- propose a solution different from the one imposed;
- propose a price above the fixed maximum set in the specifications;
- propose contractual terms or conditions which deviate from what is provided in the draft contract (Annex 2);
- are submitted as variants, when the specifications do not authorise them;
- do not comply with applicable obligations under environmental, social and labour law established by Union law, national law and collective agreements or by the international environmental, social and labour law provisions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU[15], compliance with data protection obligations resulting from Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725[16], and compliance with Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 ('the AI Act')[17]

The ground for rejection is not linked to the award criteria so there is no evaluation. The tenderer will be informed of the grounds for rejection without being given feedback on the content of the tender other than on the non-compliant elements.

2.6 AWARD CRITERIA

Tenders will be evaluated against the below award criteria. The award criteria serve to identify the **most economically advantageous offer**.

A) QUALITY AWARD CRITERIA

The technical offers will be evaluated based on the 3 case studies defined below. Please carefully read the assignment.

Note

- **The case studies proposed will only be used for the evaluation of the offers and intend to mimic realistic requirements although they cannot, in any way, be considered exhaustive or representative.**
- **These case studies relate to the quality award criteria ONLY, i.e. they are completely dissociated from the financial offer evaluation, i.e. the financial offer to be proposed using annex 1 shall not be based on these case studies. For more details see Annex 1.**

CASE STUDY 1 – task1 statistical analysis

Background: A research team has conducted a study on the spread of a foodborne pathogen in a country outside the EU. The team has collected data on several variables including spatial coordinates, year of data collection, average temperature at each location

[15] OJ L 94 of 28.03.2014, p. 65

[16] Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, OJ L 295/39 21.11.2018, ('EUDPR') https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1725&from=EN

[17] Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 ('Artificial Intelligence Act') OJ L 2024/1689, 12.7.2024 - https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj

by season (Dec-Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr-May, Jun-Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct-Nov), size of the population and number of cases by season. Data are provided in Table 2

Tasks: The potential tenderer is requested to:

- analyse the data using appropriate statistical methods. The analysis should include spatial analysis to determine the spread pattern of the pathogen, time-series analysis to determine the trend of the pathogen incidence over season and time
- model the relationship (exploring linear and non-linear options) between temperature and pathogen incidence

The results of the analysis should be presented and explained in detail with emphasis given to the identified uncertainties, including possible limitations in the data and methods used. The choice of the specific methodology should be justified as well as the approaches. The analysis should be done using R. Commented R code to reproduce the results with session information that provides the packages used and their versions or a Docker image which guarantees full reproducibility of the analysis should also be provided. Possible alternative solutions and, where applicable, pros and cons of the approaches, as well as the quality assurance strategy are also expected to be presented.

Coordinates (latitude, longitude)	Year	Dec-Jan-Feb Mean Temperature (celsius)	Mar-Apr-May Mean Temperature (celsius)	Jun-Jul-Aug Mean Temperature (celsius)	Sep-Oct-Nov Mean Temperature (celsius)	Population size	n. cases Dec-Jan-Feb	n. cases in Mar-Apr-May	n. cases in Jun-Jul-Aug	n. cases in Sep-Oct-Nov
11.256531, 12.426653	2020	32	36	22	32	200	11	18	14	13
(9.081999, 8.675277)	2020	19	33	30	21	200	12	22	15	16
(9.874158, 11.019483)	2020	25	25	25	25	200	14	23	18	17
(9.700935, 6.622079)	2020	24	28	28	26	150	4	10	7	6
(7.615720, 9.612314)	2020	21	24	31	28	150	6	12	9	8
(10.220328, 6.622079)	2020	29	31	26	31	150	7	14	10	9
(10.393273, 10.667691)	2020	19	28	24	27	180	20	30	25	26
(7.092716, 9.612314)	2020	32	22	27	23	180	21	31	26	24
(8.485955, 7.325664)	2020	24	37	23	21	180	22	34	27	25
(6.219743, 4.863117)	2021	26	33	22	20	200	15	17	20	12
(8.485955, 9.084626)	2021	28	35	30	19	200	16	28	20	19
(7.789915, 7.853352)	2021	19	30	28	26	200	24	33	28	27
(7.615720, 5.742598)	2021	22	31	26	24	150	5	11	8	7
(7.964038, 9.436418)	2021	23	28	22	33	150	7	13	10	8
(7.441454, 7.853352)	2021	31	25	29	31	150	9	16	12	11

(7.687176, 7.196257)	2022	29	27	27	27	180	15	24	19	18
(8.644159, 3.238593)	2022	20	31	23	29	180	16	25	20	19
(10.334510, 9.790726)	2022	25	36	28	31	180	17	30	21	20
(8.035434, 9.922648)	2022	21	34	25	33	200	10	17	13	12
(12.359454, 6.756517)	2022	25	30	29	21	200	18	35	22	21
(11.456472, 5.481241)	2022	20	31	30	25	170	19	30	19	16
(11.327233, 7.504047)	2022	33	29	25	27	210	11	21	21	13
(12.015816, 9.263008)	2022	31	26	23	26	300	21	34	28	28
(11.456472, 10.714152)	2023	28	28	24	22	250	27	21	12	25
(8.600711, 9.219034)	2023	21	31	29	24	220	18	20	15	22
(8.383393, 7.987761)	2023	22	33	22	29	200	12	24	23	19
(7.556505, 6.008929)	2023	27	32	29	30	180	10	18	14	20
(9.728684, 10.890048)	2023	25	27	31	31	175	24	23	9	31
(10.420962, 8.559424)	2023	29	26	23	33	210	13	18	5	12
(7.789915, 7.853352)	2024	20	31	29	27	200	24	33	28	27
(7.615720, 5.742598)	2024	23	33	27	24	150	5	30	8	7
(7.964038, 9.436418)	2024	24	27	22	32	150	7	28	10	8
(7.441454, 7.853352)	2024	32	26	26	33	150	9	22	12	11
(7.687176, 7.196257)	2024	28	25	29	28	180	15	24	20	17
(8.644159, 3.238593)	2024	21	33	21	27	180	16	30	21	19
(10.334510, 9.790726)	2024	24	37	27	33	180	17	18	21	20
(8.035434, 9.922648)	2024	22	32	26	32	200	11	18	13	14
(12.359454, 6.756517)	2024	26	31	30	23	200	19	18	22	21
(11.456472, 5.481241)	2024	21	33	31	26	170	19	14	19	16

Table 2 - Data collected on the incidence of a foodborne pathogen in relation to location, time, and temperature

CASE STUDY 2

The EFSA's FoodEx2 Smart Coding Application (SCA) is a web application aimed to help data providers to faster codify their food descriptions according to the FoodEx2 classification and description system. The application provides a set of suggested codes (a