

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme

#### Terms of Reference (ToR)

### Invitation to tender for the Ex Ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020

October 2012

Interested parties are hereby invited to tender for a short-term contract to deliver the Ex ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020.

The procurement is conducted through an open procurement procedure. The bid must be submitted in English and marked "*Tender for Ex ante Evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020*".

Interested bidders are advised to read this document in detail before submitting a bid.

#### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 will be the fourth transnational cooperation programme to be funded by ERDF in the North Sea Region covering the member states Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the Flemish region of Belgium and the non-member state Norway. Programming is now starting and the purpose of the ex ante evaluation will be to accompany this process and ensure that the programme developed responds as well as possible to the current needs and challenges in the region, and lives up to the European Commission's requirements in full. This will involve:

- reviewing and evaluating drafts of programme documents to map existing knowledge;
- researching and drafting some elements;
- providing concrete recommendations for improvement; and
- producing a final report, which details the process.

You will be expected to work in close cooperation with the programming authorities at all times.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will also be provided for relevant parts of the programme and production of this document must be included in your bid in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC and the published guidelines from the European Commission.

The aim is to have the programme designed, negotiated and adopted in time for implementation in early 2014. However, delays are possible in this process and the successful bidder will demonstrate the ability to be flexible. The ex ante evaluation and SEA are to be carried out under the responsibility of the authority responsible for the preparation of the programming documents. To facilitate progress it has been agreed to initiate work on the ex ante evaluation and SEA under the current structure of the Interreg IVB programme.

#### 2. REGULATORY BACKGROUND

On 6 October 2011 the European Commission adopted the draft regulation for Cohesion Policy covering the funding period 2014-2020. These regulations are still under negotiation but the ex ante will be carried out based on the published draft requirements. The contracted evaluators (hereinafter 'evaluators') will have to adjust their approach as and when changes are made public but the core requirements are unlikely to change.

The Common Provision Regulation (CPR) §48 requires an ex ante evaluation for each Operational Programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective. The ex ante evaluation is to be carried out to improve the design of the programme and verify that the identified objectives and targets can be reached. The evaluation must confirm the intervention logic for achieving these targets and the operational programme's contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy. Evaluators shall also develop and propose an indicator system in line with developing Commission guidance on this subject.

The ex ante evaluation must be submitted together with the programme proposal and will be considered in the assessment and subsequent adoption of the new programme. The European Commission issued a draft guidance document on ex ante evaluation in June 2012. This provides guidance on what is required in the evaluation and is expected to steer the work of the North Sea Region programme evaluation. It is important to note, however, that this working paper is still in draft form and is subject to change.

Furthermore, Directive 2001/42/EG on Strategic Environmental Assessments requires an assessment of the effects of certain programmes on the environment. The potential applicability of this requirement to territorial cooperation programmes is confirmed in CPR §48.4. While it is possible that only parts of the programme will be subject to SEA, bids must be prepared based on the assumption that a full SEA will be required. Nevertheless, the underlying environmental challenges facing the region and the sorts of projects funded to respond to them are likely to remain very similar to those under the last programme (2007-2013). The purpose of the SEA Directive is to "provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development."

#### MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMING PROCESS

The draft regulations call for a stronger thematic focus for transnational cooperation programmes. Programmes are required to deliver a contribution to the objectives laid out in the Europe 2020 strategy. They should follow the general recommendations in documents such as the Common Strategic Framework (CSF), and (if applicable) country-specific recommendations in the national Partnership Contracts to identify the most urgent needs and challenges for the programme area. These should be considered in such a way that the programme developed from them is also in line with the finally approved legislative framework. It is currently envisaged that programmes will focus on at least four thematic objectives<sup>1</sup>, which will be chosen from the following list<sup>2</sup>:

- (1) strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- (2) enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies;
- (3) enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF);
- (4) supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;
- (5) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;
- (6) protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
- (7) promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;
- (8) promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;
- (9) promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- (10) investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;
- (11) enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.

Thematic objectives are derived from the European Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020 Strategy) and are further specified in Article 5 of the draft ERDF regulation<sup>3</sup>. Thematic objectives should be further detailed by the Member States selecting investment priorities and indicators to measure progress (output and result, compulsory and programme-specific). Evaluators shall ensure that this intervention logic is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Article 5 of the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal, 6 October 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Article 9 of the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the Common Strategic Framework and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, 6 October 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006, 6 October 2011

clearly stated, that it rests on sound evidence and that functioning monitoring systems will be available to assess the programme's success. This includes ensuring the existence and reliability of baseline data.

#### 3. THE PROGRAMMING AUTHORITIES

According to Article 48(2) of the draft CPR the ex ante is to be carried out under the responsibility of the authority responsible for the preparation of the programme. The selection procedure for the evaluation is being organised by the Evaluation Steering Group for the Interreg IVB North Sea Region programme. Management of the process and contact to bidders is the responsibility of the North Sea Region programme Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) based in Viborg, Denmark.

The JTS will be responsible for coordinating the ex ante evaluation and act as main contact point for the evaluators. The evaluators must address questions, requests and comments to the JTS and will also inform the JTS of any delays or changes that could have an impact on delivery of the evaluations as soon as possible. In addition to attending meetings with the JTS, the evaluators will take part in meetings with relevant programming bodies.

The Monitoring Committee (MC) of the current programme shall also discuss recommendations from the evaluation.

#### 4. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS OF THE EX ANTE EVALUATION

For all deliverables it should be kept in mind that the aim of the ex ante evaluation is to improve the quality of programme design through providing clear recommendations based on evidence.

Article 48.3 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) lists the different elements of the operational programme to be appraised by the ex ante evaluators. The ex ante evaluation must include the following main themes and sub themes:

- Programme strategy
  - Consistency of programme objectives
    - Challenges and needs in relation to Europe 2020 objectives
    - Consistency of programme objectives with challenges and needs
  - o Coherence
    - Internal coherence
    - Relation with other relevant instruments
  - Linkage between supported operations, expected outputs and results
  - o Horizontal principles mainly equal opportunities
- Indicators, monitoring and evaluation
  - Relevance and clarity of proposed programme indicators

- Relevance
- Clarity
- o Quantified baseline and target values
- o Suitability of milestones
- o Administrative capacity, data collection procedures and evaluation
- Consistency of financial allocations
- Contribution to Europe 2020 strategy
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

Evaluation must be consistent with the regulations and shall, in particular, ensure that the programme is compliant with §7 of the regulation laying out specific provisions for the European Territorial Cooperation objective ('Content of cooperation programmes'). Further guidance on all of these issues, including details of the requirements and suggestions for how to evaluate them, can be found in the published Commission guidance on ex ante evaluation and monitoring and evaluation procedures.

In accordance with article 48 (3) of the draft Common Provision Regulation, ex ante evaluations shall specifically appraise the following:

## (a) The contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, having regard to the selected thematic objectives and priorities, taking into account national and regional needs

The ex ante evaluator must provide an appraisal of the coherence of the operational programme with national strategies and Community policies. It is particularly important that the ex ante evaluation verifies the potential of the Operational Programme to deliver relevant elements of the Europe 2020 strategy. Bidders must explain how they will address this task and which documents they will consider.

In line with article 174 of the Treaty, and in order to secure the territorial cohesion of the programme area, the evaluation must also consider actions taken towards regions with particular territorial features including rural regions, areas affected by industrial transition and areas suffering from severe and permanent natural or demographic damage. Evaluators must assess whether proposed actions under the programme will promote territorial cohesion in the North Sea Region as per the ambitions of the Territorial Agenda 2020.'

This will be an iterative process and the evaluators will also be expected to provide ongoing inputs for the socio-economic analysis of the programme as well as assessing whether issues raised are adequately considered in the final document.

## (b) The internal coherence of the proposed programme or activity and its relation with other relevant instruments

The ex ante evaluators must assess the coherence of the programme with other relevant instruments at regional, national and EU level. The evaluation must review the analysis of the programme contribution to other strategies and policies (European, national and regional including HORIZON 2020, sea-basin strategies and any macro-regional strategy implemented in the region). The ex ante evaluator must appraise how the programme justifies its role in the framework of the different interventions.

## (c) The consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the programme

It must be confirmed that budgetary commitments to different themes correspond to the urgency and scale of each issue and that they are targeted towards the actions where there is a real added value for transnational cooperation.

# (d) The consistency of the selected thematic objectives, the priorities and corresponding objectives of the programmes with the Common Strategic Framework, the Partnership Contract and the country-specific recommendations under Article 121(2) of the Treaty and the Council recommendations adopted under Article 148(4) of the Treaty

The ex ante evaluators must pay particular attention to the justification of specific regional challenges or needs diverging from the national priorities and to the evidence supporting this justification.

#### (e) The relevance and clarity of the proposed programme indicators

Output and result indicators with associated baselines and targets will be developed by the Programme Secretariat in consultation with the Programme Preparation Group and, where necessary, with the support of the evaluators (in particular when producing indicator definitions, baseline data and an indicator manual). Relevant European Commission papers on indicators for monitoring and evaluation must be taken into consideration, as must the work of the ongoing evaluation studies undertaken on behalf of the Interreg IVB North Sea Programme. It must be assessed:

- whether the most important desired changes are being measured, and where the expected result is long-term, (as can be expected to be the case for many North Sea Region actions); and
- whether appropriate intermediate stages of the intervention logic have been selected for measurement during the programme's lifetime.

The evaluators will also assess the indicators and targets selected as performance milestones for the performance reviews in 2017 and 2019 and at closure.

#### (f) How the expected outputs will contribute to results

Transnational cooperation must aim to strengthen cooperation by means of actions conducive to integrated territorial development linked to the Union's cohesion policy priorities. Thus, the new regulation requires a more precise description of how the planned actions will lead to results and the target groups expected to deliver the projects required. The ex ante evaluators must assess this intervention logic (Article 48(3)(f)CPR).

## (g) Whether the quantified target values for indicators are realistic, in regard to the envisaged support from the CSF Funds envisaged

#### (h) The rationale for the form of support proposed

Evaluators must assess whether the best possible use is made of the available tools or whether an alternative 'action mix' would be better.

## (i) and (j) The adequacy of human resources and administrative structure and capacity for management of the programme and the suitability of the procedures for monitoring the programme and for collecting the necessary data to carry out evaluations

The ex ante evaluator must assess the implementing provisions proposed for managing, monitoring and evaluating the programme, focusing on the availability and reliability of data as well as the systems and procedures in place for collecting and storing them. This must include an examination of previous experience gained under the IIIB and IVB programmes.

#### (k) The suitability of the milestones selected for the performance framework

This must be carried out in accordance with Annex I of the draft Common Provision Regulation<sup>4</sup> and article 7.2 (d) (i) of the draft ERDF Regulation.<sup>5</sup>

#### (I) The adequacy of planned measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women and to prevent discrimination

An evaluation of whether and how gender equality was taken into consideration when preparing the programme and the socio-economic analysis, and whether relevant bodies were consulted. There must also be an assessment of whether there are adequate measures for the integration of equality and avoiding discrimination during implementation and in particular whether there is support for people with disabilities to access to the funds.

#### (m) The adequacy of planned measures to promote sustainable development.

The evaluators must assess whether sustainability is sufficiently integrated in procedures for the selection of operations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Please see footnote 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Please see footnote 3

Full requirements can be found in the regulations and the published European Commission guidance.

#### THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

The SEA must be carried out in accordance with Annex I of the SEA Directive.<sup>6</sup> It must build on or be linked with the thematic scoping in the ex ante and must concentrate on preparing the environmental report.

The ex ante evaluation and the SEA are to be carried out while the future programme is being developed. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the ex ante evaluation and SEA are undertaken in a flexible manner and that the evaluators can adapt their working method taking into account changing regulations and requirements.

#### 5. MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO EVALUATORS

Once an evaluator has been chosen relevant sources of material for the evaluations to be carried out will include:

- Ongoing evaluation of the North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013
- Draft regulations for Cohesion Policy (in particular Common Provision Regulation, ERDF and ETC Regulations) for 2014-2020
- Draft Common Strategic Framework on Cohesion Policy 2014-2020
- Europe 2020: A Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Commission Draft Guidance on ex ante evaluation
- Draft documents of the North Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 as they are drafted and minutes from PPG meetings
- The Operational Programme for the North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013
- 'Programming Process 2014-2020: Practical Paper' developed by INTERACT
- Thematic evaluations or studies undertaken outside of the Structural Funds on similar fields of intervention
- Strategic Environmental Assessment directive 2001/42/EC and Implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment
- NSRP Strategic Environmental Assessment for the 2007-2013 North Sea Region Programme
- North Sea Strategy 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Strategic Environmental Assessment directive 2001/42/EC

- Evaluations carried out by the German programme region: "Transnational Cooperation in the North Sea Region: Results and Added Value" and "Transnational cooperation in the German North Sea Region (INTERREG B) Summary"
- ESPON studies and particularly the Territorial Evidence Pack project and any ESPON projects carried out directly in collaboration with the North Sea Region programme
- Evaluations studies currently being carried out at national level
- Outcomes from the Hamburg seminar in October 2012

#### Programme website: www.northsearegion.eu

Please note that this list is non-exhaustive and further material could be relevant. The material to be considered will be mapped as the first stage of the evaluation.

#### 6. METHODOLOGY

Evaluators must select the methodology (mapping, literature review, interviews, focus groups, peer reviews, workshops etc.) that they consider most appropriate for answering the requirements of this Terms of Reference (ToR). The chosen methodology needs to be adaptable to changes in the regulations and decisions that are likely to occur throughout the ex ante evaluation process.

The tender must include an overview of the proposed methods and techniques as well as the planning and structuring of the ex ante evaluation. The ex ante evaluation must consist of desk research as well as interviews with key stakeholders and experts. The process of the ex ante evaluation must interlink with the work of the programming bodies and the ex ante evaluation team must plan to participate in relevant meetings.

#### 7. DELIVERABLES AND TIME SCHEDULE

Based on the currently available information, it is envisaged that the ex ante evaluation and SEA should start in December 2012 and be completed (i.e. all participatory processes satisfactorily carried out, revisions made and documents finalised) by autumn 2013 in time for submission and consideration by the Commission and launch in January 2014. The main milestones of this process are laid out in the following table but it will be important that bidders provide a more detailed breakdown as part of their bid and that they also use this section to signal to the programme their expectations in terms of the availability of materials and other resources. It is also acceptable for bidders to modify this table provided that an adequate explanation is provided of the new dates.

#### Table 1

Milestone	Date
Ex ante contract begins	December 2012
Initial meeting with the programme to complete detailed planning and collect initial material	January 2013
Inception report including the results of a mapping exercise to confirm the scope of the material and to provide insights to be considered in the evaluation. Detailed outline of work and outline of challenges identified and recommendations for solutions (max 10 pages)	February 2013
Interim report summarising progress, identifying open issues, correcting the timeline and process, and outlining any challenges identified and recommendations for solutions (max 20 pages)	June 2013
First draft SEA	June 2013
Submission of finalised ex ante evaluation, final ex ante report and finalised SEA (including results of public consultation)	October 2013

Details of this schedule and arrangements for attendance at meetings will be agreed with the successful bidder during the initial meeting. However, attendance at 10 meetings at central destinations around the North Sea Region should be included in the time plan for the evaluation. It should also be stressed that in the role of *accompanying* the programming process, it is expected that the evaluators would be in regular contact with the programme and that there would be a frequent exchange of draft documents, comments and information. When needed the evaluators would also be expected to support the programme by providing specialist information and analysis.

It must be stressed that this time schedule may well be delayed. Any budgetary and/or planning impacts of this potential for delay should be taken into consideration by consultants tendering for this contract. Completion of the contract will necessarily be based upon satisfactory delivery of all required materials rather than a fixed end date. Some working days must also be reserved for additional analysis during negotiations with the Commission.

The above dates form the basis for the delivery of the contract. Deadline dates will be subject to review as the work progresses. Regular feedback between the contractors and

the Programming Authorities is expected to inform the development of the Operational Programme on an ongoing basis. A work plan will be agreed between the contractor and the secretariat during negotiations of the contract.

#### 8. TIMEFRAME FOR BIDS

Bids must be received by 4 pm CET 7 November 2012. A decision on which bid to accept will be made ultimo November 2012. The contract for carrying out the evaluations will be awarded as soon as possible hereafter and the successful bidder must be ready to start work before the end of the year. On acceptance of a bid, all relevant data and information will be made available to the contractor. Evaluators may request statistical, technical, administrative, financial and other relevant information from the programme (JTS).

#### 9. FINANCES

Bids must contain a fixed price for delivery of all aspects of this contract. This amount must include all travel and accommodation costs (i.e. no additional reimbursements of expenditure will be made) but may exclude VAT. For orientation the programme has calculated a budget of €85,000 for the ex ante evaluation and SEA combined. The financial offer should however be split into two parts, the SEA and the ex ante. In the event that changes to the final legislation require work additional to that detailed in the existing regulations and European Commission guidance, the contract may be extended by a number of hours to be agreed between the programme and evaluators. These hours will be paid according to the rates for staff provided in the current bid.

#### **10. STRUCTURE OF EVALUATION(S)**

The ex ante evaluation report must reflect the following general structure:

- 1. Executive summary of conclusions and recommendations (maximum 5 pages)
- Methodology outlining the ex ante evaluators' approach including a description of original research undertaken and sources of data and information. The methodology must also include a statement of the ex ante evaluators' assessments of strengths and weaknesses of the evaluation report
- 3. Conclusions responding to programming requirements as laid out in regulations.
- 4. Summary of the principle strengths and deficiencies of the programme document
- 5. Recommendations of the evaluation team clearly graded in order of their importance (in terms of usefulness)
- 6. Key issues must be identified at the end of every section and the conclusions drawn must be based upon them.

It is expected that all ex ante evaluation reports will be easy to read, illustrative and well structured. The evaluators are not required to provide scientific research and the quality of the evaluation will be assessed based on its usefulness.

Five printed copies of the final documents and a print-ready electronic version of the report must be submitted on completion. The evaluators will also be required to submit electronically or as hard copies (whichever is most appropriate) any draft or provisional materials produced as part of the evaluation and requested by the programme.

## 11. SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA – BIDDING PROCESS: REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR EVALUATORS

To ensure the independence of the ex ante evaluations, ex ante evaluators who have been direct beneficiaries of the programme (grant recipients) will not be considered.

Only bids including both the ex ante evaluations and the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be considered. Consortia are welcome to bid for this task.

The following qualifications are required:

- Knowledge of the programme's geographical area
- Knowledge and experience of monitoring and evaluation studies
- Knowledge of related European Union programmes
- Knowledge of human resources and administrative capacity
- Knowledge of equal opportunities
- Experience in applied research on regional development, European regional politics and/or other areas, relevant for the Programme

Selection criteria	Points
Understanding and reflection of the terms of reference	20
Appropriateness and quality of the research design and methodology proposed	30
Timetable, milestones and logical framework	20
Previous experience in carrying out similar exercises, quality of staff proposed to carry out the evaluation including a management plan clearly indicating division of tasks.	30
TOTAL	100

#### **12. STRUCTURE OF PROPOSALS**

Proposals must be written in English and must include:

- 1. A comprehensive and detailed description of the methodologies to be used in answering the points raised in the ToR, and
- 2. Relevant experience for meeting the requirements set out in these ToR
- 3. CVs of all of the members of the ex ante evaluation team who will actually carry out the evaluation
- 4. A detailed description of the tasks to be undertaken, the quantity of the staff input and their expertise including their language skills
- 5. A detailed programme of work in accordance with Table 1, identifying tasks and milestones, together with target dates and associated costs.
- 6. Bidders must provide at least **three** references including name of assignment, beneficiary, tasks and outcomes, and budget.
- 7. Proposals must include the name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail address of the principal contact for the bidder.
- 8. Proposals must be submitted in three complete sets of print documents and one complete set of electronic documents.
- 9. The application must include a signed declaration using the format in Annex A

Received bids will be evaluated after the deadline and all bidders will receive notification of the evaluation of their bids by mid-December 2012. The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender.

All evaluations submitted no later than **4pm CET 7 November 2012** will be assessed. However, evaluations which do not meet the formal criteria may be exempt from the assessment. Applications be clearly marked "*Tender for Ex ante Evaluation and Strategic Environment Assessment of the North Sea Programme 2014-2020*" and must be sent to:

#### The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme

Att. Carsten Westerholt Jernbanegade 22 DK-8800 Viborg DENMARK <u>carsten.westerholt@northsearegion.eu</u> and <u>sine.soerensen@northsearegion.eu</u>

#### **13. PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 1. The contract will be on a fixed price basis. Reductions of the extent of the SEA will lead to a reduction of this fixed price.
- 2. Payment will be made on delivery of key evaluation milestones, such as receipt of the interim reports, with full payment on satisfactory completion of the final reports. All bids must include suggestions for appropriate payment milestones. Any deviation from these milestones must be agreed in advance and confirmed in writing. An assessment of the quality and admissibility of the documents submitted will be made by the PPG.

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1. The contractor(s) is required to observe confidentiality when dealing with information and data made available for evaluation purposes. Failure to observe confidentiality will lead to the immediate termination of the contract without compensation.
- 2. During the bidding process, it will not be possible to pose questions on content or methodology. Bidders must instead use the information in these Terms of Reference (ToR), the programme documentation referred to and other published sources. Should the need arise for clarification or interpretation, however, address a written request to the JTS by e-mail to (carsten.westerholt@northsearegion.eu and sine.soerensen@northsearegion.eu). Clarifications will be published on the programme website in the period that the call for tenders is open: <a href="http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=174">http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/content/show/&tid=174</a>. Deadline for requesting clarifications is October 24 2012.
- 3. All data generated during the ex ante evaluation must be made freely available to all interested parties involved in the programme.

ANNEX A

Format of the Solemn Declaration

(If the Candidate is a Consortium the declaration must be submitted by the Leader and each Member of the Consortium.)

#### SOLEMN DECLARATION

In accordance with Danish Law's Act no. 336 of 13 May 1997 on limitation of debtors possibilities to participate in public procurements and on change of certain other laws (making effective the collection of arrears to the authorities), the authorities shall on procurement of construction and plant works as well as purchases of goods and services demand that any tenderer simultaneously with submitting its tender make a solemn declaration on the extent of the tenderer's unpaid, due debts to the authorities in the form of taxes, duties and social security contributions in accordance to Danish law or the law of the country of the tenderer's establishment.

In accordance with the regulations of the abovementioned law the undersigned hereby solemnly and under liability to punishment give the below mentioned declaration.

Company name, address, telephone number and registration number:

Information on debts to the authorities (make selection):

1	The company has no unpaid, due debts to the authorities.
2	The company has unpaid, due debts to the authorities but these debts do not exceed DKK 100,000 (or an equivalent amount in another currency).
3	The company has unpaid, due debts to the authorities and these debts exceed DKK 100,000 (or an equivalent amount in another currency).

The following points 4 or 5 and 6 shall only be filled, if point 3 has been selected.

4	Security has been provided to the collection authority for payment of the part of the debts that exceed DKK 100,000 (or an equivalent amount in another currency).
	Security will be provided to the collection authority for payment of the part of the debts that that exceed DKK 100,000 (or an equivalent amount in another currency).

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6	Date security/arrang	of ement:	establishment	of	Year:	Month:	Day:

Collection authority:	Name			
	Address:			
	Postal code: City:			

Signature:	Date:	Company management signature and company stamp: