

CALL FOR TENDERS

External Auditor for a Project Co-funded by the European Union

Project: « Enable, Upgrade and Spread Employability, Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills of the Eastern Mediterranean youth through dedicated university centers »

EUSEEDS_A_T_3.1_0172

Reference:

Publication date: 8 December 2025

Submission deadline: 9 January 2026

The purpose of this call for tenders is to select an external financial auditor responsible for auditing all expenditures incurred by **the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) (Nicosia, Cyprus)** within the framework of the project "EUSEEDS_A_T_3.1_0172", co-funded by the European Union under the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.

The audit will be carried out by an organisation or an independent expert officially authorised in the Country to perform financial audits. **CSI** will provide the external auditors with full access to its premises and to all necessary documents. Audit services will cover the entire implementation period of the EUSEEDS_A_T_3.1_0172 project, up to the closure of the implementation phase.

The auditor must carry out the assigned tasks in accordance with the implementation procedures established by the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.

1. About the EUSEEDS Project

The EUSEEDS project has been selected for co-funding by the European Union up to EUR 2,499,564.20 (89%) under the Interreg NEXT MED Programme. The total project budget, including partner co-funding, amounts to EUR 2,808,499.10.

The project is implemented across five Eastern Mediterranean countries to strengthen youth employability and digital skills.

It foresees the establishment (creation or revitalisation) of 20 university centres across five countries (Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) to enhance professional integration and digital competences among young people.

These centres, located on university campuses in areas with significant social needs, will provide sustainable services (during and beyond the project):

- Internal services for universities (for students and recent graduates): employability and digital skills training, micro-certifications, and pre-incubation schemes for student entrepreneurship projects;
- External services for vulnerable community members: digital literacy and professional training delivered by students, accessible to surrounding communities.

Consortium:

The project is led by AUF Middle East, acting as lead partner of a consortium composed of:

- Partner 1: Center for Social Innovation (Cyprus);
- Partner 2: Enroot (Egypt);
- Partner 3: Aix-Marseille University (France);
- Partner 4: Jordan Youth Innovation Forum (Jordan);
- Partner 5: Forward Digital Mena (Lebanon);
- Partner 6: Palestine Information and Communications Technology Incubator (Palestine).

Project duration : 3 years

Start date : 27-08-2025

End date : 26-08-2028

2. Purpose of the Call for Tenders

The purpose of this call is to select an external auditor to carry out the audit of all expenditures incurred by **CSI** during the implementation of the project "A_T_3.1_0172_EUSEEDS", co-funded by the European Union.

CSI is Partner **1**.

The total eligible direct costs budget for **CSI** (Partner **1**) for the entire duration of the project amounts to **€222,500 (two hundred twenty two thousand five hundred euros)** euros. The auditor must fulfil all audit requirements of the project. This includes six semi-annual expenditure verifications, the production of reports, and compliance reviews in line with programme guidelines.

3. Tasks of the Auditor

- Provide all required audit deliverables for the EUSEEDS project, in line with the project reporting schedule;
- Conduct six expenditure verification audits (one every six months) for the project's financial documents, in accordance with Interreg NEXT MED audit guidelines and national eligibility rules, using the mandatory financial reporting and expenditure verification templates provided by the programme;

- Prepare six expenditure verification reports (one per reporting cycle), certifying the completeness and accuracy of the submitted documentation. Each report must be drafted in French (the legally binding version) and include a full English translation;
- Carry out semi-annual reviews of financial performance and compliance, identifying financial risks, red flags, or areas for improvement;
- Ensure consistent quality across all six audit reports;
- Maintain regular and smooth communication from the outset with the financial and coordination teams of **CSI**, ensuring prompt access to documents, explanations, and clarifications.

4. Timeline

Report	Period Covered	Deadline for Final Report Submission	Deadline for Submission to Managing Authority
1st report	0–6 (27 Aug 2025 – 26 Feb 2026 incl.)	10 Apr 2026	20 Apr 2026
2nd report	7–12 (27 Feb – 26 Aug 2026 incl.)	10 Oct 2026	20 Oct 2026
3rd report	13–18 (27 Aug 2026 – 26 Feb 2027 incl.)	1 Apr 2027	20 Apr 2027
4th report	19–24 (27 Feb 2027 – 26 Aug 2027 incl.)	5 Oct 2027	20 Oct 2027
5th report	25–30 (27 Aug 2027 – 26 Feb 2028 incl.)	5 Apr 2028	20 Apr 2028
Final report	31–36 (27 Feb 2028 – 26 Aug 2028 incl.)	5 Nov 2028	20 Nov 2028

The duration of each audit mission will be agreed in advance with the auditor but must not exceed five weeks between the start of the audit and the submission of the final audit report. Any request for clarifications or missing supporting documents must be made within this period to ensure completeness of the report.

5. Eligibility Requirements

The external auditor must meet the following conditions:

- Be a registered and accredited audit firm in **Cyprus**,
- **Trained verifier** for the Territorial Cooperation Programmes Interreg 2021-2027.
- Demonstrated experience in auditing EU-funded projects, preferably within Interreg, ENI/ENPI CBC, IPA, or other similar cross-border or structural funds;
- Strong understanding of:
 - EU financial and eligibility rules;
 - Public procurement compliance;
 - Traceability and documentation requirements imposed by the European Commission;
- Use of internationally recognised auditing standards (e.g., ISA, INTOSAI standards);
- Ability to analyse audit data originating from international partners;

- Excellent written and oral proficiency in English (all audit deliverables must be submitted in English);
- Possession of a valid business bank account able to receive bank transfers.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weight
Technical offer	50%
Financial offer	50%

7. Conditions and Submission Requirements

This call for tenders constitutes a contractual commitment. The external auditor must therefore sign and date every page of the tender file, including the technical offer, the financial offer, and all related documents.

Submitted offers must comply with the following:

- Service fees must be:
 - Quoted in **EUR** depending on the Partner country, including taxes;
 - Final, non-modifiable and non-revisable;
- Submitted files cannot be modified under any circumstances.

Interested audit firms must submit a file including:

- Agency profile (background, references, certifications);
- Detailed financial proposal including service fees and pricing conditions;
- A sample invoice.

The offer must not exceed the following amount for all six audits:

- **€ 4,000.00**

If any of the above-listed documents are missing or incomplete, the offer will be deemed non-compliant and rejected.

8. Submission Procedure

Applications must be submitted by email with the subject line:

“Audit - EUSEEDS_A_T_3.1_0172 Project”

to the following email address: loizos.pitsillides@csicy.com and finance@csicy.com

Deadline: Friday, 09 January 2026.

9. Confidentiality

The external auditor commits to strict confidentiality regarding all information exchanged under the contract, including personal data.

They commit to:

- Not using this information for any other purpose without written authorisation;
- Ensuring a level of protection equivalent to that applied to their own confidential data;
- Not disclosing it to third parties without the prior approval of **CSI**.

The auditor shall comply with the personal data protection legislation applicable in **Cyprus**:

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and
- *The Processing of Personal Data (Protection of the Individual) Law of 2018 (Law 125(I)/2018)*

Additional Note

The selection of the external auditor must be validated by the country's Control Contact Point (CCP).

About

The Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) is an R&D institution specialising in the Social Sciences and Humanities. We nurture social innovation and drive progressive change across local, national, regional, and global contexts. Operating at the intersection of social interaction, education, development, and economic rationalisation, we create resilient, sustainable solutions and adopt disruptive strategies to tackle entrenched societal challenges. Our interdisciplinary team, with backgrounds in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Physical Sciences, provides a deep understanding of social needs. We design and implement tailored initiatives through evidence-based research, state-of-the-art investigative methods and thorough social impact analysis.

Under the EUSEEDS Project, CSI is responsible for implementing the activities assigned to it in the work packages of the Application Form, in close cooperation with all other partners, and it commits itself to deliver the Project's expected results.