

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) Limited International Competition (LIC)

Country of Destination: Global

Reference Number: 2017.03.ODL/PWD

Description: Localization of the Guidelines and Plan of Action (ODL)

Deadline for Submission of EOI: 6 April 2017

Posting Date: 17 March 2017

United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) hereby invite qualified entities (Higher Educational Institution delivering the Open and Distance Learning) to submit their expression of interest for a planned solicitation process as follows:

Piloting and localization of UNESCO's document entitled "Learning for All: [Guidelines](#) on the Inclusion of Learner with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning". The final deliverable is a detailed Plan of Action for making higher education delivering Open and Distance Learning (ODL) more inclusive for learners with disabilities.

Following the above-mentioned document, the detailed Plan of Action should include (i) assessment and analysis of current situation using the matrix of actions and technical annexes; (ii) identification of key challenges and opportunities, as well as (iii) concrete actions and recommendations for different educational stakeholders in order to make ODL inclusive for all learners.

The final delivery date is 15 November 2017.

Guidelines: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002443/244355e.pdf>

Objectives and Scope

The qualified entity shall apply the guidelines (above-mentioned) developed by UNESCO in own organization or selected educational institutions delivering ODL on inclusion of students with disabilities and application of inclusive and accessible Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The qualified entity should follow the recommendations and guidelines provided in the above-mentioned document, including matrix and technical annexes.

Based on the assessment results, the Plan of Action shall be prepared, including a detailed analysis of challenges, opportunities for future actions, processes and content used at educational institution delivery ODL as well as other elements. The Plan of Action should also provide information about concrete activities targeting governments, educational institutions delivering ODL, instructors and quality assurance and qualifications recognition bodies.

Should be a need, the qualified entity shall revise technical annexes and recommendations of the above-mentioned document.

The Plan of Action shall be written in a simple and factual style to appeal to a higher education and ODL community, and policy and decision makers, while specifically keeping in mind the various other stakeholders actively involved in developing inclusive ODL (Quality Assurance and Qualifications Recognition bodies, industry involved in the ODL, and other).

The Plan of Action shall be written in English. The qualified entity is expected to bring prior knowledge on the topic and draw from existing research. The final deliverable will be released under the Creative Commons license (CC BY).

Context and purpose

Approximately 15 per cent of the population, representing some 1 billion people in the world have a disability. This figure is accelerating in line with population increases, growing poverty, natural disasters, ongoing conflicts and an aging population. With such a large number of people living with a disability, it is vital that access to educational opportunities would be widely available to all learners.

In this regard, opportunities for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) may provide some solutions to the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities in accessing information and education. Furthermore, access to information and knowledge is recognized as one of the key fundamental human rights. Without access to reliable information and effective communication means, it is difficult to ensure an effective, inclusive and open learning and teaching process. Moreover, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) emphasizes access to education among other issues as an important consideration towards making reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

Key points to be considered

The qualified entity shall take into account the key concepts and principles of the UN CRPD and apply the guidelines developed by UNESCO. The qualified entity shall furthermore apply human rights based approach and gender equality principles when analyzing the actions, processes and content provided for learners with disabilities. Furthermore, information / web accessibility should be considered as one of the quality education criteria.

Expected Procurement Components

The guidelines should be piloted in higher educational institution delivering ODL or which provides open and distance learning programmes, as well as considers making changes at institutional level.

The final deliverable is a detailed Plan of Action for making higher education delivering ODL more inclusive for learners with disabilities. Following the above-mentioned document, the detailed Plan of Action should include:

- assessment and analysis of current situation using the matrix of actions and technical annexes;
- identification of key challenges and opportunities, as well as
- concrete actions and recommendations for different educational stakeholders in order to make ODL inclusive for all learners.

Special Procurement Conditions and Additional Information:

In order to be considered, interested entities should submit their Expression of Interest including the following information:

- brief presentation of your organization including number of staff, turnover, years in business;
- reference list demonstrating your qualifications for participating in this possible upcoming solicitation process (at least two CVs of staff to be involved);
- quotation regarding the fees to carry out the work using annexed form (see Annex I), including a provisional timeline;
- contact information (full name and address, country, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, website and contact person).

The Expression of Interest and accompanying documents (max. 10 pages) must be received by UNESCO no later than **6 April 2017, 18.00 p.m. Paris (France) time**. Expressions of Interest can be sent by e-mails: [i.kasinskaite\(at\)unesco.org](mailto:i.kasinskaite@unesco.org) and [z.varoglu\(at\)unesco.org](mailto:z.varoglu@unesco.org).

This request for Expression of Interest does not constitute a solicitation. No further details of the planned solicitation can be made available prior to issuance of the solicitation documents.

UNESCO reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. UNESCO also reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final solicitation documents.

Submitting a reply to a call for EOI does not automatically guarantee receipt of the solicitation documents when issued. Invitations to Bid or Requests for Proposals and any subsequent purchase order or contract will be issued in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNESCO.

UNESCO Contact Information

Communication and Information Sector

Knowledge Societies Division

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Annex I

Budget in US dollars

Cost Elements Description	Year 1	Total
Staff		
Travel costs	-	-
International experts/Consultants	-	-
Administrative and Technical support staff	-	-
United Nations Volunteers	-	-
National experts	-	-
Total Staff	-	-
Subcontracts	-	-
Training, seminars and meetings	-	-
Equipment	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-
Subtotal – direct costs	-	-
TOTAL	-	-