


**CEDEFOP**

 European Centre for the Development  
of Vocational Training

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

## SERVICE CONTRACT

CONTRACT NUMBER – [complete]

The European Union, represented by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, hereinafter referred to as “Cedefop”, which is represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by [forename, surname, function, department],

on the one part, and

[full official name]

[official legal form]<sup>1</sup>

[statutory registration number]<sup>2</sup>

[full official address]

[VAT registration number]

(hereinafter referred to as ‘the contractor’), represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by [forename, surname and function,]]

[The parties identified above and hereinafter collectively referred to as ‘the contractor’ shall be jointly and severally liable vis-à-vis the contracting authority for the performance of this contract.]

on the other part,

HAVE AGREED

to the **Special Conditions**, the **General Conditions for service contracts** and the following annexes:

- Annex I –** Tender specifications (reference No [complete] of [insert date])
- Annex II –** Contractor's tender (reference No [complete] of [insert date])
- Annex III –** Rules concerning the reimbursement of the travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses of experts, from outside Cedefop, invited to meetings

which form an integral part of this contract (hereinafter referred to as “the contract”).

- The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other parts of the contract.
- The terms set out in the General Conditions shall take precedence over those in the annexes.
- The terms set out in the tender specifications (Annex I) shall take precedence over those in the tender (Annex II).

<sup>1</sup> Delete if contractor is a natural person or a body governed by public law.

<sup>2</sup> Delete if contractor is a body governed by public law. For natural persons, indicate the number of their identity card or, failing that, of their passport or equivalent.

## **I – SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **ARTICLE I.1 – SUBJECT MATTER**

- I.1.1** The subject matter of the contract is “**Measuring Performance of EU Member States Skills Systems and Prioritising Skill Mismatches**”.
- I.1.2** The contractor shall execute the tasks assigned to it in accordance with the tender specifications annexed to the contract (Annex I).

### **ARTICLE I.2 – ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION**

- I.2.1** The contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last party.
- I.2.2** Under no circumstances may performance commence before the date on which the contract enters into force.
- I.2.3** The duration of the execution of the tasks shall not exceed **24 (twenty four)** months. Unless otherwise specified, all periods specified in the contract are calculated in calendar days. Execution of the tasks shall start from the date of entry into force of the contract.

The period of execution of the tasks may be extended only with the express written agreement of the parties before the expiration of such period.

### **ARTICLE I.3 –PRICE**

- I.3.1** The maximum total amount to be paid by the contracting authority under the contract shall be EUR [*amount in figures and in words*] covering all tasks executed.

#### **I.3.2 Price revision**

The total amount referred to in article I.3.1 shall be fixed and not subject to revision.

#### **I.3.3 Reimbursement of expenses**

In addition to the maximum total amount specified in Article I.3.1, any **extra** travel, subsistence, accommodation and shipment expenses, besides those relating to meetings specifically foreseen in the Tender Specifications (see Annex II, point 2.5.b (last paragraph)), that might be needed to perform the tasks related to the contract shall be subject to Cedefop’s prior approval and shall be reimbursed by Cedefop separately on the basis of Article II.16, according to its relevant rules (see Annex III).]

## ARTICLE I.4 – PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

### I.4.1 Pre-financing

Following signature of the contract by the last party and its receipt by the contracting authority, a pre-financing payment of EUR [*amount in figures and in words*] equal to **30%** of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1 shall be made within **30 days** of the receipt of an invoice. The contracting authority may refuse to make payments where the award procedure or the performance of the contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud attributable to the contractor.

### I.4.2 First Interim payment

The contractor shall submit an invoice for the first interim payment of EUR [*amount in figures and in words*] equal to **20 %** of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1.

The invoice for the first interim payment shall be accompanied by a progress report (**interim report 2.2**) in accordance with the tender specifications. and statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.16. The contracting authority shall make the payment within **60 days** from receipt of the invoice. The contractor shall have **twenty days** in which to submit additional information or corrections or a new progress report or documents if required by the contracting authority.

### I.4.3 Second Interim payment

The contractor shall submit an invoice for the second interim payment of EUR [*amount in figures and in words*] equal to **20%** of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1.

The invoice for the second interim payment shall be accompanied by a progress report (**interim report 2.4**) in accordance with the tender specifications and statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.16. The contracting authority shall make the payment within 60 days from receipt of the invoice. The contractor shall have **twenty days** in which to submit additional information or corrections or a new progress report or documents if required by the contracting authority.

### I.4.4 Payment of the balance

The contractor shall submit an invoice for payment of the balance.

The invoice shall be accompanied by the final progress report or any other document in accordance with the tender specifications and statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.16. The contracting authority shall make the payment within **60 days** from receipt of the invoice. The contractor shall have **twenty days** in which to submit additional information or corrections, a new final progress report or other documents if it is required by the contracting authority.

#### **I.4.5 Information to be shown on invoices**

##### **Invoices must state:**

- the price in EUR and the total price excluding VAT
- that the amount invoiced is exempt from VAT under the Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the European Union (PPI). The current provisions in Greece shall apply to VAT exemption.
  - [For contractors based in Greece, invoices will include VAT which is paid by Cedefop and later reimbursed by the State as per Art. 3.3 of the Headquarters Agreement ratified by Greek Law 2337/95.]
  - [For contractors established in other countries exemption is direct (invoices are submitted without VAT), subject to fulfilling as necessary the requirements of Article 151 of Council Directive 2006/112/EC.]
- the VAT amount in EUR separately, even if it is zero (in case of direct exemption).
- the IBAN code and the BIC as identified in the contract (see article I.5 below); in case of change, prior information and a new Financial Identification Form must be duly addressed to Cedefop before the dispatch of the invoice.

#### **ARTICLE I.5 – BANK ACCOUNT**

Payments shall be made to the contractor's bank account denominated in euro, identified as follows:

Name of bank:

Full address of branch:

Exact designation of account holder:

Full account number including [bank] codes:

IBAN code:

BIC:

#### **ARTICLE I.6 – COMMUNICATION DETAILS AND DATA CONTROLLER**

For the purpose of Article II.6, the data controller shall be the Head of Finance and Procurement Service for the processing of the personal data included in the Contract and the Head of Area [*insert name of Area*] for the processing of the personal data in the implementation of the Contract.

Communications shall be sent to the following addresses:

##### **Cedefop:**

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

Procurement Service (C4T)

Office 4.19

PO Box 22427

GR – 55 102 Thessaloniki

Fax: +30 2310 490028 / e-mail: c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu

Contractor:

[Full name]

[Function]

[Company name]

[Full official address]

Email: [complete]

## **ARTICLE I.7– APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

- I.7.1.** The contract shall be governed by Union law, complemented, where necessary, by the law of Greece.
- I.7.2.** Any dispute between the parties in relation to the interpretation, application or validity of the contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

## **ARTICLE I.8 - EXPLOITATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE CONTRACT**

### **I.8.1 Modes of exploitation**

In accordance with Article II.10.2 whereby the Union acquires ownership of the results as defined in the tender specifications (Annex I), these results may be used for any of the following purposes:

- (a) use for its own purposes:
  - (i) making available to the staff of the contracting authority
  - (ii) making available to the persons and entities working for the contracting authority or cooperating with it, including contractors, subcontractors whether legal or natural persons, Union institutions, agencies and bodies, Member States' institutions
  - (iii) installing, uploading, processing
  - (iv) arranging, compiling, combining, retrieving
  - (v) copying, reproducing in whole or in part and in unlimited number of copies
- (b) distribution to the public:
  - (i) publishing in hard copies
  - (ii) publishing in electronic or digital format
  - (iii) publishing on the internet as a downloadable/non-downloadable file
  - (iv) broadcasting by any kind of technique of transmission
  - (v) public presentation or display
  - (vi) communication through press information services
  - (vii) inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes
  - (viii) otherwise in any form and by any method
- (c) modifications by the contracting authority or by a third party in the name of the contracting authority:
  - (i) shortening
  - (ii) summarizing
  - (iii) modifying of the content

- (iv) making technical changes to the content:
  - necessary correction of technical errors
  - adding new parts or functionalities
  - changing functionalities
  - providing third parties with additional information concerning the result (e.g. source code) with a view of making modifications
- (v) addition of new elements, paragraphs titles, leads, bolds, legend, table of content, summary, graphics, subtitles, sound, etc.
- (vi) preparation in audio form, preparation as a presentation, animation, pictograms story, slide-show, public presentation etc.
- (vii) extracting a part or dividing into parts
- (viii) use of a concept or preparation of a derivative work
- (ix) digitisation or converting the format for storage or usage purposes
- (x) modifying dimensions
- (xi) translating, inserting subtitles, dubbing in different language versions:
  - English, French, German
  - all official languages of EU
  - languages used within EU
  - languages of candidate countries
  - [list other languages]
- (d) the modes of exploitation listed in article II.10.4
- (e) rights to authorise, license, or sub-license in case of licensed pre-existing rights, the modes of exploitation set out in any of the points (a) to (c) to third parties.

Where the contracting authority becomes aware that the scope of modifications exceeds that envisaged in the contract the contracting authority shall consult the contractor. Where necessary, the contractor shall in turn seek the agreement of any creator or other right holder. The contractor shall reply to the contracting authority within one month and shall provide its agreement, including any suggestions of modifications, free of charge. The creator may refuse the intended modification only when it may harm his honour, reputation or distort integrity of the work.

### **I.8.2 Pre-existing rights and transmission of rights**

[All pre-existing rights shall be [licensed to the Union in accordance with Article II.10.3.][fully and irrevocably acquired by the Union as provided for in Article II.10.2 and by derogation to Article II.10.3.]]

[All pre-existing rights incorporated in the results and directly related to the uses foreseen in Article I.8.1 shall be fully and irrevocably acquired by the Union as provided for in Article II.10.2 and by derogation to Article II.10.3.]

The contractor shall provide to the contracting authority a list of pre-existing rights and third parties' rights including its personnel, creators or other right holders as provided for in Article II.10.5.

[The contractor shall present relevant and exhaustive evidence about the acquisition of all the necessary pre-existing rights and third parties' rights [together with delivery of the final report at the latest] [together with presentation of relevant result] [specify other stage]. This obligation should be fulfilled by presentation of the contractor's statement prepared in accordance with Annex A and third parties' statements prepared in accordance with Annex B and the relevant evidence listed in article II.10.5 as appropriate.]

### **I.8.3 Use, distribution and publication of information about the contract**

The Contractor shall authorise Cedefop to process, use, distribute and publish, for whatever purpose, by whatever means and on whatever medium, any data contained in the Contract, in particular the identity of the Contractor, the subject matter, the duration and the amount paid. Where personal data is concerned, Article II.6 shall apply.

The use of information obtained by the Contractor in the course of the Contract for purposes other than its performance shall be forbidden, unless Cedefop has specifically given prior written authorisation to the contrary.

## **ARTICLE I.9 – TERMINATION BY EITHER PARTY**

Either party may, unilaterally and without being required to pay compensation, terminate the contract by formally notifying the other party by giving [one month's] notice. Should the contracting authority terminate the contract, the contractor shall only be entitled to payment corresponding to part-performance of the contract before the termination date. The first paragraph of Article II.14.3 shall apply.

## **ARTICLE I.10 – OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **I.10.1 Non applicability of certain General Conditions**

Considering the nature, characteristics and remit of this contract, the following provisions of II – General Conditions are adapted as per sub-points 1-4 below:

**I.10.1.1** In Article II.1.1, the sentence shall read: “The Contractor shall perform the Contract to the highest professional standards and in line with current accepted practices.”

**I.10.1.2** In Article II.4.2, the following second paragraph is added:

“None of the provisions contained herein shall serve to restrict the right of a University to conduct research in areas which it sees fit, nor shall it limit the rights of any of its employees to take part in such research activities.”

**I.10.1.3** In Article II.10.2, the following fourth paragraph is inserted before the current one:

“Cedefop grants to the Contractor a royalty-free, non-exclusive licence to use the results of the research for further research and teaching and in publications in line with normal academic practice. Rights to publish shall be subject to the prior approval of Cedefop and requires that the source is acknowledged. The results of the research under this contract cannot be used for commercial purposes. Data will be released in due time after Cedefop has carried out and published its analyses.”

**I.10.1.4** In Article II.14.3, the second paragraph is replaced with the following paragraph: *“Subject to the provisions contained within Article II.3, Cedefop may claim compensation for any damage suffered and recover any sums paid to the Contractor under the Contract.”*

#### **I.10.2 Contract supervision**

The following persons are empowered to supervise the performance of the contract:

For Cedefop:

For the Contractor:

#### **SIGNATURES**

For the contractor,

[Company name/forename/surname/function]

For Cedefop,

[forename/surname/function]

signature: \_\_\_\_\_

signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Done at ....., [date]

Done at Thessaloniki, [date]

In duplicate in English.



## **II – GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS**

### **ARTICLE II.1 – PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT**

- II.1.1** The contractor shall perform the contract to the highest professional standards.
- II.1.2** The contractor shall be solely responsible for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to it are to be executed.
- II.1.3** Without prejudice to Article II.4 any reference made to the contractor's personnel in the contract shall relate exclusively to individuals involved in the performance of the contract.
- II.1.4** The contractor must ensure that the personnel performing the contract possesses the professional qualifications and experience required for the execution of the tasks assigned to it.
- II.1.5** The contractor shall neither represent the contracting authority nor behave in any way that would give such an impression. The contractor shall inform third parties that it does not belong to the European public service.
- II.1.6** The contractor shall be solely responsible for the personnel who executes the tasks assigned to the contractor.

The contractor shall stipulate the following employment or service relationships with its personnel:

- (a) personnel executing the tasks assigned to the contractor may not be given orders directly by the contracting authority;
  - (b) the contracting authority may not under any circumstances be considered to be the employer of the personnel referred to in point (a) and the personnel shall undertake not to invoke against the contracting authority any right arising from the contractual relationship between the contracting authority and the contractor.
- II.1.7** In the event of disruption resulting from the action of one of the contractor's personnel working on implementation of the contract or in the event that the expertise of a member of the contractor's personnel fails to correspond to the profile required by the contract, the contractor shall replace him without delay. The contracting authority shall have the right to make a reasoned request for the replacement of any such personnel. The replacement personnel must have the necessary qualifications and be capable of performing the contract under the same contractual conditions. The contractor shall be responsible for any delay in the execution of the tasks assigned to it resulting from the replacement of personnel.
- II.1.8** Should the execution of the tasks be directly or indirectly hampered, either partially or totally, by any unforeseen event, action or omission, the contractor shall immediately and on its own initiative record it and report it to the contracting authority. The report shall include a description of the problem and an indication of the date on which it started and of the

remedial action taken by the contractor to ensure full compliance with its obligations under this contract. In such an event the contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.

- II.1.9** Should the contractor fail to perform its obligations under the contract, the contracting authority may - without prejudice to its right to terminate the contract - reduce or recover payments in proportion to the scale of the unperformed obligations. In addition, the contracting authority may claim compensation or impose liquidated damages in accordance with Article II.12.

## **ARTICLE II.2 – MEANS OF COMMUNICATION**

- II.2.1** Any communication relating to the contract or to its performance shall be made in writing and shall bear the contract number. Any communication is deemed to have been made when it is received by the receiving party unless otherwise provided for in this contract.

- II.2.2** Electronic communication shall be deemed to have been received by the parties on the day of dispatch of that communication provided it is sent to the addressees listed in Article I.6. Without prejudice to the preceding, if the sending party receives a message of non-delivery to or of absence of the addressee, it shall make every effort to ensure the actual receipt of such communication by the other party.

Electronic communication shall be confirmed by an original signed paper version of that communication if requested by any of the parties provided that this request is submitted without unjustified delay. The sender shall send the original signed paper version without unjustified delay.

- II.2.3** Mail sent using the postal services is deemed to have been received by the contracting authority on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible referred to in Article I.6.  
Any formal notification shall be made by registered mail with return receipt or equivalent, or by equivalent electronic means.

## **ARTICLE II.3 – LIABILITY**

- II.3.1** The contractor shall be solely responsible for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on it.
- II.3.2** The contracting authority shall not be held liable for any damage caused or sustained by the contractor, including any damage caused by the contractor to third parties during or as a consequence of performance of the contract, except in the event of wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the contracting authority.
- II.3.3** The contractor shall be held liable for any loss or damage sustained by the contracting authority in performance of the contract, including in the event of subcontracting, and for any claim by a third party, but only to an

amount not exceeding three times the total amount of the contract. Nevertheless, if the damage or loss is caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the contractor or of its personnel or subcontractors, the contractor shall have unlimited liability for the amount of the damage or loss.

- II.3.4** The contractor shall indemnify and hold the Union harmless for all damages and costs incurred due to any claim. The contractor shall provide compensation in the event of any action, claim or proceeding brought against the contracting authority by a third party as a result of damage caused by the contractor during the performance of the contract. In the event of any action brought by a third party against the contracting authority in connection with the performance of the contract, including any alleged breach of intellectual property rights, the contractor shall assist the contracting authority. Such expenditure incurred by the contractor may be borne by the contracting authority.
- II.3.5** The contractor shall take out an insurance policy against risks and damage relating to the performance of the contract, if required by the relevant applicable legislation. It shall take out supplementary insurance as reasonably required by standard practice in the industry. A copy of all the relevant insurance contracts shall be sent to the contracting authority should it so request.

#### **ARTICLE II.4 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- II.4.1** The contractor shall take all the necessary measures to prevent any situation of conflict of interest. Such situation arises where the impartial and objective performance of the contract is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other shared interest.
- II.4.2** Any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest during the performance of the contract shall be notified to the contracting authority in writing without delay. The contractor shall immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify the situation. The contracting authority reserves the right to verify that the steps taken are appropriate and may require that additional steps be taken within a specified deadline.
- II.4.3** The contractor declares that it has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain and has not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, when such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, in so far as it serves as an incentive or reward relating to the performance of the contract.
- II.4.4** The contractor shall pass on all the relevant obligations in writing to its personnel and to any natural person with the power to represent it or take decisions on its behalf and ensure that it is not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflicts of interest. The contractor shall also pass on all

the relevant obligations in writing to third parties involved in the performance of the contract including subcontractors.

## **ARTICLE II.5 – CONFIDENTIALITY**

**II.5.1** The contracting authority and the contractor shall treat with confidentiality any information and documents, in any form, disclosed in writing or orally in relation to the performance of the contract and identified in writing as confidential.

The contractor shall:

- (a) not use confidential information and documents for any purpose other than fulfilling its obligations under the contract without prior written agreement of the contracting authority;
- (b) ensure the protection of such confidential information and documents with the same level of protection it uses to protect its own confidential information, but in no case any less than reasonable care;
- (c) not disclose directly or indirectly confidential information and documents to third parties without prior written agreement of the contracting authority.

**II.5.2** The confidentiality obligation set out in Article II.5.1 shall be binding on the contracting authority and the contractor during the performance of the contract and for five years starting from the date of the payment of the balance unless:

- (a) the concerned party agrees to release the other party from the confidentiality obligation earlier;
- (b) the confidential information becomes public through other means than in breach of the confidentiality obligation through disclosure by the party bound by that obligation;
- (c) the disclosure of the confidential information is required by law.

**II.5.3** The contractor shall obtain from any natural person with the power to represent it or take decisions on its behalf, as well as from third parties involved in the performance of the contract, an undertaking that they will comply with the confidentiality obligation set out in Article II.5.1.

## **ARTICLE II.6 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

**II.6.1** Any personal data included in the contract shall be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed by the data controller solely for the purposes of the performance, management

and monitoring of the contract without prejudice to its possible transmission to the bodies charged with monitoring or inspection tasks in application of Union law.

- II.6.2** The contractor shall have the right to access its personal data and the right to rectify any such data. The contractor should address any queries concerning the processing of its personal data to the data controller.
- II.6.3** The contractor shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.
- II.6.4** Where the contract requires the processing of personal data by the contractor, the contractor may act only under the supervision of the data controller, in particular with regard to the purposes of the processing, the categories of data which may be processed, the recipients of the data and the means by which the data subject may exercise his rights.
- II.6.5** The contractor shall grant its personnel access to the data to the extent strictly necessary for the performance, management and monitoring of the contract.
- II.6.6** The contractor undertakes to adopt appropriate technical and organisational security measures having regard to the risks inherent in the processing and to the nature of the personal data concerned in order to:
- (a) prevent any unauthorised person from gaining access to computer systems processing personal data, and especially:
    - i. (unauthorised reading, copying, alteration or removal of storage media;
    - ii. unauthorised data input, as well as any unauthorised disclosure, alteration or erasure of stored personal data;
    - iii. unauthorised use of data-processing systems by means of data transmission facilities;
  - (b) ensure that authorised users of a data-processing system can access only the personal data to which their access right refers;
  - (c) record which personal data have been communicated, when and to whom;
  - (d) ensure that personal data being processed on behalf of third parties can be processed only in the manner prescribed by the contracting authority;
  - (e) ensure that, during communication of personal data and transport of storage media, the data cannot be read, copied or erased without authorisation;
  - (f) design its organisational structure in such a way that it meets data protection requirements.

## **ARTICLE II.7 – SUBCONTRACTING**

- II.7.1** The contractor shall not subcontract without prior written authorisation from the contracting authority nor cause the contract to be de facto performed by third parties.
- II.7.2** Even where the contracting authority authorises the contractor to subcontract to third parties, it shall nevertheless remain bound by its contractual obligations and shall be solely responsible for the proper performance of this contract.
- II.7.3** The contractor shall make sure that the subcontract does not affect rights and guarantees granted to the contracting authority by virtue of this contract, notably by Article II.18.

## **ARTICLE II.8 – AMENDMENTS**

- II.8.1** Any amendment to the contract shall be made in writing before fulfilment of any new contractual obligations and in any case before the date of payment of the balance.
- II.8.2** The amendment may not have the purpose or the effect of making changes to the contract which might call into question the decision awarding the contract or result in unequal treatment of tenderers.

## **ARTICLE II.9 – ASSIGNMENT**

- II.9.1** The contractor shall not assign the rights, including claims for payments, and obligations arising from the contract, in whole or in part, without prior written authorisation from the contracting authority.
- II.9.2** In the absence of such authorisation, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, the assignment of rights or obligations by the contractor shall not be enforceable against the contracting authority and shall have no effect on it.

## **ARTICLE II.10 – OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULTS - INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

### **II.10.1 Definitions**

In this contract the following definitions apply:

- (1) 'results' means any intended outcome of the performance of the contract which is delivered and finally accepted by the contracting authority;
- (2) 'creator' means any natural person who contributed to the production of the result and includes personnel of the contracting authority or a third party;
- (3) 'pre-existing rights' means any industrial and intellectual property rights, including background technology, which exist prior to the contracting authority or the contractor ordering them for the purpose of the contract execution and include rights of ownership and use by the contractor, the creator, the contracting authority and any third parties.

### **II.10.2 Ownership of the results**

The ownership of the results shall be fully and irrevocably acquired by the Union under this contract including any rights in any of the results listed in this contract. Those rights in the results may include copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, as well as all technological solutions and information contained within these technological solutions, produced in performance of the contract. The contracting authority may exploit them as stipulated in this contract. All the rights shall be acquired by the Union from the moment the results are delivered by the contractor and accepted by the contracting authority. Such delivery and acceptance are deemed to constitute an effective assignment of rights from the contractor to the Union.

The payment of the price as set out in the contract is deemed to include any fees payable to the contractor in relation to the acquisition of rights by the Union including all forms of use of the results.

The acquisition of rights by the Union under this contract covers all territories worldwide.

Any intermediary sub-result, raw data, intermediary analysis made available by the contractor cannot be used by the contracting authority without the written consent of the contractor, unless the contract explicitly provides for it to be treated as a self-contained result.

### **II.10.3 Licensing of pre-existing rights**

The Union shall not acquire ownership of the pre-existing rights.

The contractor shall license the pre-existing rights on a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable basis to the Union which may use the pre-existing right as foreseen in Article I.8.1. All the pre-existing rights shall be licensed to the Union from the moment the results were delivered and accepted by the contracting authority.

The licensing of pre-existing rights to the Union under this contract covers all territories worldwide and is valid for the whole duration of intellectual property rights protection.

### **II.10.4 Modes of exploitation**

The Union shall acquire ownership of each of the results produced as an outcome of this contract which may be used for any of the following purposes:

- (a) giving access upon individual requests without the right to reproduce or exploit, as provided for by Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents;
- (b) storage of the original and copies made in accordance with this contract;

- (c) archiving in line with the document management rules applicable to the contracting authority.

#### **II.10.5 Identification and evidence of granting of pre-existing rights and rights of third parties**

When delivering the results, the contractor shall warrant that they are free of rights or claims from creators and third parties including in relation to pre-existing rights, for any use envisaged by the contracting authority. This does not concern the moral rights of natural persons.

The contractor shall establish to that effect a list of all pre-existing rights and rights of creators and third parties on the results of this contract or parts thereof. This list shall be provided no later than the date of delivery of the final results.

In the result the contractor shall clearly point out all quotations of existing textual works. The complete reference should include as appropriate: name of the author, title of the work, date and place of publication, date of creation, address of publication on internet, number, volume and other information which allows the origin to be easily identified.

Upon request by the contracting authority, the contractor shall provide evidence of ownership of or rights to use all the listed pre-existing rights and rights of third parties except for the rights owned by the Union.

This evidence may refer, inter alia, to rights to: parts of other documents, images, graphs, tables, data, software, technical inventions, know-how etc. (delivered in paper, electronic or other form), IT development tools, routines, subroutines and/or other programs ("background technology"), concepts, designs, installations or pieces of art, data, source or background materials or any other parts of external origin.

The evidence shall include, as appropriate:

- (a) the name and version number of a software product;
- (b) the full identification of the work and its author, developer, creator, translator, data entry person, graphic designer, publisher, editor, photographer, producer;
- (c) a copy of the licence to use the product or of the agreement granting the relevant rights to the contractor or a reference to this licence;
- (d) a copy of the agreement or extract from the employment contract granting the relevant rights to the contractor where parts of the results were created by its personnel;
- (e) the text of the disclaimer notice if any.



Provision of evidence does not release the contractor from its responsibilities in case it is found that it does not hold the necessary rights, regardless of when and by whom this fact was revealed.

The contractor also warrants that it possesses the relevant rights or powers to execute the transfer and that it has paid or has verified payment of all due fees including fees due to collecting societies, related to the final results.

#### **II.10.6 Creators**

By delivering the results the contractor warrants that the creators undertake not to oppose that their names be recalled when the results are presented to the public and confirms that the results can be divulged. Names of authors shall be recalled on request in the manner communicated by the contractor to the contracting authority.

The contractor shall obtain the consent of creators regarding the granting of the relevant rights and be ready to provide documentary evidence upon request.

#### **II.10.7 Persons appearing in photographs or films**

If natural, recognisable persons appear in a result or their voice is recorded the contractor shall submit a statement of these persons (or of the persons exercising parental authority in case of minors) where they give their permission for the described use of their image or voice on request by the contracting authority. This does not apply to persons whose permission is not required in line with the law of the country where photographs were taken, films shot or audio records made.

#### **II.10.8 Contractor's copyright for pre-existing rights**

When the contractor retains pre-existing rights on parts of the results, reference shall be inserted to that effect when the result is used as set out in Article I.8.1 with the following disclaimer: © - year – European Union. All rights reserved. Certain parts are licensed under conditions to the EU.

#### **II.10.9 Visibility of Union funding and disclaimer**

When making use of the results, the contractor shall declare that they have been produced within a contract with the Union and that the opinions expressed are those of the contractor only and do not represent the contracting authority's official position. The contracting authority may waive this obligation in writing.

### **ARTICLE II.11 – FORCE MAJEURE**

**II.11.1** 'Force majeure' means any unforeseeable and exceptional situation or event beyond the parties' control which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the contract, which was not attributable to error or negligence on their part or on the part of subcontractors and which proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising due diligence. Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant

case of force majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties, cannot be invoked as force majeure.

**II.11.2** A party faced with force majeure shall formally notify the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

**II.11.3** The party faced with force majeure shall not be held in breach of its contractual obligations if it has been prevented from fulfilling them by force majeure. Where the contractor is unable to fulfil its contractual obligations owing to force majeure, it shall have the right to remuneration only for the tasks actually executed.

**II.11.4** The parties shall take all the necessary measures to limit any damage due to force majeure.

## **ARTICLE II.12 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**

The contracting authority may impose liquidated damages should the contractor fail to complete its contractual obligations, also with regard to the required quality level, according to the tender specifications.

Should the contractor fail to perform its contractual obligations within the time-limits set by the contract, then, without prejudice to the contractor's actual or potential liability or to the contracting authority's right to terminate the contract, the contracting authority may impose liquidated damages for each and every calendar day of delay according to the following formula:

$$0.3 \times (V/d)$$

$V$  is the amount specified in Article I.3.1;

$d$  is the duration specified in Article I.2.3 expressed in calendar days.

The contractor may submit arguments against this decision within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification. In the absence of a reaction on its part or of written withdrawal by the contracting authority within 30 days of the receipt of such arguments, the decision imposing the liquidated damages shall become enforceable.

The parties expressly acknowledge and agree that any sums payable under this article are in the nature of liquidated damages and not penalties, and represent a reasonable estimate of fair compensation for the losses incurred due to failure to fulfil obligations which may be reasonably anticipated.

## **ARTICLE II.13 – SUSPENSION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT**

### **II.13.1 Suspension by the contractor**

The contractor may suspend the performance of the contract or any part thereof if a case of force majeure makes such performance impossible or excessively difficult. The contractor shall inform the contracting authority about the suspension without delay, giving all the necessary reasons and details and the envisaged date for resuming the performance of the contract.

Once the circumstances allow resuming performance, the contractor shall inform the contracting authority immediately, unless the contracting authority has already terminated the contract.

### **II.13.2 Suspension by the contracting authority**

The contracting authority may suspend the performance of the contract or any part thereof:

- (a) if the contract award procedure or the performance of the contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud;
- (b) in order to verify whether presumed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud have actually occurred.

Suspension shall take effect on the day the contractor receives formal notification, or at a later date provided in the notification. The contracting authority shall give notice as soon as possible to the contractor to resume the service suspended or inform the contractor that it is proceeding with the termination of the contract. The contractor shall not be entitled to claim compensation on account of suspension of the contract or of part thereof.

## **ARTICLE II.14 – TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT**

### **II.14.1 Grounds for termination**

The contracting authority may terminate the contract in the following circumstances:

- (a) if a change to the contractor's legal, financial, technical or organisational or ownership situation is likely to affect the performance of the contract substantially or calls into question the decision to award the contract;
- (b) if execution of the tasks has not actually commenced within three months of the date foreseen, and the new date proposed, if any, is considered unacceptable by the contracting authority, taking into account Article II.8.2;
- (c) if the contractor does not perform the contract as established in the tender specifications or fails to fulfil another substantial contractual obligation;
- (d) in the event of force majeure notified in accordance with Article II.11 or if the performance of the contract has been suspended by the contractor as a result of force majeure, notified in accordance with Article II.13, where either resuming performance is impossible or the modifications to the contract might call into question the decision awarding the contract or result in unequal treatment of tenderers;

- (e) if the contractor is declared bankrupt, is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (f) if the contractor or any natural person with the power to represent it or take decisions on its behalf has been found guilty of professional misconduct proven by any means;
- (g) if the contractor is not in compliance with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of the country of the applicable law of this contract or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (h) if the contracting authority has evidence that the contractor or natural persons with the power to represent it or take decisions on its behalf have committed fraud, corruption, or are involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (i) if the contracting authority has evidence that the contractor or natural persons with the power to represent it or take decisions on its behalf have committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud in the award procedure or the performance of the contract, including in the event of submission of false information;
- (j) if the contractor is unable, through its own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the contract.

#### **II.14.2 Procedure for termination**

When the contracting authority intends to terminate the contract it shall formally notify the contractor of its intention specifying the grounds thereof. The contracting authority shall invite the contractor to make any observations and, in the case of point (c) of Article II.14.1, to inform the contracting authority about the measures taken to continue the fulfilment of its contractual obligations, within 30 days from receipt of the notification.

If the contracting authority does not confirm acceptance of these observations by giving written approval within 30 days of receipt, the termination procedure shall proceed. In any case of termination the contracting authority shall formally notify the contractor about its decision to terminate the contract. In the cases referred to in points (a), (b), (c), (e), (g) and (j) of Article II.14.1 the formal notification shall specify the date on which the termination takes effect. In the cases referred to in points (d), (f), (h), and (i) of Article II.14.1 the termination shall take effect on the day following the date on which notification of termination is received by the contractor.

### **II.14.3 Effects of termination**

In the event of termination, the contractor shall waive any claim for consequential damages, including any loss of anticipated profits for uncompleted work. On receipt of the notification of termination, the contractor shall take all the appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damages, and cancel or reduce its commitments. The contractor shall have 60 days from the date on which termination takes effect to draw up the documents required by the special conditions for the tasks already executed on the date of termination and produce an invoice if necessary. The contracting authority may recover any amounts paid under the contract.

The contracting authority may claim compensation for any damage suffered in the event of termination.

On termination the contracting authority may engage any other contractor to execute or complete the services. The contracting authority shall be entitled to claim from the contractor all extra costs incurred in this regard, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees it may have under the contract.

## **ARTICLE II.15 – REPORTING AND PAYMENTS**

### **II.15.1 Date of payment**

Payments shall be deemed to be effected on the date when they are debited to the contracting authority's account.

### **II.15.2 Currency**

The contract shall be in euros.

Payments shall be executed in euros or in the local currency as provided for in Article I.5.

Conversion between the euro and another currency shall be made according to the daily euro exchange rate published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or, failing that, at the monthly accounting exchange rate established by the European Commission and published on its website, applicable on the day on which the payment order is issued by the contracting authority.

### **II.15.3 Costs of transfer**

The costs of the transfer shall be borne in the following way:

- a) costs of dispatch charged by the bank of the contracting authority shall be borne by the contracting authority,
- b) cost of receipt charged by the bank of the contractor shall be borne by the contractor,
- c) costs for repeated transfer caused by one of the parties shall be borne by the party causing repetition of the transfer.

### **II.15.4 Invoices and Value Added Tax**

Invoices shall contain the contractor's identification, the amount, the currency and the date, as well as the contract reference.

Invoices shall indicate the place of taxation of the contractor for value added tax (VAT) purposes and shall specify separately the amounts not including VAT and the amounts including VAT.

The contracting authority is, as a rule, exempt from all taxes and duties, including VAT, pursuant to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union.

The contractor shall accordingly complete the necessary formalities with the relevant authorities to ensure that the supplies and services required for performance of the contract are exempt from taxes and duties, including VAT exemption.

#### **II.15.5 Pre-financing and performance guarantees**

Pre-financing guarantees shall remain in force until the pre-financing is cleared against interim payments or payment of the balance and, in case the latter takes the form of a debit note, three months after the debit note is notified to the contractor. The contracting authority shall release the guarantee within the following month.

Performance guarantees shall cover performance of the service in accordance with the terms set out in the tender specifications until its final acceptance by the contracting authority. The amount of a performance guarantee shall not exceed the total price of the contract. The guarantee shall provide that it remains in force until final acceptance. The contracting authority shall release the guarantee within a month following the date of final acceptance.

Where, in accordance with Article I.4, a financial guarantee is required for the payment of pre-financing, or as performance guarantee, it shall fulfill the following conditions:

- a) the financial guarantee is provided by a bank or an approved financial institution or, at the request of the contractor and agreement by the contracting authority, by a third party;
- b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the contracting authority to have recourse against the principal debtor (the contractor).

The cost of providing such guarantee shall be borne by the contractor.

#### **II.15.6 Interim payments and payment of the balance**

The contractor shall submit an invoice for interim payment upon delivery of intermediary results, accompanied by a progress report or any other documents, as provided for in Article I.4 or in the tender specifications.

The contractor shall submit an invoice for payment of the balance within 60 days following the end of the period referred to in Article I.2.3, accompanied by a final progress report or any other documents provided for in Article I.4 or in the tender specifications.

Upon receipt, the contracting authority shall pay the amount due as interim or final payment within the periods specified in Article I.4, provided the invoice and documents have been approved and without prejudice to Article II.15.7. Approval of the invoice and documents shall not imply recognition of the regularity or of the authenticity, completeness and correctness of the declarations and information they contain.

Payment of the balance may take the form of recovery.

#### **II.15.7 Suspension of the time allowed for payment**

The contracting authority may suspend the payment periods specified in Article I.4 at any time by notifying the contractor that its invoice cannot be processed, either because it does not comply with the provisions of the contract, or because the appropriate documents have not been produced.

The contracting authority shall inform the contractor in writing as soon as possible of any such suspension, giving the reasons for it.

Suspension shall take effect on the date the notification is sent by the contracting authority. The remaining payment period shall start to run again from the date on which the requested information or revised documents are received or the necessary further verification, including on-the-spot checks, is carried out. Where the suspension period exceeds two months, the contractor may request the contracting authority to justify the continued suspension.

Where the payment periods have been suspended following rejection of a document referred to in the first paragraph and the new document produced is also rejected, the contracting authority reserves the right to terminate the contract in accordance with Article II.14.1(c).

#### **II.15.8. Interest on late payment**

On expiry of the payment periods specified in Article I.4, and without prejudice to Article II.15.7, the contractor is entitled to interest on late payment at the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations in Euros (the reference rate), plus eight points. The reference rate shall be the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment period ends, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

The suspension of the payment periods in accordance with Article II.15.7 may not be considered as a late payment.

Interest on late payment shall cover the period running from the day following the due date for payment up to and including the date of actual payment as defined in Article II.15.1.

However, when the calculated interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it shall be paid to the contractor only upon request submitted within two months of receiving late payment.

**ARTICLE II.16 – REIMBURSEMENTS**

**II.16.1** Where provided by the special conditions or by the tender specifications, the contracting authority shall reimburse the expenses which are directly connected with execution of the tasks on production of original supporting documents, including receipts and used tickets, or failing that, on production of copies or scanned originals, or on the basis of flat rates.

**II.16.2** Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed, where appropriate, on the basis of the shortest itinerary and the minimum number of nights necessary for overnight stay at the destination.

**II.16.3** Travel expenses shall be reimbursed as follows:

- (a) travel by air shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of an economy class ticket at the time of the reservation;
- (b) travel by boat or rail shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of a first class ticket;
- (c) travel by car shall be reimbursed at the rate of one first class rail ticket for the same journey and on the same day.

In addition, travel outside Union territory shall be reimbursed provided the contracting authority has given its prior written consent.

**II.16.4** Subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of a daily subsistence allowance as follows:

- (a) (for journeys of less than 200 km for a return trip, no subsistence allowance shall be payable;
- (b) daily subsistence allowance shall be payable only on receipt of supporting documents proving that the person concerned was present at the destination;
- (c) daily subsistence allowance shall take the form of a flat-rate payment to cover all subsistence expenses, including meals, local transport which includes transport to and from the airport or station, insurance and sundries;
- (d) daily subsistence allowance shall be reimbursed at the flat rates specified in Article I.3;
- (e) accommodation shall be reimbursed on receipt of supporting documents proving the necessary overnight stay at the destination, up to the flat-rate ceilings specified in Article I.3.

**II.16.5** The cost of shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage shall be reimbursed provided the contracting authority has given prior written authorisation.



- II.16.6** Conversion between the euro and another currency shall be made as specified in Article II.15.2.

#### **ARTICLE II.17 – RECOVERY**

- II.17.1** If an amount is to be recovered under the terms of the contract, the contractor shall repay the contracting authority the amount in question according to the terms and by the date specified in the debit note.

- II.17.2** If the obligation to pay the amount due is not honoured by the date set by the contracting authority in the debit note, the amount due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.15.8. Interest on late payments shall cover the period from the day following the due date for payment, up to and including the date when the contracting authority receives the full payment of the amount owed.

Any partial payment shall first be entered against charges and interest on late payment and then against the principal amount.

- II.17.3** If payment has not been made by the due date, the contracting authority may, after informing the contractor in writing, recover the amounts due by offsetting them against any amounts owed to the contractor by the Union or by the European Atomic Energy Community or by calling in the financial guarantee, where provided for in Article I.4.

#### **ARTICLE II.18 – CHECKS AND AUDITS**

- II.18.1** The contracting authority and the European Anti-Fraud Office may check or have an audit on the performance of the contract. It may be carried out either directly by their own staff or by any other outside body authorised to do so on their behalf.

Such checks and audits may be initiated during the performance of the contract and during a period of five years which starts running from the date of the payment of the balance.

The audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the contracting authority. Audits shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

- II.18.2** The contractor shall keep all original documents stored on any appropriate medium, including digitised originals when they are authorised by national law and under the conditions laid down therein, for a period of five years which starts running from the date of payment of the balance.

- II.18.3** The contractor shall allow the contracting authority's staff and outside personnel authorised by the contracting authority the appropriate right of access to sites and premises where the contract is performed and to all the information, including information in electronic format, needed in order to conduct such checks and audits. The contractor shall ensure that the information is readily available at the moment of the check or audit and, if so requested, that information be handed over in an appropriate form.

- II.18.4** On the basis of the findings made during the audit, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent to the contractor, which shall have 30 days following the date of receipt to submit observations. The final report shall be sent to the contractor within 60 days following the expiry of that deadline.

On the basis of the final audit findings, the contracting authority may recover all or part of the payments made and may take any other measure which it considers necessary.

- II.18.5** By virtue of Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspection carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities and Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 May 1999 concerning investigation conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the OLAF may also carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with the procedures laid down by Union law for the protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud and other irregularities. Where appropriate, the findings may lead to recovery by the contracting authority.

- II.18.6** The Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the contracting authority, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits.

**Annex A Statement of contractor concerning right to delivered result**

I, [insert name of the authorised representative of the contractor] representing [insert name of the contractor], party to the [specific] contract [insert title and/or number] warrant that the contractor holds all transferred rights to the delivered [insert title and/or description of result] which [is][are] free of any claims of third parties.

The above-mentioned results were prepared by [insert names of creators]. The creators transferred all their relevant rights to the results to [insert name of the entity that received rights from the creators] [through a contract of [insert date]] [a relevant extract of which is] herewith attached.

The creators [received all their remuneration on [insert date]] [will receive all their remuneration as agreed within [complete] weeks from [delivery of this statement.] [receipt of confirmation of acceptance of the work]. [The statement of the creators confirming payment is attached].

Date, place, signature

**Annex B Statement of creator / intermediary in delivery**

of the [title of the result]

within the contract No [complete]

[Specific contract No [complete]]

concluded between the contracting authority and [name of the contractor(s)]

I, [insert name of the authorised representative of the intermediary] representing [insert name of the intermediary] state that I am the right holder of: [identify the relevant parts of the result] [which I created] [for which I received rights from [insert name]].

I am aware of the above contract, especially Articles I.8, II.10 and I confirm that I transferred all the relevant rights to [insert name].

I declare that [I received full remuneration] [I agreed to receive remuneration by [insert date]].

[As creator, I also confirm that I do not oppose my name being recalled when the results are presented to the public and confirm that the results can be divulged.]

## **ANNEX I**

### **TENDER SPECIFICATIONS (INVITATION TO TENDER)**

## **ANNEX II**

### **CONTRACTOR'S TENDER**

## **ANNEX III**

### **Rules concerning the reimbursement of the travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses of experts from outside Cedefop invited to meetings**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

HAVING REGARD to Council Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 of 10<sup>th</sup> February 1975 establishing a European Centre for the development of vocational training (Cedefop),

HAVING REGARD to the Financial Rules applicable to the European Centre for the development of vocational training (Cedefop decision of 31.3.2003, last modified on 5 June 2009),

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES:

#### **I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 1**

1. Persons to whom these rules apply

- a) Experts from outside Cedefop invited for meetings and/or to deliver professional advice to committees, or a group of experts or individuals invited for meetings or contractor's staff invited at Cedefop's initiative for meetings which are not covered by the contract.
- b) Any person accompanying a handicapped person invited as an expert according to 1 a) above to Cedefop.

##### **Article 2**

No moral, material or bodily harm incurred by the expert or by the person responsible for accompanying a handicapped expert in the course of the journey or of his stay in the place where the meeting is held may be the subject of a claim against Cedefop unless it can be imputed to Cedefop.

The person invited using his/her own means of transport assumes, in particular, entire responsibility for any accident which may occur.

## **II – INVITATION LETTER**

### **Article 3**

1. Reimbursement of the expenses of an invited expert may only take place on the basis of the relevant provisions of the invitation letter signed by the competent Authorising Officer (by Delegation) – AO(D). Any prior, early information given for a scheduled meeting should clearly advise against booking travel and accommodation before receiving the official invitation.
2. The invitation letter shall refer to the maximum travel cost to be reimbursed, to the maximum number of accommodation nights to be covered and to the maximum numbers of per diems (daily allowances) to be paid. It shall also inform experts of the communication means available to them should they need or wish to discuss with the organisers other arrangements that either deviate from the standard conditions or are not covered by them. In case organisational matters are taken in charge, in whole or in part, by the external Event Support Service (ESS), related information shall also be provided in the letter.
3. If travel cost or other issues such as the time required or the number of per diems are estimated or known to exceed the maxima stipulated in the (standard) invitation letter, reimbursement requires prior authorisation by the AO(D). If reimbursements that exceed the maxima stipulated in the invitation letter are only requested after costs have actually been incurred, full reimbursement requires specific justification and authorisation of an exception by the authorising officer before payment can be exacted. If the justification is deemed unsatisfactory, reimbursement is limited to the amounts stipulated as maxima in the invitation letter.

## **III - PAYMENT OF EXPENSES**

### **Travel expenses**

#### **Article 4**

1. The expert has the right to reimbursement of his/her travel expenses from the place of departure (professional or private address) to the place where the meeting is taking place using the most economic means of transport, taking into account the distance: in principle by first class rail for distances not exceeding 400 kilometres (single ticket based on the official distance calculated by the railway company), economy class air tickets for distances exceeding 400 kilometres or where the journey involves a sea crossing.
2. Travel expenses are reimbursed upon presentation of copies or scanned versions of the original documents (tickets showing the price, or invoices, or receipts) or printouts in the case where tickets are purchased on-line, as well as the boarding pass for the outward journey. The documents submitted should show the travel class, the travel time and the price paid; if the price is not shown on the ticket, invoice or proof of payment must be submitted.

3. Reimbursement for travel by car shall be based on the first-class rail fare.
4. Where rail travel is not available for the journey undertaken by private car, reimbursement will be calculated at the rate of 0,22 €/km.
5. Taxi fares will be reimbursed if they constitute a necessary part of the **main travel** (i.e. the travel from the place of origin to the place of the meeting/conference or the return) and **if no public transport is available**. Such taxi costs are part of the travel cost and count toward the maximum amount stipulated in the invitation letter.
6. Other taxi fares as well as other public transport costs (bus, tram, underground) will not be reimbursed and should be covered by the daily allowances (see Article 5).

### **Subsistence expenses**

#### **Article 5**

1. The allowance for expenses per day of meetings covers all the expert's expenses at the place where the meeting is held, including the cost of meals and local travel (bus, tram, underground, taxi).
2. The daily allowance amounts to EURO 92. This amount is reduced by 30% for each meal (seated lunch or dinner) offered by the Centre and accepted by the expert and by 15% for each breakfast included in the hotel invoice reimbursed by the Centre. If the distance of the place of departure to the meeting is equal to or less than 100 km, the allowance for expenses per day shall be reduced by 50%.
3. If the expert is obliged to spend one or several nights at the place of the meeting because of the incompatibility of the hours of the meeting with travel arrangements<sup>3</sup>, a nightly accommodation allowance will be paid. This allowance amounts to EURO 100 per night. The number of nights cannot exceed the number of days of the meeting plus 1, except if authorised by the AOD in advance (see Article 3.2-3).
4. Additional allowances for accommodation and/or daily expenses, for example, can be approved if this allows for the purchase of cheaper flight tickets or other savings and provided that the savings are higher than the additional allowances.
5. The allowance for daily expenses and/or accommodation can be increased by 50% for high-level experts by decision of the authorising officer. In this case this has to be expressly stated in the invitation letter.

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<sup>3</sup> As a general rule the expert cannot be obliged either at the place of departure or the place of the meeting to:

- leave the place of departure or the place of the meeting before 7.00 a.m. (rail or other means of transport) or before 8 a.m. (in the case of air travel);
- arrive at the place of the meeting after 9:00 p.m. (airport) or 10.00 p.m. (rail or other means of transport);
- return to the place of original departure after 11.00 p.m. (airport, railway station or other means of transport).



### **Article 6**

Prior authorisation of the authorising officer is required for expenses to be incurred by a handicapped expert and the person accompanying him/her which cannot be covered sufficiently by the allowances laid down in Article 4. For this purpose, the handicapped expert shall provide information on the necessary additional expenses in advance to Cedefop. Following the meeting(s) and upon presentation of the necessary supporting documents, reimbursement by Cedefop will be effected.

### **Article 7**

1. Unless stated to the contrary in the invitation letter and in the request for the organisation of the meeting, experts are entitled to an allowance for expenses per day of the meeting and, if necessary, accommodation, provided they state on their word of honour that they do not receive similar allowances from another EU institution/body for the same meeting(s). The responsible authorising officer assures the coherence between the contents of the invitations and the request for the organisation of the meeting.
2. The responsible authorising officer, by a duly motivated decision and on presentation of the required documents may approve reimbursement of expenses incurred by the expert following specific written or oral instructions.
3. Each reimbursement of travel expenses and daily allowance and/or accommodation shall be paid to one and the same bank account.

## **III – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 8**

1. The payment order is drawn up on the basis of a request for reimbursement, duly completed and signed by the expert and Cedefop's secretary responsible for verifying the attendance of the meeting by the expert.
2. Experts are required to provide to the secretaries of the meetings the documents necessary for reimbursement at the latest within 30 calendar days following the last day of the meeting, as evidenced by the date of postage, the date of the fax or the mail.
3. In the absence of justification and evidence of costs by the expert to Cedefop, non-compliance with the provisions under paragraph 2 relieves Cedefop of any obligation to reimburse travel costs and allowances. This shall be confirmed in writing by the authorising officer.

### **Article 9**

1. Travel expenses are reimbursed in Euro at the prevailing exchange rate of the month of the meeting, as published on the Commission's DG Budget website.
2. Transfer of the allowance for daily expenses and accommodation is made in Euro at the standard amounts foreseen in Article 5. The allowances for daily expenses and accommodation will be reviewed on the basis of any modifications made by the European Commission.

## **IV – FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 10**

1. This decision amends and replaces the decision of 13 June 2008.
2. These rules enter into force upon signature.

5 November 2013

For the Governing Board

The Chair  
Barbara Dorn