



Thessaloniki, 05/04/2013

OPEN INVITATION TO TENDER
AO/ECVL/ADEHM-GUTCH/Work-based learning in CVET/002/13
“Work-based learning approaches in continuing vocational education
and training in Europe: practices and policies”

Clarification 2 - Questions and answers

Question 1:

On page 18 of the tender specifications, it says: “The tenderer is required to conduct two surveys by employers and training providers aimed at providing an in-depth analysis of the demand for and supply of work-based learning in CVET in the selected countries. The surveys will be conducted on a limited number of sectors (min. five sectors, one different sector in each of the selected countries)...”

From this, we understand that the contractor should propose (a minimum of) five different sectors to be surveyed – one for each country proposed – so that in each country a different sector is surveyed, compared to those surveyed in the other selected countries. Is this understanding correct?

Cedefop answer 1

Yes, your understanding is correct.

Question 2

On page 16 of the tender specifications, it is stated that “The types of learning to be investigated in the study only include intentional, planned and structured learning activities linked to the workplace and addressing adults in employment (types A, B, C, and D in Table 1). The unemployed are out of the study’s scope.”

Looking at table 1, however, the example mentioned for “Type C” WBL is “retraining CVET courses for the unemployed”. Our understanding is that this is just a general example and that this study should only include any “Type C” WBL (i.e. “Non-formal”, “off-the-job learning”) related to adults in employment, as specified in the text. Is this understanding correct?

Cedefop answer 2

Yes, your understanding is correct.

Question 3

As regards the specifications for technical and professional capacity required, outlined on pages 24-25 of the tender specifications, would you accept/recognize a potential expert's experience from ESF evaluations/studies/projects to qualify as "vocational education experience"?

Cedefop answer 3

The role of the European Social Fund (ESF) is to support employment programmes in the EU Member States. As these employment programmes may or not be linked to education, an experience with the ESF does not in itself signify a 'vocational education experience'. In addition, what is required is not only a 'vocational education experience' but more exactly, for the tenderer as a whole and for the Senior Expert 1 in particular, an experience in CVET policy research and comparative analysis.

However, it will be up to the Evaluation Committee to assess whether ESF experience as presented matches the published requirement, taking also into account possible related evidence given in the submitted lists of contracts and publications.

Question 4

Would it be possible to propose the analysis of five sectors in five countries (minimum in the call) and supplementary to offer to Cedefop a cross-national analysis of 2 of these sectors in 2 countries? That would lead to a total of seven countries and five sectors and seven different analyses: analysis 1-5: one sector in one country, analysis 6 & 7: two of the already analysed sectors compared between the analysed country and a second one.

In short this would lead to the following analyses: sector 1 in country 1, sector 2 in country 2 ... sector 5 in country 5 and sector 1 compared in countries 1 and 6, sector 2 compared in countries 2 and 7.

Cedefop answer 4

It is up to each tenderer to propose and define the methodology that they think most suitable for the required study, including suggesting any additional analysis and describing the rationale, provided that the proposal complies with the requirements of the Tendering specifications:

- at least five countries; and
- at least five sectors, one different per country.