



EGTC-NET

**Market exploration
Request for tenders without obligation**

**Identification and Comparative Analysis of Cross-border
Obstacles in EGTCs – External Expert**

In the frame of INTERREG IT-AT project „EGTC-NET“
(Work Package 3)

Client:	<p>EVTZ Geopark Karawanken mbH Hauptplatz 7 A-9135 Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla Tel: + 43(0)4238 8239-15 Email: office@geopark-karawanken.at www.geopark-karawanken.at</p> <p>EVTZ Alpine Pearls mbH Techendorf 90 A-9762 Weissensee Tel: +43 (0)720 779376 Email: info@alpine-pearls.com www.alpine-pearls.com</p>
Delivery period:	2/2 2026
Submission deadline:	Until 3. 7. till 12:00, by mail, e-mail (lara.piko@geopark.si and projects@alpine-pearls.com) or direct delivery to the Geopark Karawanken Management center, Tichoja 15, 9133 Sittersdorf, Austria
Subject:	Identification and Comparative Analysis of Cross- border Obstacles in EGTCs – External Expert
Inquiries/Questions:	<p>EVTZ Geopark Karawanken mbH Gerald Hartmann Tel. +43(0)664 88220157 Email: gerald.hartmann@geopark-karawanken.at</p> <p>EVTZ Alpine Pearls mbH Giovanni Vassena T +43 660 3199366 Email: projects@alpine-pearls.com</p>

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Contract Subject – Service catalogue

The present catalogue of services shall serve as the basis for the detailed submission of offers.

Project Background and Context

Within the framework of the EGTC-NET project, specifically under Work Package 3 (WP3) – Identification of Cross-border obstacles, project partners are addressing the core legal, administrative, and institutional barriers that impact European Groups of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) and their territories.

The purpose of this call is to select a qualified external expert (or a team of experts) to draft individual analytical reports on cross-border obstacles for two specific project partners:

- **EGTC Geopark Karawanken** (Slovenia / Austria)
- **EGTC Alpine Pearls** (Austria/Italy/Germany/Slovenia)

Scope of Work and Tasks

The selected expert will be responsible for preparing two separate, standalone reports (one for each designated EGTC). The work must strictly follow the structured reporting template and methodology provided by the WP3 Lead Partner (preliminary template issued in May 2026; final version expected by mid-June 2026). The expert's work will be based on the obstacles already identified by the Project Partners in previous project tasks.

Note: The expert is not required to draft the comprehensive comparative analysis for the entire project network. The scope of this contract is strictly limited to the individual analysis of cross-border obstacles for EGTC Geopark Karawanken and EGTC Alpine Pearls.

Key Responsibilities

- **Data Collection & Stakeholder Engagement:** Conduct interviews, review internal documents, analyze case studies, and map concrete situations where obstacles have disrupted the operations or territorial development of both EGTCs.

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- **Drafting Two Individual Reports:** Each completed report must be between **8 and 12 pages** long (excluding annexes) and structured around the 7 mandatory sections of the project methodology:
 1. General information and descriptive profile of the EGTC.
 2. Preliminary mapping of current and recent cross-border obstacles.
 3. Precise identification of the main selected obstacle (summary, thematic area, nature of the obstacle).
 4. Detailed analysis of the obstacle (origins, causes, and legal competence to address it).
 5. Impact assessment (narrative description, severity, blocking effect, and empirical evidence).
 6. Persistence of the obstacle (factors explaining why it has not yet been resolved).
 7. Proposed solutions or mitigation approaches (feasibility, timeframe, expected benefits).
- **Applying the Scoring Guide:** The expert will evaluate the selected obstacles based on the project's specific matrix (severity, operational blocking effect, urgency, complexity of the solution, and the need for multi-level governance intervention).

Required Qualifications and Competences

Due to the unique nature of the involved partners—particularly the EGTC Alpine Pearls, which operates across multiple national jurisdictions—the expert must demonstrate a broad understanding of the EGTC legal tool in various European countries.

Selection Criteria / Requirements:

- **Expert Knowledge of the EGTC Legal Framework:** Thorough understanding of EU Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 (and its amendments) as well as the respective national legislations governing EGTCs in Austria, Slovenia, and the wider Alpine space.
- **Proven Experience in Cross-Border Barrier Analysis:** Demonstrated track record in analyzing legal, administrative, or institutional cross-border obstacles (e.g., experience with the *b-solutions* initiative, macro-regional studies, or border region research).

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- **Language Skills:** Proficiency in **English** is mandatory, as the final reports must be delivered in English. Fluency or working knowledge of **German, Italian** and **Slovenian** is highly advantageous for conducting direct interviews and analyzing local legal texts. It's possible to use the services of external

Timeline and Milestones

The tasks will be executed in close cooperation with both EGTC secretariats and in accordance with the WP3 project schedule:

Milestone / Activity	Expected Deadline
Launch of the Call & Selection of the Expert	June/July 2026
Data collection, interviews, and drafting of reports	July – August – September 2026
Submission of Final Two Individual Reports	<i>October 2026</i>

Application Instructions

Interested candidates must submit the following documents:

- List of References detailing similar assignments (e.g., cross-border studies, legal analyses, EGTC consulting).
- Brief Technical Proposal (max. 2 pages) outlining the approach to executing the tasks.
- **Each project partner shall receive a separate invoice corresponding to its share of the contracted services, which will be set later on.**
- Maximal budget of 34.000 € (with VAT).
- The contractor may engage external translators or translation service providers for translation tasks if required. All associated costs shall be included in the proposed budget.

CONTRACT CRITERIA

The listed variants will be contracted out according to the best bid principle as follows:

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40%	Price
60%	Quality of the offer

The quality assessment will consider:

- **12%** - Experience in EGTC governance, legal frameworks, and cooperation, including with geographically dispersed EGTCs or comparable multi-level structures involving local and regional actors (AT, IT, SLO).
- **12%** - Experience in cross-border and transnational governance and cooperation structures involving multiple countries, regions, and administrative frameworks.
- **12%** - Experience in analysing legal, administrative, and institutional cross-border obstacles, and proposing practical solutions for territorial cooperation.
- **12%** - Experience in EU Territorial Cooperation programmes and strategies related to governance, cross-border cooperation, or institutional capacity building.
- **12%** - Experience in international and regional cooperation, specifically within the Alpine region and the Carinthia (Austria) – Slovenia border area.

Further information on the submission of the offer

- The clients will award the contract to the bidder with the most convincing offer.
- **The clients reserve the right not to contract out or to contract out a reduced number of individual variants (types) according to their suitability for purpose and financial feasibility.**
- The price must include all costs incurred by the bidder in the execution of the order, discounts, reductions and VAT must be indicated.
- The offer must be valid for 2026 or after the bid has been awarded to the selected supplier.
- Any cancellation costs for services not requested must be indicated.
- Payments are generally made after delivery of the individual modules and receipt of the invoice within 30 days.
- We will only deal with offers received in time.
- The selected contractor shall issue **separate invoices** to each contracting partner (EGTC Geopark Karawanken and EGTC Alpine Pearls) according to the agreed distribution of services and costs. No joint invoice shall be accepted.



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The suppliers will be informed of the decision after the deadline for submission of the offers within a maximum of 14 working days.

For further clarification, please contact

Mag. Gerald Hartmann, EVTZ Geopark Karawanken, E-Mail: gerald.hartmann@geopark-karawanken.at or

Giovanni Vassena, EVTZ Alpine Pearls E-Mail: projects@alpine-pearls.com.

For the client:

EVTZ Geopark Karawanken mbH

Mag. Gerald Hartmann, Direktor
Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla, 25. 6. 2026

For the client:

EVTZ Alpine Pearls mbH

Peter Brandauer, President
Weissensee, 25. 6. 2026