision makers with ready-made simulations of possible futures derived, for example, from deterministic modelling tools that are opaque concerning the methods used, inflexible in allowing decision makers to adapt and explore assumptions under different policy options, and incomplete when it comes to using available data.

Instead, what is needed are approaches that provide support to decision makers, not answers; that allow decision makers to play with options as they do in their day-to-day business; and that allow the marrying of quantitative analysis and qualitative judgments (precautionary principle, managing uncertainties, proactive and flexible responses) in support of decisions to be taken.

Over the years, activities have been stepped up at the European level to address these challenges, especially via the European research framework programmes. The EEA has already reviewed models geared towards use in interactive settings (http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/technical_report_2008_11). What is needed now are mechanisms that bring these activities into a more operational environment that allows for real, effective support to decision-making on strategic environmental policy.

The background motivation for this CEI provides a challenging backdrop against which those expressing interest should consider the contribution they may be able to make. The main aim is not to create new tools but

rather to use what already exists to produce assessments and create 'what if' scenarios. Tools should reduce complexity, be transparent and user-friendly, and be aimed at decision makers rather than experts.

5. **Description of fields covered by this CEI:**

Against this background, the EEA would like to establish the following 3 sub-lists:

A. Support to gathering and understanding existing tools and methods that can help strategic decision making. Tools should enable multidisciplinary approaches (such as tackling a specific problem from various economic, ecological, engineering or agronomic perspectives), comprise inter-disciplinary approaches (linking different disciplines) and/or foster trans-disciplinary approaches (bring together researchers, policy-makers, stakeholders). Activities under this sub-list include providing overviews of existing tools, providing access to these tools, if needed providing training in applying these tools to EEA staff and key stakeholders, and providing information for further improvement needs.

B. Support to the development of appropriate software, information and visualisation tools (including interfaces to link existing models), where needed, and support to the development of diffusion methods (including web, interactive games). They should be designed in an appropriate format for decision making at different spatial and temporal scales. This includes also support to the integration and use of the results in EEA's assessment-related activities.

C. Support to applying existing decision-support tools to develop and explore policy options for strategic policy decisions, both in a desktop environment and within broader conference or workshop settings, and both as a one-time activity or in a more continuous, iterative way. This should be based on a range of analytical approaches, 'inter alia' scenarios, simulation, fuzzy logic, and opinion polling. It is important to note that the main output is not to predict one future situation, rather to explore 'what if' based on defined policy options and the impact of such options. This includes also support to the integration and use of the results in EEA assessments through written contributions based on guidelines provided by EEA.

6. **Validity:**

The compiled list/sub-lists will remain valid for 3 years from the date of dispatch of this CEI to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see point 11). Applications may be submitted at any time during this period with the exception of the last 3 months (as per postmark, courier and hand deliveries at 16:00). Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications must be sent by post or hand delivery, applications sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the candidate to inform the European Environment Agency (EEA) immediately of any changes to their administrative, technical or financial details which would result in a change to their original application.

7. **Legal form for groups of economic operators/consortia:**

Applications may be submitted by groups of economic operators/consortia which, if included in the list/sub-lists and invited to tender, may tender as a group/consortium. If a group/consortium is awarded a contract, it may be required to adopt a legal form by incorporation or partnership enabling it to contract as a single entity if such change is necessary for the proper performance of the contract. Consortia must identify 1 of their members as coordinator which will interface with the Agency. Each consortium member must fulfil the conditions for participation mentioned under 8.

8. **Criteria**

8.1. **Exclusion criteria (see application form for further details):**

Information and formalities necessary for evaluating if requirements are met:

Exclusion criteria — To be eligible for participation in this contract award procedure, candidates must not be in any of the exclusion situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No

1605/2002 of 25.6.2002, OJ L 248 of 16.9.2002 as last modified by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 of 13.12.2006, OJ L 390/1 of 30.12.2006. To that effect candidates are required to submit a declaration of honour (see sheet B of the application form) in accordance with Article 134 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23.12.2002, OJ L 357/1 as last modified by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 of 23.04.2007, OJ L 111/13. Under the same provision, the applicant to whom the contract is to be awarded will be required to produce evidence confirming the prior declaration unless this obligation is waived by the contracting authority.

8.2. Selection criteria:

Legal status: Applicants shall provide an identification sheet (sheet A of the application form) duly filled out and signed, a copy of inscription in a trade register, where applicable, and a copy of inscription in VAT registers.

Economic and financial capacity: Any candidate is requested to provide proof of economic and financial capacity by 1 or more of the following documents:

- appropriate statements from banks or evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance,
- balance sheets or extracts from balance sheets for at least the last 2 years for which accounts have been closed, where publication of the balance sheet is required under the company law of the country in which the candidate is established,
- a statement of overall turnover during the last 3 financial years.

If, for some exceptional reason, which the contracting authority considers justified, the candidate is unable to provide the references requested by the contracting authority, he may prove his economic and financial capacity by any other means which the contracting authority considers appropriate.

Technical and professional capacity: Evidence of the technical and professional capacity of candidates shall be furnished on the basis of the following documents:

- the educational and professional qualifications of the service provider relevant to the chosen field(s), A, B and C described under Section 5 and, in particular, those of lead persons responsible for providing the services, namely the following: minimum 3 CVs of key experts/researchers per field documenting minimum 5 years of professional experience each in that field,
- details of tools and methods either developed or supported over the past 3 years or so that are relevant to the selected field(s) described under Section 5, with clarification on the sums, dates and recipients, whether public or private,
- information on the candidate's working languages (please note that the working language of the EEA is English),
- an indication of the candidate's environmental management measures/system.

9. Further information:

The full list of information, formalities and documents to be supplied by persons interested can be found in the application form which can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders/calls-for-expression-of-interest>

10. Submission of applications:

a) Address: The applications should be sent to the European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050 Copenhagen K, DENMARK. Envelopes must be clearly marked: 'Call for Expression of Interest (CEI): Decision support tools — EEA/IEA/09/001'.

b) The original and 2 copies of the application must be placed together inside 1, sealed envelope, which is to be marked: 'Not to be opened by the EEA's internal mail service'. This sealed envelope is then to be placed inside another sealed envelope and to be sent to the address mentioned above.

c) The candidates must specify in which sub-list(s) they are interested.

11. Date of dispatch of notice:

13.5.2009.

12. **Date of receipt of notice by the Publications Office:**

13.5.2009.