

Invitation to Tender

Combating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Research and Innovation

Issued by: Science Europe

*Launch date: **31 July 2026***

*Submission deadline: **30 September 2026***

Overview

Promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is part of the core mandate and long-term strategy of Science Europe. It is very active in a wide range of initiatives and structures that promote EDI in Europe and globally, including the ERA subgroup on Inclusive Gender Equality, the Global Research Council EDI Working Group, and GENDERACTIONPlus.

It has been a long-standing priority for Science Europe, as demonstrated by the release of its 2017 [Practical Guide to Improving Gender Equality in Research Organisations](#) and of its 2024 successor, the [Practical Guide to Supporting Diversity in Research Environments](#), which includes a broader scope that covers all aspects of equality and inclusion. Science Europe has also co-chaired the GRC EDI Working Group from 2020 to 2025, during which time it evolved from focusing solely on equality between men and women.

To further its knowledge base on the matter, Science Europe is now commissioning a study with the following structure:

- Part 1: a synthesis of available scholarly literature on the chosen topic.
- Part 2: a review of the research, data, and reports produced by EU institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), international R&I stakeholders, intergovernmental organisations, and EU-funded projects.

The study will focus on the following topic:

- Combatting Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in research and innovation.

The foreseen outcomes from the study are:

- A better understanding of existing evidence and knowledge from scholarly research, presented in a synthetic and accessible fashion.
- An overview of the main available tools and instruments that could assist the implementation of effective policies and mechanisms to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

Tasks

The selected consultant will be expected to perform the following tasks:

1. **A synthesis of scholarly literature on combating sexual and gender-based violence.** The consultant will be tasked with identifying and reviewing the academic literature and evidence base that explores these topics and solutions to drive progress in this area. Specifically, the synthesis will focus on:

- Identifying the institutional factors that create conditions that are preventive or permissive of SGBV.
- Understanding the frequency and occurrence of SGBV in research and innovation.
- Approaches, policies, and mechanisms that can effectively combat SGBV and support victims.

The consultant will conduct an analysis of the literature that should cover all aspects of EDI, adopt an intersectional lens, investigate differences between career stages, and highlight how the insights from the literature could inform EDI policies.

2. **A review of research, data, and reports produced by EU institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and EU-funded projects.** The consultant will be tasked with identifying and reviewing the literature, reports, data, and research exploring how to combat SGBV in research and innovation, with a particular focus on policies and tools that could be implemented by research-funding and research-performing organisations. The consultant will conduct an analysis that should cover all aspects of EDI, adopt an intersectional lens, and highlight how the insights from the literature could inform EDI policies.

Deliverables

The consultant will be required to produce the following deliverables:

1. Report

- a. A detailed report to be published in November 2026, which will include:
 - A synthesis of the scientific and scholarly literature.
 - A review of reports, research, and data that are not part of the scientific literature.

2. Presentation

- a. A draft of the report to be presented to the Science Europe Working Group on Research Culture during October 2026.
- b. Present the final report at a public webinar in November 2026 to disseminate the findings and foster discussion among Science Europe members, its partners, and the research community.

Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Expertise and experience

- Demonstrated expertise in equality, diversity, and inclusion, and related academic research.
- Previous experience conducting desk research and producing reports in the field of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

2. Approach and methodology

- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed approach to conducting the review of the academic literature and research identified in the tasks.
- Innovative methods to address potential challenges in connecting diverse research sources together.

3. Quality of deliverables

- Quality, clarity, and relevance of previous work samples provided.
- Ability to meet deadlines and produce high-quality reports and presentations.

4. Budget and value for money

- Proposed budget and its alignment with the scope of work and deliverables.
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

The proposal receiving the highest mark will be considered for selection. Science Europe reserves the right not to award this contract if no suitable consultant is identified.

Timeline

- **31 July 2026:** Tender launch.
- **30 September 2026:** Submission deadline for proposals.
- **23 October 2026:** Selection and appointment of the winning proposal.
- **November 2026–January 2027:** Desk research and report drafting.
- **February 2027:** Presentation of the draft report.
- **April 2027:** Final report publication and webinar event.

Budget and payment

The budget for this tender is estimated at 25,000–30,000 EUR (including any VAT which might be chargeable). The consultant is expected to provide a detailed budget breakdown, including fees, travel (if applicable), and any other expenses.

Payments will be linked to milestones, which will be agreed with the consultant. An indicative payment schedule could be comprised of three separate milestones:

- 10% will be paid upfront at the beginning of the contract.
- Up to 50% of the total amount will be paid upon delivery and presentation of the draft report.
- The remaining amount will be paid upon delivery of the final report.

Advisory group

The consultant will work in close collaboration with the Science Europe Office staff and the Science Europe Working Group on Research Culture. The Science Europe Office staff and experts from the members will provide guidance and feedback throughout the project, particularly during the dedicated webinar in September 2026.

Consultant requirements

The successful consultant will meet the following requirements:

- **Academic qualifications:** Advanced degree in a relevant field.
- **Research experience:** Proven track record in conducting research on equality, diversity, and inclusion or related fields, including the performance of literature reviews.
- **Communication skills:** Ability to produce clear, concise, and well-structured reports and present findings effectively to both expert and non-expert audiences.
- **Project management:** Demonstrated ability to manage projects, meet deadlines, and collaborate with advisory groups.

Responding to this invitation to tender

Please submit a structured proposal by 8 May 2026 to james.morris@scienceeurope.org and office@scienceeurope.org. Late submissions will not be considered. For any questions regarding this tender, please contact James Morris (james.morris@scienceeurope.org).

Annex A – Response to the invitation to tender

Please structure your proposal according to the following headings and content:

1. Consultant information

- Name
- Organisation
- Contact Information

2. Expertise and experience

- Briefly describe your relevant expertise and experience.

3. Proposed approach and methodology

- Summarise your approach to the tasks outlined in this tender.

4. Budget

- Provide a detailed budget breakdown.

5. Timeline

- Confirm your ability and means to meet the timeline outlined in the tender.

6. References

- Provide contact information for at least two references.