Call for competitive tenders
Provision of external expert services to support the ESN working group on Ageing and Care (2014)

Budget: 1.500 € (including VAT)
Deadline for submissions: 26 August 2014
Selection criteria: Best price-quality ratio
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Contents

1. General information ........................................................................................................ 3
2. Scope of work ............................................................................................................... 4
3. Deliverables .................................................................................................................. 5
4. Required expertise ....................................................................................................... 5
5. Invitation for the external experts ............................................................................... 6
6. Selection procedure ..................................................................................................... 6
7. Remuneration ................................................................................................................ 6
8. Payments ....................................................................................................................... 6
1. General information

About ESN

The European Social Network (ESN) is the independent network for public social services in Europe. ESN brings together people who plan, manage, deliver and regulate social services in public authorities across Europe. Our members are mainly associations of local and regional directors of social services, regions, provinces, counties and municipalities, funding and regulatory agencies, universities, research and development and improvement bodies.

ESN supports the development of effective social policy and social care practice through the exchange of knowledge and experience. We present local public authorities at European level and bring local practice experience into European policymaking. We believe that social services should protect and support vulnerable people, respect the dignity and independence of people using services, pursue excellence in social work and care practice, listen to service users and respond to their needs, promote solidarity with disadvantaged people and communities and promote equality and non-discrimination.

Care and assistance for older people is a significant challenge for the management of social services and has long been a priority for ESN’s mutual learning and policy development work.

ESN Working Group on Ageing and Care

The aim of ESN’s working group on ageing and care is to increase the capacity of public authorities to plan and manage older people’s services in a sustainable and person-centred manner, and to promote active and healthy ageing.

The working group will analyse national, regional and local policies and practices. This policy and practice analysis will outline the challenges and opportunities of developing quality and sustainable services for older people at a local or regional level. Based on this analysis, the group will develop recommendations for sustainable, person-centred services.

The outcomes of the working group will also contribute to the implementation of suggested policy approaches by the 2014 report “Adequate social protection for long-term care needs in an ageing society” by the Social Protection Committee. The Social Protection Committee is a group of Member States representatives who deals with social protection issues. The report defines the policy responses which will be needed to tackle challenges in long-term care provision. The report supports measures which focus on prevention and rehabilitation, independent living and productivity of care delivery. Moreover, the report calls for an assessment of policies and practices which work and are most cost-effective.

Themes

Over the course of five meetings between 2014 and 2016, the working group will look at the following thematic areas:
Meetings

11-12 September 2014: opening meeting
March 2015: second meeting on cooperation between health and social care
November 2015: third meeting on active ageing
March 2016: fourth meeting on workforce
November 2016: fifth meeting on home-based care

Members

The working group will consist of core group members and thematic contributors who are senior professionals who plan, coordinate and manage social services for older people.

2. Scope of work

The objective of the working group is to outline challenges and opportunities of developing quality and sustainable services for older people in social welfare departments in local authorities. This will be based on:

a.) An analysis of national/regional policies

b.) An analysis of practices to outline challenges and opportunities of evidence based approaches in older people’s services

Core group members and thematic contributors contribute practice examples for each theme before each meeting. They will do this by filling out a practice template.

For each meeting in 2015 and 2016, an external expert will analyse those practice examples with reported outcomes for each thematic area. This should provide an overview how practices are evaluated and the effects on service users, carers, organizations and costs. This practice analysis will be presented by the expert at each meeting.

At the opening meeting in 2014, the external expert will provide an introduction into evidence-based practice in long-term care in form of a presentation (20 min). This presentation should inform the participants, mostly practitioners in long-term care services, about opportunities and challenges of evidence-based practice in older peoples’ services. Moreover, it should link to the activities of the working group, namely the collection of
practice examples for each theme/meeting. The external expert should also lead a discussion about the creation of the practice template at the first meeting. After the meeting, the external expert will create a template that will be used to collect practices for each theme/meeting from the working group members. He or she should consider different ways to evaluate older people’s services used by public authorities, the different effects practices might have and the feasibility of the template.

3. Deliverables

1. A power point presentation (20 min) at the opening meeting of the ESN working group on Ageing and Care on 12 September 2014 (in Brighton, UK). The presentation should cover the following aspects:
   - Explanation of evidence-based practice: why is it relevant? Recognition in different European countries
   - Evidence-based practice in long-term care
   - Knowledge and evidence: use of knowledge of service users care professionals and managers of services

   The presentation should be followed by a discussion with the working group members about a practice example template.

2. A creation of a practice template which will be filled out by all group members for all four meetings between 2015 and 2016. The form of the template should be based on outcomes of the group discussion with the working group members at the opening meeting and consider its feasibility, length, important aspects, as coverage of thematic aspects of working group etc. This template is due by 1 November 2014.

Notes:

- Deliverables should be submitted in English, which is the official language of ESN – Individual Action (AWP 2014).

4. Required expertise

- Knowledge about long-term care systems in Europe
- Expertise in evidence-based practice in social care with a focus on older people’s services
- Ability to analyse a broad range of practices from different local authorities in Europe
5. Application process

ESN invites all interested individuals with the required expertise to send the following information by email to George Intzesiologlou (george.intzesiologlou@esn-eu.org) by Tuesday 26 August 2014.

1) CV
2) Relevant samples of work
3) Quote

6. Selection procedure

All CVs and work samples will be evaluated by an internal ESN committee which will be responsible for the selection of the candidate offering the best price-quality ratio.

7. Remuneration

The maximum remuneration of the external expert is 1,500 € (including VAT).

8. Payment

The payment of the total relevant amount shall be authorised after the approval of all deliverables.