

Prior Information in relation to the study and low value contract < €15,000

Services contract on study on 'food system microbiomes'. This publication is made pursuant to Article 124 of the Rules for Applications of the Financial Regulation that provides for ex ante publication on the Institutions' websites of contracts with a value up to €60 000.

Summary of the Study

The study on mission-oriented R&I on *food system microbiomes* is done for policy analysis purposes by DG RTD having in view the preparations for the future Research and Innovation Framework Programme (FP9). The objective of this study is to give a more in-depth and tangible flavour of what a mission-oriented R&I could look like, how it would be designed and operationalised. The underlying questions to be explored include e.g. what technologies and other innovation instruments should be mobilised and combined, and how this process should be organised.

The overall aim of the study is to increase the understanding how a science-driven mission, in this case concerning food system microbiomes, can be designed and how such a mission in the field of food would look like.

The purpose of the study is therefore to provide a *normative vision* on *how to set objectives, design and manage* a mission-oriented research and innovation programme that aims at reaching an ambitious overarching objective of food system, where microbiomes are the crucial key enabler. The mission should be considered being *purpose-driven*, instead of process, instrument, client or institution driven.

Methodology

Tenderers are requested to propose a methodology responding to the objectives of the study. It shall be based on documented desktop research and structured interviews with leading experts and organisations in the field addressing issues related to setting up, monitoring, managing and implementing a mission-oriented R&I project in the field of food system microbiomes¹.

The contractor is to produce a report with a comprehensive design outline for a hypothetical visionary mission-oriented R&I project on using microbiomes to achieve an ambitious overarching objective of food system, where microbiomes are the crucial key enabler. The report shall also include a set of concluding recommendations how EU policies and instruments -such the next Research and Innovation Framework Programme- could best support mission-oriented R&I in the area of microbiomes.

Selection criteria

A declaration of compliance with the selection criteria is requested (with a CV attached).

¹ As defined in more detail in the Terms of Reference.

The candidate must have the necessary technical, professional, economic and financial capacity to execute the contract. A minimum of 5 years' academic work in the area of microbiomes is required, as documented by a list of supporting documents such as a publications list (to be provided with the proposal).

Estimated amount: Maximum: EUR 15 000

Estimated launching date: May 2017

Economic operators interested in participating in this call for tenders may express their interest by writing RTD-PUBLIC-PROCUREMENT-A6@ec.europa.eu not later than 2 weeks after publication.

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to interested bodies by the EC services in charge of the procedure.