

Request for proposals

Field scoping of key issues and main groups addressing gender and social equity in the built environment in Europe

Laudes Foundation is inviting proposals from an independent consultant, organisation, or consortium to undertake a field scoping of key issues and individuals and groups addressing gender and social equity in the built environment in Europe. **Complete proposals must be submitted by 20 November 2020.** More details are given below.

I. Introduction

Laudes Foundation is an independent foundation here to advance the transition to a just and regenerative economy. We do this by supporting brave action that will inspire and challenge industry to harness its power for good. Action that inspires industry to work collaboratively to create solutions and tools as well as challenging industry, holding it to account and incentivising change.

Founded in 2020, Laudes Foundation is part of the Brenninkmeijer family enterprise and builds on six generations of entrepreneurship and philanthropy. In particular, we advance the industry-changing work of C&A Foundation. Learning from these experiences, we work persistently and collaboratively to influence capital and transform industry, starting with the built environment and fashion industries. Laudes Foundation has the primary purpose of redefining value to address global inequality and climate breakdown.

The vision of our built environment programme is to support an inclusive and regenerative built environment that prioritises decarbonisation and wellbeing for all. Specifically, this will involve a range of investments, initially targeting European markets on two pillars: 1) We will drive net zero pathways and 2) We will accelerate sustainable wood construction that protects forests and promotes biodiversity.

We seek a stronger foundational understanding of issues of gender and social exclusion within the built environment in Europe (EU27, CH, NO, UK) to ensure our investments do no harm and where possible, foster social equity, health and wellbeing. The aim of the field scoping is to identify key issues and those individuals and organisations working on gender and social equity in the European built environment. The request for proposals presents the purpose and scope; objective and key questions; process; deliverables; and consultant qualifications and projected level of effort.

The field scoping study is required to be submitted to Laudes Foundation by 28 February 2021.

II. Purpose and scope

The purpose of the field scoping is to identify issues and key partners in the European built environment to understand how best to incorporate an equity and inclusion lens throughout this portfolio by gaining better insight into the power dynamics, systems and incentives, including cultural and social norms that may hinder or maximise the potential for change.

This study will include a short paper summarising the major critiques of current approaches to build from a gender and social equity perspective, and what is known/documentated in media, NGO, academic or government reports regarding the disparate impacts of the shift toward net zero buildings on women and on socially marginalised groups in the EU context.

It will identify those advocating for gender-sensitive and inclusive policy, regulation and practice in the built environment across Europe.

It should also produce a high level impact/risk mapping by issue and geography to highlight and provide recommendations of scope on the most material issues in order to start more focused work to address this.

Examples of issues of social equity in the European built environment may include (but is not limited to) the disparities in labour market participation, energy poverty, and access to affordable housing and a healthy and inclusive living environment.

III. Objectives and key questions

This mapping aims to briefly synthesise publicly identified (i.e. in media or NGO reports, or in grey or academic literature) risks regarding gender and social exclusion especially in the context of the shift toward net zero carbon and circular economy in the built environment, reveal the main agents advocating for greater social equity to investors, industry, civil society and policy makers and produce a short paper detailing major issues and findings with respect to the following main questions:

- What are the main issues of social and gender equity in the built environment in European countries and at EU level, also linked to the ongoing transition to a circular, net zero carbon built environment?
- Who are the groups and individuals working in these fields as funders, NGOs, industry organisations, other philanthropies or bilateral donors etc.?
- What should Laudes be aware of regarding issues and geographies to ensure that our portfolio does no harm and where possible makes a positive contribution to improve social equity?
- Overall, what are the root causes and potential systemic solutions Laudes might pursue and where are there links to the transition to a circular, net zero carbon built environment?

The purpose of this field scoping paper and presentation will be to inform an emerging theory of change and grant making portfolio. It is recognised that the field is relatively diffuse, and issues are often highly local, which will be fundamental challenges in this work. It is also acknowledged that the factors may be specific to particular contexts but it is relevant to note significant elements and partners in multiple geographies across Europe as well.

The study may address the following (and other potential) additional questions :

- How does the built environment affect public health? Are there different impacts on different populations?
- What and where are there challenges of energy poverty in European countries and how can systemic change be supported here?
- How do labour conditions and labour market participation in the built environment support or undermine social equity?
- Does the transition to circular economy and net zero carbon buildings create social dislocations and if so, how and which?
- How are important social issues expressed and represented differently across European countries? How can access to affordable housing in the transition to net zero buildings be increased?
- What are the issues of diversity in the leadership of organisations within the built environment and how can change be supported here?
- What is known about how environmental and other relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the built environment may reinforce social exclusion/inclusion?
- What is known about whether transitions serve to make land and urban spaces more accessible to marginalised communities, or further crowd out low-income and minority communities from desirable locations?
- What is philanthropy in general and how is Laudes specifically best positioned to support gender and social equity in the European built environment?

IV. Methodology

The built environment is a very wide field, reaching across areas like affordable housing, labour rights, health, diversity and energy poverty, therefore suggestions for methodology include:

- A mapping to identify central individuals and organisations and the points they raise as well as outline the many different social and gender issues to be addressed across geographies as well as note all stakeholders
- A literature review clarifying root causes and potential solutions

- Select expert interviews to explore the diversity of different themes and involved individuals and groups across Europe
- Potential deep dive into specific issues fit for scope in relation to philanthropy, the overall Laudes and built strategy and the field of existing funders and potential partners.

As this will be an iterative development process, it is proposed that client meetings are held every second week.

Consultants are invited to further explore and/or challenge the suggested methodological approach in their proposals for this field scoping and provide examples for literature to be reviewed in an appendix.

V. Roles and responsibilities

Senior programme manager, net zero buildings, (the manager) is responsible for:

- Overall responsibility and accountability for management and delivery of the research up to and including approval of the research report (in consultation with the Effective Philanthropy team at Laudes Foundation)
- Technical guidance for the research consultant(s) throughout the research phase up to and including participation / observation of data collection as necessary
- Identification of peer reviewers (internal and external) and management of the peer review process
- Leadership of the research draft report review process including collating comments and facilitating discussion and feedback
- In all these roles, necessary support will be provided by other members of the built environment team
- Leadership in use of the research and its publication with support from the Brand and Communications team at Laudes Foundation

The peer reviewers (internal and external) are responsible for:

- Reviewing the draft research report
- Providing peer review feedback to ensure quality of the research report
- Liaising with the manager, as required

The consultant(s) is responsible for:

- Conducting all necessary literature review and qualitative and quantitative assessments and data collection as necessary
- Day-to-day management of the research
- Regular formal and informal reporting to the manager
- Participation in key research related meetings (kick off meeting, inception report meeting and draft findings meeting etc.)
- Addressing peer review feedback in the field scoping

- Production of deliverables (inception report and research report) in accordance with the request for proposals, Laudes Foundation editorial style guide, Laudes Foundation report style guide and contractual arrangements

VI. Process

Clarifying questions on the scope can be asked by e-mail before November 16 at 12 a.m. (CET).

The consultant(s) will prepare an **inception report and work plan** that will flow from the Request for Proposals. The inception report and work plan will address the following elements: expectations; any refinements and elaboration to questions; methods including possible constraints; outline of the final field scoping report, including a bibliography. The inception report and work plan will be approved by the manager and act as an agreement between the consultants and the Laudes Foundation on how the review is to be conducted.

The consultant(s) will prepare the **draft and final reports** that form a short paper mapping all involved groups and individuals and providing a high-level risk (do no harm)/impact (improve equity) issue analysis by issue and geography.

The consultant(s) will also give a presentation of findings to Laudes Foundation to enable discussion and decisions on key focus areas. This product may stimulate further analytic studies or evidence reviews.

The main activities and timetable for this consultancy is set out below:

Process	Deadline	Responsibility
Clarifying questions on scope can be asked by e-mail	16 November before 12am CET	Consultant
Selection and contracting of consultancy	04 December 2020	Laudes Foundation (Maya Faerch)
Inception report preparation	18 December 2020	Consultant / team / expert review
Draft report for comment	31 January 2021	Consultant team / expert review
Final report	28 February 2021	Consultant / Team

VII. Deliverables

The mapping requires the consultant to submit the following deliverables no later than 28 February 2021:

- Inception report
- Draft report
- Presentation meeting (virtual meeting with relevant Laudes Foundation staff)
- Final report, with a two-page executive summary and bibliography

VIII. Audience and dissemination

The report will be published on Laudes Foundation's website to inspire action on social equity for stakeholders in the built environment. The report must be an original body of work following international standards of research ethics including Laudes Foundation's Policy for Ethical Considerations.

IX. Consultant requirements and level of effort

The expected level of effort for the study is approximately 30-35 working days. This is an estimate – the level of effort proposed must be aligned with the proposed methodology.

Proposals are invited from the applying individual consultant, a group of individual consultants with a designated team lead, consulting companies with relevant research expertise or academic institutions that can bring in a range of expertise including:

- Demonstrated expertise and deep familiarity with key stakeholders in the green building sector, with strong preference for EU experience/expertise as well as demonstrated knowledge of policy with respect to the pillars described above; please highlight experience in both cover letter and CV
- Proven expertise conducting gender/social inclusion analysis, as evidenced by reports, papers and/or other tools and products; please highlight experience both in cover letter and CV and please attach samples of work if possible
- Clear ability to produce high-quality outputs in a short timeframe
- Fluency in English
- No conflict of interest with Laudes Foundation

Please submit a technical proposal including a financial proposal (per details given below) to Maya Faerch, m.fauerch@laudesfoundation.org by Friday, 20 November 2020.

Any clarifying questions on scope should be sent in writing by e-mail no later than Monday, 09 November 2020.

A. *Technical Proposal*

A **proposal** of no more than 3-5 pages (excluding annexes) and including the following sections:

- Understanding of the RFP and the requirements of the study

- Approach and methodology
- Key deliverables and timeline of the study

As **annexures** – please include:

- Key personnel and staffing, and relevant expertise/experience of the staff
- Organisational credentials highlighting relevant experience, and specific expertise via previous projects and collaborations (as needed)
- Please provide two sample research/review reports done by the consultant individual or organisation (to be used only for purposes of selection)

B. Financial Proposal

The financial proposal should include a line-item budget and budget narrative with cost estimates in **Euros** (€). The financial proposal must be prepared as a separate file and should contain a break-up of professional fees along with any estimated out of pocket expenditures.