



# CALL FOR A RESEARCHER

Reference of the call for tenders: GT06112024

**Mission description:** Conduct a research on Enhancing Global Supply Chain Responsibility : Consequences of the EU supply chain law in Morocco

**Mission Period:** August 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Number of work days estimated:** 17 days

**Primary Location:** Morocco

**Title of the Project :** Enhancing Global Supply Chain Responsibility: Consequences of the EU supply chain law in Morocco

**Deadline for submitting proposals :** July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Proposal to be submitted via email to :** ffnmaroc@gmail.com

## 1 About the Project

### 1.1. Context

The European Union's supply chain law, known as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), has significant implications for many developing countries, including Morocco. This legislation mandates social and environmental standards for businesses throughout their supply chains, aiming to enhance corporate responsibility regarding human rights and sustainability.

Morocco is heavily impacted by this legislation due to its geographical proximity and growing integration into global supply chains, especially with the neighboring European economies. Moroccan companies, whether small, medium, or large, must adapt to these new requirements, posing a major challenge for many managers.

According to the General confederation of Enterprises in Morocco (CGEM), Moroccan businesses have expressed concerns about the extensive resources required to comply with the new regulations. Many businesses believe that the law will necessitate substantial changes in their operations and business models<sup>1</sup>.

The CSDDD imposes several key obligations on businesses, including:

- Conducting due diligence to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for actual or potential adverse impacts on human rights and the environment within their supply chains.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2023/12/359571/cgem-2024-finance-law-falls-short-of-moroccan-businesses-expectations> (Last consulted: 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2024)

- Integrating due diligence into company policies and management systems.
- Establishing procedures for complaints and ensuring transparency and public reporting on due diligence efforts.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of these measures continuously.
- Financial and Organizational Implications

The compliance costs associated with these obligations can be substantial, involving investments in new management systems, ongoing monitoring, and reporting mechanisms. For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the burden is particularly heavy as they may lack the necessary resources and expertise. They may look to comply with the new regulations or look elsewhere than Europe for less demanding business partners. The latter would be to the detriment of Moroccan-European business relations and the desired environmental and social standards.

This policy document aims to provide European decision makers a field perspective on the consequences of the European supply chain law in Morocco. Furthermore, it aims to offer recommendations to adjust the law so that it achieves its initial objectives without imposing excessive burdens on Moroccan businesses.

Guiding questions are:

- a. How aware are Moroccan business managers about the CSDDD and future requirements?
- b. Do they support the CSDDD's objectives?
- c. Do they plan to adapt their business structure and processes in order to comply with the CSDDD?
- d. Do they look for alternative business partners to avoid CSDDD regulation?
- e. How likely is it that the CSDDD will have the desired outcome in Morocco?
- f. How would the CSDDD have to change in order to achieve the desired outcome?

## a. Project Description

Focusing on a representative sample of Moroccan companies, our goal is to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with complying with the new European supply chain law in Morocco. We also aim to assess the impact of this legislation on the business models and operations of companies of different sizes. We intend to conduct in-depth interviews with managers and leaders of Moroccan companies, representatives of professional associations, compliance consultants, and sustainability experts. We also plan to collect quantitative data on the compliance strategies adopted by these companies.

As part of this study, we plan field visits to various Moroccan companies. There, we will observe and document the operational practices and compliance measures implemented in response to the European legislation.

The results of this study will be used to formulate practical recommendations for Moroccan businesses to facilitate their transition to more sustainable practices that comply with international requirements. We will also develop recommendations for European and Moroccan policymakers to adjust legislation and support policies.

This research will be written in both English and German. Each document has a strict word limit of 4,500 to 7,000 words. The ultimate goal is to contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of the European law and to promote responsible and sustainable supply chains, aligning

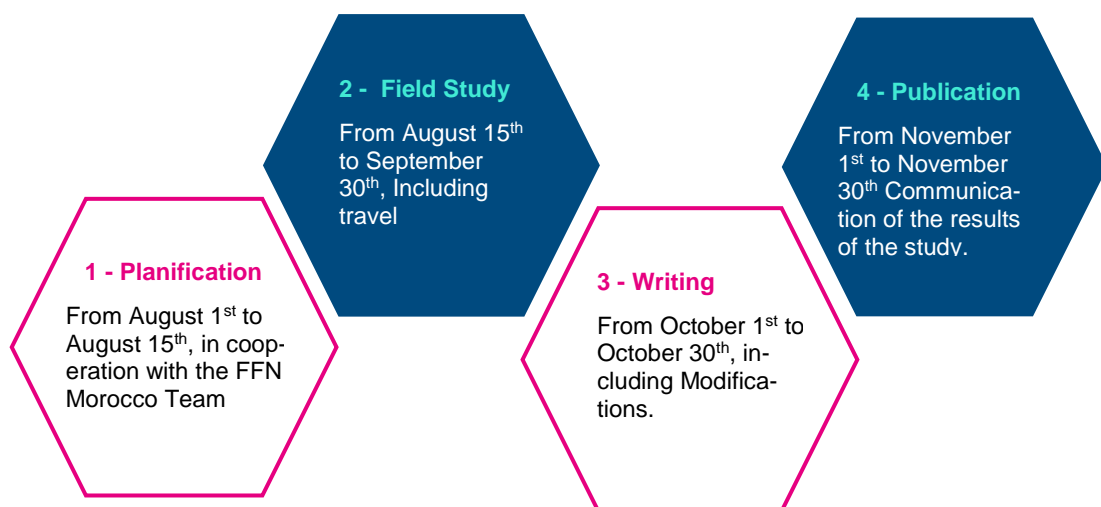
with the rigorously communicated writing rules and in coordination with a team of researchers based in Morocco who will conduct the field study.

## b. Project Targets

- **Moroccan Companies:** SMEs and large companies involved in exports to the EU. These companies are at the heart of our study as they need to adapt their operations and business models to comply with the new European supply chain law.
- **Policymakers and Development Actors:** Government agencies, NGOs, and international development organizations. These entities play a crucial role in developing and implementing support policies for Moroccan companies, facilitating their transition to more sustainable and internationally compliant supply chain practices.

The study aims to understand how these targets are trying to comply with the new legislation and to assess the challenges and opportunities they encounter. The results of the study will guide policies and practices aimed at supporting Moroccan companies in their compliance efforts and promoting responsible and sustainable supply chains. By providing recommendations based on empirical data, this research will contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of the European law and to improving the competitiveness and sustainability conditions of Moroccan companies in the international market.

### 1.4. Timeline du projet



## 2 About the Researcher

The mission of the researcher responsible for this study is to design and conduct the research. The researcher will lead the entire study, including planning, questionnaire development, appointment setting, and policy paper writing, data collection and analysis, report writing, and presenting the results.

The main responsibilities of the researcher will include:

- Designing a robust research framework to guide data collection and analysis.
- Identifying relevant data sources, including quantitative and qualitative data, to answer the research questions.
- Writing clear and concise research reports to present the study results and conclusions.
- Presenting the study results at conferences and meetings with policymakers and development actors.

The researcher must work closely with the research team based in Morocco and local partners to ensure the quality of the policy paper and that its recommendations can guide the policies and practices implemented in response to the European legislation.

## 3 About the Offer

### 3.1. Profile of the Researcher :

The mission will be entrusted to a researcher who meets the following criteria:

- Experience in social science research: The researcher must have solid experience in economics, preferably with expertise in International Law, Logistics, or Business Management.
- Research design skills: The researcher must have experience in designing robust research frameworks to answer research questions.
- Communication skills: The researcher must be able to communicate the study results clearly and effectively to a wide range of audiences, including policymakers and development actors.
- Knowledge of the context: The researcher must have a thorough understanding of the social, economic, and political context of Morocco.
- Language skills: The researcher must have a fluent command of French and strong written and oral communication skills in English and German.

### 3.2. Expected Offers

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Methodological Offer (40%)**: Describes the methodology and approach proposed to carry out the service and guarantee the reliability of the results, demonstrating quality and creativity in tools.
- **Financial Offer (40%)**: Describes the total cost of the service in detail, including all taxes (TTC with detailed VAT) and payment terms. The travel expenses will be directly covered by FNF.
- **Expertise File (20%)**: Describes the relevance of professional experience:
  1. Detailed CV
  2. Examples of previous studies (preferably in economics)
  3. Previous references

Payment will be made under the following conditions:

- Based on the signing of a detailed service contract
- Upon completion of the project, with the presentation of a single invoice.
- Payment will be made two weeks after receipt of the invoice.

**Important to note** : The project will be awarded to the bidder who offers the lowest price while meeting or exceeding the technical acceptance level. Technical capability is evaluated based on how the proposed services comply with the minimum technical specifications outlined in this request for proposal.

### 3.3. Application Submission

The application file must include the following elements separately:

- An expertise file
- A methodological offer (including the estimated number of days?)
- A financial offer (including the price per working day?, not including travel cost to and in Morocco)

The complete application file must be sent by email under the subject "GT06112024 – Name of the Bidder" to the following address : [ffnmaroc@gmail.com](mailto:ffnmaroc@gmail.com) no later than **July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, at midnight. Any offer received after the indicated deadline will be considered inadmissible. Any bidder wishing to obtain additional information on the terms of reference can contact us at the same address.

## 4 Terms and Conditions

Only applications meeting the criteria below will be eligible for evaluation:

- The presentation of the three aforementioned elements corresponding to the duly completed application with complete and accurate information in accordance with the provisions of this request.
- Sending the application as an email attachment (any bidder who adds another email address of one of the partners in their service provider proposal will be disqualified).
- Indicating complete contact details with at least:
  - Name of the company (and its legal representative) or the person registered as a self-employed entrepreneur
  - Physical and electronic address
  - Telephone number
  - Bidder registration number
  - Tax identification number
  - Any other relevant information.
- The project partners reserve the right to select and negotiate with bidders at their sole discretion. Bidders will be entitled to present competitive proposals and terminate negotiations without incurring liability. The project partners also reserve the right to reject any proposal received without explanation and to ignore any deviation from the requirements.
- All responses to this request for proposal become the property of the partners.
- The partners are entitled to award only part of the activities described in the request or to make multiple contract awards based on needs.