

Tender Specifications

Expert work to support the project:

“Stitch Together: Promoting Social Partnerships in the European Textiles and Clothing Industry” 101145632 with the final support of the European Commission

1. Background information on the project

The StitchTogether project aims to strengthen social dialogue in the EU Textile and Clothing industry by promoting cooperation between employers and workers. This project recognises the industry's need to adapt to global competition, eco-friendly practices, and technological advancements while ensuring reasonable working conditions and social inclusion. The project fosters constructive dialogue in seven European countries with rich textile histories by bringing together employer and workers' organisations. Through seminars and capacity-building workshops, the project enhances the capacity of national social partners and empowers them to engage in national and European-level social dialogues. Additionally, the project seeks to increase social partner involvement in EU policy-making, contributing to developing sustainable and circular practices in the industry.

2. Objectives of the project

- Objective 1: Foster meaningful and constructive dialogue between textiles and clothing industry social partners.
- Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of social partners.
- Objective 3: Support the green and digital transitions in the textiles and clothing sector.
- Objective 4: Increase awareness and collaboration among stakeholders.
- Objective 5: Provide policy recommendations based on project findings.

3. Activities which the Expert will be involved in:

- **Steering Committee meetings:** the expert will be expected to attend and feed into the monthly online steering committee meetings.
- **Seminars:** the project will organise seven seminars, one in each targeted country: Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Poland, and Türkiye. The seminars will serve as platforms for engaging stakeholders and discussing relevant topics such as skills development, gender equality, migrants, wages, green and digital transition, fair working conditions, and health and safety at work. The seminars will result in a joint declaration.
- **Workshops:** capacity-building workshops will be conducted in each targeted country to enhance the social dialogue representatives' skills and knowledge. The workshops will provide theme-specific training sessions, interactive discussions, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. The social partners will be expected to agree on a National Action Plan by the end of the workshop.
- **Final Conference:** the final conference will showcase the project's key findings, achievements, and outcomes. It will facilitate panel discussions with social partner representatives from the

seven countries, promote a multi-sectoral approach, and find synergies with other European sectoral social dialogue committees and groups.

4. *Tasks to be performed by the Expert*

- Engagement in monthly online steering committee meetings.
- Provide input into the survey and interview questions and assist in the conducting of these.
- Assist in contacting and exchanging with various stakeholders (national trade unions and industry/employer associations, global brands, garment industry initiatives such as ACT and FWF, local suppliers, national governments and authorities, academics).
- Help in the preparation and moderation of the national seminars and follow-up workshops.
- Provide input into the joint declarations and national action plans.
- Assist in the organising and implementation of the final conference and follow-up event.
- Contribute to the communications work throughout the project.
- Provide input into the final report.

The expert will report to both EURATEX (project applicant) and industriAll Europe (co-applicant).

5. *Expertise required*

- Excellent knowledge of the textiles and clothing sector in the project countries (Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Poland, and Türkiye) as well as at European and international level.
- Experience of sectoral social dialogue in Europe, collective bargaining agreements and experiences of working with social partners.
- Good relations to the social partners in the garment and footwear sector with focus on in the seven target countries.
- Experience in working with textiles stakeholders including policy makers, brands and VET providers.
- A proven track record in other similar EU projects.
- Good analytical, communication and organisational skills.
- Languages: English at C2 level plus the ability to communicate in at least two of the other project country languages (FR, NL, ES, PT, IT, PL and TK).

6. *Time schedule and reporting*

This project will last 24 months, starting in May 2024 and ending April 2026.

The contracted expert should be able to attend monthly steering committee meetings, national seminars (December 2024 – June 2025), national workshops (April 2025 – December 2025) and the final conference (April 2026).

Payments and standard contract

A regular contract will be signed, including the description of the activities (detailed work program) and conditions included in the present invitation to tender. Terms of payment will be similar to those provided by the European Commission. They will be specified in the contract to be signed.

7. Price

The price should not be superior to **24,000 EUR (twenty-four thousand euro), VAT included**. Travels and accommodation costs should not be included in the price and will be reimbursed separately by industriAll Europe, upon presentation of justification documents (invoices, boarding passes, tickets).

8. Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the best value for money – taking into account the principles of transparency and equal treatment with a view to avoiding any conflicts of interest – and the following criteria:

- Demonstrated competencies in the fields mentioned above in point 5 “Expertise required”.
- Proven track record in sectoral social dialogue.
- Respect of the budgetary and timetable constraints.
- Ability to deliver the work presentations, reports and research results in English plus the ability to communicate in at least two of the other project country languages (FR, NL, ES, PT, IT, PL and TK).

9. Content and presentation of the bids

The bids should contain:

- A current CV containing previous work experience and language competences.
- A short cover letter which outlines expertise and experience as listed in point 5.

Applicants are invited to send their CV and a short cover letter to Elspeth Hathaway elspeth.hathway@industriall-europe.eu by **12.00 Friday 14 June**.

10. Selecting the successful bid

All bids received before the deadline on 14 June will be reviewed by both the project applicant (EURATEX) and the co-applicant (industriAll Europe).

- Deadline for the presentation of bids: 14 days after the date of publication of the call for tender.
- Notification of selected expert: 7 days after the deadline.