

Title: Economics of soils in (peri-)urban context

Reference: Negotiated procedure EEA/NSV/13/008

The European Environment Agency (EEA) envisages awarding a contract to a service provider for support on a project on the role of soils in contributing to, or adversely affecting, the functioning of (peri-)urban areas (delineated as urban morphological zones [UMZs]) in the EEA-39 (32 member countries and 7 cooperating countries), with particular focus on the economic ramifications thereof.

Type of contract:

Service contract for duration of 5 months as from the date of its signature or until 15.11.2013, whichever date comes first

Estimated value:

EUR 25000 excluding VAT

Place of delivery or of performance:

At the contractor's premises with one travel to Brussels

Description of the services to be procured:

Background:

Soils are part of the natural capital which supports the economy and well-being of the society, including in (peri-)urban areas. Whether or not this capital is efficiently used, both in terms of the amount (quantity) and the services it can provide to society (quality), largely depends on the management of soils and their functions (biomass production; storage, filtration and transformation of nutrients and water; carbon pool; biodiversity pool; platform for human activities; provision of raw materials; cultural and natural heritage). Thus, the economic importance of soils will not only depend on the stocks and flows of the soil resource, but also on how efficiently the soil functions are being 'exploited' and, in particular, what the related costs and benefits of specific uses and management actions to society are. Comparing costs and benefits of alternatives implies the consideration of choices made on trade-offs between alternative sectoral uses (e.g. urban brownfield remediation and subsequent use for infrastructure versus land take of good agricultural soil in the absence of such remediation). In addition, governance will often play a decisive role in resource management, since it guides policy and sets the framework for (spatial) planning instruments. An analysis of the economics of soil/land in (peri-)urban context should thus also take account of institutional settings, in particular in identifying what the role of governance can be in supporting the significance of soils in the (resource) efficiency of urban and peri-urban areas.

Thus, by looking into how well the soil functions are being 'exploited', or contrarily, how unnecessary land and soil take reduces the overall availability and quality of soils in (peri-)urban context, and the economic (costs-benefits) implications thereof, the project should generate knowledge on soil/land-related resource efficiency in (peri-)urban context. The latter is expected to have a bearing on the functioning/malfunctioning of urban and peri-urban areas.

The project should deliver the following:

1. Overview of relevant literature (scientific, local strategic documents, etc.) on economics of soil/land in (peri-)urban context (e.g. costs-benefits of soil remediation), including governance aspects (e.g. in relation to responsibility in spatial planning). In addition, and where relevant, the link with EU policies should be mentioned. Of particular importance in this respect are the Soil Thematic Strategy¹ and the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe², in particular the aim of 'no net land take by 2050'
2. Cases/examples of successes and failures (in terms of resource efficiency) where soil has been considered in (peri-)urban management
3. Lessons learnt from the above, so as to provide an overview of resource efficiency aspects to be taken into account when the role of soil/land is considered in (peri-)urban context, with differentiation between (groups of) countries, where relevant
4. Participation in and help in organising a stakeholder workshop (planned for 2nd part of October in Brussels) where, among others, potential end users can discuss the findings
5. Integration of the stakeholder workshop findings in the final report

Scheduled starting date of contract (indicative):

01.07.2013

Registration of interest:

Interested candidates shall register their interest by email to procurement@eea.europa.eu by **08.05.2013** at the latest, quoting the title and reference No of this negotiated procedure in the subject field of the message and providing the following information:

- Name (of individual or organisation/company)
- Address (of individual or organisation/company)
- Contact person
- E-mail
- Description of main area of business / expertise (max. 500 words)

Your personal information above will be processed solely for the purpose of this negotiated procedure in accordance with the rules set in Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJEU L 8/1 of 12.1.2001). For further detailed information please refer to the privacy statement available on the EEA external website at the following address: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders/privacy-statement>

¹ COM(2006) 231

² COM(2011) 571

Description of the tendering procedure:

On the basis of the pre-assessment of the information provided, the EEA will draw up a list of the most suitable candidates and will forward to all or some of them (at least three candidates) by e-mail an invitation to submit a tender in accordance with the tender specifications by a set deadline. The tender submitted will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria specified in the tender specifications. During the negotiation phase after the submission of the tenders, selected candidates may be required to adapt their tender to the requirements set in the tender specifications in order to find the solution offering the best value for money.

Candidates shall note that registration of interest to participate in the above-mentioned procedure entails no obligation on the part of the EEA to send an invitation to tender to candidates or to award them a contract. Please note that no replies will be sent to unselected candidates.