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NEXT MED

Scope

The University of Balamand (UOB) hereby solicits your offer for the RFQ [UOB BID 2026-01-27-011] titled "Consulting-Auditing- NEXT MED Project Grant" from qualified suppliers in reference to the following:

Project Reference *A_T_2.2_0319*: MEDFIREWISE - Building wildfire-resilient communities across the Mediterranean (Partner – PP6) Project Duration: 19-June-2025 to 18-June-2028

We appreciate receiving your competitive offer in a sealed envelope by Monday February 2, 2026 before 10 am Lebanon Time.

Please find attached the TOR for the Project and note the following:

- There will be six audit reports.
- Special forms are required by the Managing Authority;
- Please submit your offer for each of the projects as per table below in your financial offer:

Price in Dollars	Price in Euros

The audit will be conducted by an independent body officially authorized to carry out audits of accounts. UOB will provide the external auditor with full access to its premises and all required documents.

Participation to Bid

- TOR is enclosed
- All proposal documents should be provided in English
- All offers must be submitted in sealed envelopes by hand to the Procurement Office in Koura campus, Admin Building, 1st floor- Office room # 111

Evaluation Criteria

The following elements will be the primary considerations in evaluating submitted proposals and selecting the qualified vendor:

Evaluation	Weight
1	50%
2	50%

We look forward to receiving your competitive offer before the above-mentioned deadline. In the meantime, please reply immediately to the invitation received confirming the receipt of the tender invitation.

Procurement Office

January 27, 2026



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Terms of Reference

Auditor/Auditing Firm

for UOB-affiliated Interreg NEXTMED project

MedFireWise

27 January 2026



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I. MedFireWise Project Summary

The MedFireWise addresses the escalating threat of wildfires in the Med forests by promoting prescribed burning & silvopasture as Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for wildfire risk management (WRFM). Through transnational cooperation, it aims to mitigate wildfire risk in ecosystems, leveraging ecological processes to enhance resilience & reduce fire intensity & severity. The development of innovative tools & frameworks will enhance situational awareness for evaluating sustainable interventions in strategic forest management areas, thereby refining risk management systems. The implementation in 7 regions will demonstrate the effectiveness of the NbS, benefiting local communities, economies & ecosystems. It will provide tools for more effective WRFM, increase stakeholder capacity, raise public awareness & transfer its outcomes to regions among & beyond the project areas, contributing to more resilient Med forests to confront the climate change impacts. Main Outputs (O): WP3: O3.1 Report on needs, regulatory framework & existing NbS of partner countries in WFRM, O3.2 Framework of indicators for the implementation of NbS & O3.3 Seasonal WRFM tool WP4: O4.1 Cross-Campaigns design, O4.2 Forestry works to facilitate the execution of prescribed burns & silvopasture & O4.3 Cross-Campaigns implementation WP5: O5.1 Increased risk awareness of local community in wildfire-prone areas & O5.2 Strategy for transferring solutions to regions beyond partnership MedFireWise will produce tools & facilitate resources that will leave a significant impact on the beneficiaries: enhanced protection against wildfires to local communities in high-risk areas; better tools for environmental & risk managers to effectively manage wildfire risks while promoting ecosystem restoration & functionality; safe forest infrastructure for firefighting services; new grazing opportunities in strategic areas for shepherds; evidence-based methods for policy-makers to promote wildfire-related policies.

MedFireWise is co-funded by the European Union under the Interreg NEXT MED Programme. The project consortium consists of partners from Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkiyeh, Tunisia, Algeria and Lebanon; and the project duration is 36 months:

Consortium:

- Lead: National Observatory of Athens (Coordinator, GR)
- Partner 1: Pau Costa Foundation (ES)
- Partner 2: D.R.E.Am. Italia (IT)
- Partner 3: Edirne Forest Management Directorate (TR)
- Partner 4: National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water, and Forestry (TN)
- Partner 5: Algerian Space Agency (DZ)
- Partner 6: University of Balamand (LB)

Duration: 3 years



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Starting date: June 19, 2025

Duty Station: Lebanon

Expiration date of the Request for Services: June 18, 2028

II. Tasks of Auditor

- Provide all required audit deliverables for the MedFireWise NEXTMED project based on the project's reporting timeline.
- Perform 6 expenditure verification audits (one every 6 months) of the MedFireWise project's financial documentation in line with Interreg NEXTMED audit guidelines and national eligibility rules, ensuring use of any compulsory financial reporting and expenditure verification templates provided by the grant program.
- Prepare six expenditure verification reports (one per reporting cycle) per project verifying the completeness and accuracy of provided expenditure documentation.
- Conduct biannual reviews of financial performance and compliance status. Highlight financial risks, potential audit flags, or areas for improvement.
- Ensure consistent quality of the 6 audit reports per project.
- Liaise with the projects' financial and coordination teams to ensure timely access to documents, explanations, and clarifications.

III. Schedule of Deliverables

Deliverable	Due
1 st interim report	Month 7-8
2 nd interim report	Month 13-14
3 rd interim report	Month 19-20
4 th interim report	Month 25-26
5 th interim report	Month 31-32
Final report	Month 39

IV. Auditor Qualifications

- Registered and licensed audit firm legally authorized to perform audits in the country where the Lead Beneficiary or partner is established.
- Member of the Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants (LACPA)
- Proven experience in EU-funded projects auditing, preferably under Interreg, ENI/ENPI CBC, IPA, or similar cross-border or structural funds.



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- Strong understanding of:
 - EU financial regulations and eligibility rules
 - Public procurement compliance
 - Audit trail and documentation standards required by the European Commission
- Use of internationally recognized audit standards (e.g. ISAs, INTOSAI standards).
- Experience with digital tools or platforms used in Interreg/ENI financial reporting is desirable.
- Excellent reporting skills in English (written and spoken), as all audit deliverables must be submitted in English.

V. Time Frame

The above-mentioned tasks will be performed through the project period extending from June 19th, 2025 till June 18th, 2028.

VI. Budget

Total budget of the MedFireWise project assigned to UOB: 387,500 EUR

UOB undertakes to co-finance the implementation of the project with: 42,625 EUR