



European Centre for the
Development of Vocational Training

Procurement Service

Thessaloniki, 18.09.2006

OPEN INVITATION TO TENDER

CEDEFOP No AO/A/KNE/IVET_POLL/024/06

Feasibility study for a European harmonised poll dedicated to initial vocational education and training

TENDER CONDITIONS

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. With reference to the open invitation to tender 'Feasibility study for a European harmonised poll dedicated to initial vocational education and training', published in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union No 2006/S 177-187996 on 16.09.2006, please find enclosed the necessary documents.

The purpose of this invitation to tender is to conclude a study contract in accordance with the attached Tendering Specifications.

If you are downloading these documents from our website, kindly send us an e-mail (C4T-services@cedefop.europa.eu) notifying us.

2. If you are interested in this invitation to tender, you should submit a tender *in triplicate* (original and 2 copies) in one of the official languages of the European Union (preferably in English).
3. You may choose to submit the tender:
 - a) either by post or by courier not later than 01/11/2006 in which case the evidence shall be constituted by the date of despatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, to the following address:

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

Procurement Service

For the attention of Mr C. F. Lettmayr

PO Box 22 427

GR – 55102 Thessaloniki

Greece

b) delivered by hand not later than 17:00 on 01/11/2006 to the following address:

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop),

Procurement Service

For the attention of Mr C. F. Lettmayr

Europe 123,

GR-57001 Thessaloniki-Pylea

Greece

In this case, a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the official in the above mentioned Service who took delivery. Cedefop is open from 9.00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday. It is closed on Saturday, Sunday and Cedefop's holidays.

4. Tenders must be placed inside two sealed envelopes. The inner envelope, addressed to the service indicated above, should be marked as follows:

OPEN INVITATION TO TENDER

CEDEFOP No AO/A/KNE/IVET_POLL/024/06

Feasibility study for a European harmonised poll dedicated to initial vocational education and training

Tender from (name of Tenderer):

NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE INTERNAL MAIL SERVICE

If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they must be sealed with adhesive tape and the sender must sign across this tape.

5. All the documents that must be produced in order to tender are listed in the attached Tendering Specifications. The draft study contract is annexed to the Tendering Specifications.
6. Tenders must be:
- Signed by the Tenderer or his duly authorised representative;
 - Perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.
7. Submission of a tender implies acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in this invitation to tender, in the specifications and in the draft study contract and, where appropriate, waiver of the Tenderer's own general or specific terms and conditions. It is binding on the Tenderer to whom the contract is awarded for the duration of the contract.
8. The opening of tenders will take place at Cedefop on 14/11/2006 at 11:00 hours. Each Tenderer may be represented at the opening of tenders by one person. The name of the person attending the opening must be notified in writing by fax (Fax No +30 2310 490 028) or by e-mail (C4T-services@cedefop.europa.eu) no later than 17:00 on 10/11/2006.
9. Period of validity of tenders, during which Tenderers may not modify the terms of their tenders in any aspect: 6 months from 01/11/2006.

10. Contacts between the contracting authority (Cedefop) and Tenderers are prohibited throughout the procedure save in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

- Before the final date for submission of tenders:

At the request of the Tenderer, the Cedefop Procurement Service may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the nature of the contract. Any request for additional information must be made in writing by fax (fax No +30 2310 490 028) or by e-mail (C4T-services@cedefop.europa.eu).

Request for additional information received less than five working days before the closing date for submission of tenders will not be processed.

Cedefop may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or any other clerical error in the text of the call for tender.

Any additional information including that referred to above will be sent simultaneously to all Tenderers who have requested the specifications (candidates invited to tender).

Please check Cedefop's website frequently. All answers to requests for clarifications are also published there.

- After the opening of tenders:

If clarification is required or if obvious clerical errors in the tender need to be corrected, Cedefop may contact the Tenderer provided the terms of the tender are not modified as a result.

11. This invitation to tender is in no way binding on Cedefop. Cedefop's contractual obligation commences only upon signature of the contract with the successful Tenderer. Up to the point of signature, Cedefop may either abandon the procurement or cancel the award procedure, without the candidates or Tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation. This decision must be substantiated and the Tenderers notified.

You will be informed whether or not your tender has been accepted.

Yours sincerely,

signed
Christian F. Lettmayr
Deputy Director

Attached: Tendering specifications

OPEN INVITATION TO TENDER

CEDEFOP No AO/A/KNE/IVET_POLL/024/06

Feasibility study for a European harmonised poll dedicated to initial vocational education and training

Tendering specifications

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ABOUT CEDEFOP – General introduction

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) ⁽¹⁾ is an agency of the European Union. Created in 1975 with a tripartite Governing Board, it provides services for the European Commission, the European Union Member States and the social partners as well as for the associated countries of Norway and Iceland. The candidate countries are also associated with its activities.

As the European Union's reference centre for vocational education and training, Cedefop provides policymakers, researchers and practitioners with information to promote a clearer understanding of developments and so enable them to take informed decisions on future action. Cedefop assists the European Commission in encouraging, at Community level, the promotion and development of vocational education and training.

The main tasks of Cedefop as defined in its founding Regulation ⁽²⁾ are to:

- Compile selected documentation and analysis of data;
- Contribute to the development and coordination of research;
- Exploit and disseminate useful information;
- Encourage and support a concerted approach to vocational training development issues;
- Provide a forum for a wide and diverse audience.

Cedefop's Medium-term priorities (MTP) for 2006 to 2008 ³ concentrate on the priorities set out in the Maastricht communiqué, which has been agreed by 32 European countries, the European Commission and the European social partners:

- (a) Promoting the image and attractiveness of the vocational route for employers and individuals to increase participation in VET;
- (b) Achieving high levels of quality and innovation in VET systems to benefit all learners and make European VET globally competitive;
- (c) Linking VET with the knowledge economy's requirements for a highly skilled workforce and especially, because of the strong impact of demographic change, the upgrading and competence development of older workers;
- (d) Addressing the needs of the low-skilled (about 75 million people aged between 25 and 64 in the EU) and disadvantaged groups so as to achieve social cohesion and increase labour market participation.[?]

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/inbrief.asp#6>

⁽³⁾ http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/download/current_act/4050_en.pdf

Cedefop will also contribute – in cooperation with statistical providers – to evidence-based policy-making by improving the scope, precision, reliability and comparability of data, statistics and indicators for VET.

1. OBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

1.1. Description of the contract

1.1.1. Subject of the contract

The work to be carried out under this contract is

- to investigate in detail the feasibility of a European harmonised poll dedicated to initial vocational education and training (IVET poll), and to define the conditions and requirements for a feasible IVET poll;
- to draft a relevant statistical methodology for a European harmonised IVET poll;
- to analyse different survey instruments and to come up with clear recommendations for the most suitable tool, and to define the statistical-technical framework.

1.1.2. Site or location of works, place of delivery or performance

Contractor's premises.

1.1.3. Division into lots

The contract will not be divided into lots.

1.1.4. Variants

Variants will not be accepted.

1.1.5. Total quantity or scope

Maximum budget available: 20 000 EUR

1.2. Duration of the contract

The contract shall enter into force on the date of signature of the last contracting party, and shall be valid for a period of 12 months.

2. LEGAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

2.1. Conditions relating to the contract

2.1.1. Main term of financing and payment

Payments will be made 30 days after submission of invoices and at the conditions set out in the draft contract and in the technical specifications.

2.1.2. Legal form to be taken by the grouping of suppliers

Groupings of suppliers (or consortia), irrespective of their legal form, may submit a tender on condition that it complies with the rules of competition. Such grouping (or

consortia) must specify the company or person heading the project and must also submit a copy of the document authorising this company or person to submit a bid. If awarded, the contract will be signed by the company or the person heading the project who will be vis-à-vis Cedefop, the only contracting party responsible for the performance of this contract. Tenders from consortia of firms or group of service providers, Contractors or suppliers, must specify the role, qualifications and experience of each member or group.

2.1.3. *Subcontracting*

All subcontracting must be approved by the Cedefop, either by accepting the Contractor's offer, or, if proposed by the Contractor after contract signature, by an exchange of letters. The sub-contracting will be accepted only if it is judged by Cedefop to be necessary to complete the project, and does not lead to distortion of competition. If awarded, the contract will be signed by the Tenderer who will be the only contracting party responsible for the performance of the contract.

The Tenderer must indicate clearly in their methodology, which parts of the work will be sub-contracted, and the identity of all subcontractors undertaking more than 10% of the work by value. Full details of the technical and professional capacity of such subcontractors must also be given, in accordance with point 2.2.4.2 and 2.2.4.3. below. Where no sub-contractor is given, the work will be assumed to be carried out directly by the tenderer.

2.2. **Condition for participation**

2.2.1. *Conflict of interest*

The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could arise during performance of the Contract must be notified to Cedefop in writing without delay. In the event of such conflict, the Contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

2.2.2. *Legal position – means of proof required*

Tenderers must indicate in which State they have their headquarters or domicile and present the supporting evidence normally acceptable of that country law. In addition, they should provide evidence of their inscription in the professional/trade register, if applicable. Tenderers are therefore requested to complete the Legal entity form in annex III and provide the requested documents.

2.2.3. *Exclusion of Tenderers*

2.2.3.1. Grounds for exclusion

To be eligible for participating in this contract award procedure, Tenderers must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed below:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;
- c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which Cedefop can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled 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 they are established or with those of the country of Cedefop or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) Following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in a serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Contracts may not be awarded to Tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:

- are subject to a conflict of interest;
- Are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by Cedefop as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.

2.2.3.2. Means of proof required

Cedefop will accept, as satisfactory evidence that the Tenderer is not in one of the situations described in 2.2.3.1., a declaration on its honour (please complete and sign the Declaration on Exclusion Criteria in Annex V).

2.2.4. Selection criteria

Tenderers are required to prove that they have sufficient economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to perform the contract.

2.2.4.1. Economic and financial capacity – means of proof required

Proof of economic and financial capacity may be provided by one or more of the following documents:

- a) Appropriate statements from the banks or evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance;
- b) Balance sheets or extracts from balance sheets for at least the last two years for which accounts have been closed where publication of the balance sheet is required under the company law of the country in which the economic operator is established;
- c) A statement of overall turnover and turnover concerning the services covered by the contract during the last three financial years.

In case the Tenderer is unable to submit such documents, he is required to provide justification.

2.2.4.2. Technical and professional capacity

The Tenderer must comply in terms of technical and professional capacity with the following criteria:

- a) Educational and professional qualifications, knowledge and skills of those person(s) who will perform the tasks described in 4.2.;
- b) Those person(s) who will be responsible for the overall management of the contract must have practical professional experiences in statistical surveys and/or polls, and/or in research and data analysis on education and training;
- c) Those person(s) who will perform the tasks described in 4.2. must have at least two years of practical professional experiences
 - in the implementation, evaluation and/or analysis of statistical social surveys and/or polls, relevant to the work to be carried out under this contract, at national and/or international level;

and/or

- in research on education and training, including the analysis of statistical data from relevant surveys and/or polls.
- d) Those person(s) who will perform the tasks described in 4.2. must have the know-how to access statistics, metadata and specific information relevant to the work to be carried out under this contract;
 - e) The Tenderer must have the technical capacity to access statistics, metadata and specific information relevant to the work to be carried out under this contract;
 - f) Linguistic ability (including good capacity to speak and write in English).

2.2.4.3. Evidence of technical and professional capacity

The Tenderer must provide the following documents and information as proof of its technical and professional capacity in compliance with 2.2.4.2.:

- a) CVs of those person(s) who will be responsible for the overall management of the contract and of those person(s) who will perform the tasks described in 4.2.,
- b) List(s) of work results of those person(s) who will perform the tasks described in 4.2., related to relevant statistical surveys/ polls at national and/or international level, and/or relevant research and data analysis;
- c) A list of major relevant contracts/studies carried out by the Tenderer in the past three years with sums, dates and recipients;
- d) A description of the Tenderer's work and research facilities, including technical equipment and tools, to be used for the work to be carried out under this contract;

- e) Description of planned measures to ensure the overall quality of the work to be carried out under this contract.

2.2.4.4. Evaluation of tenders

Only the tenders meeting the exclusion and selection criteria in 2.2.3.1., 2.2.4.1 and 2.2.4.2., will have their offers evaluated in terms of quality and price.

2.2.5. *Other documents to be provided*

- **Individual(s) entitled to sign the contract**

Tenderers should submit a statement containing the name and position of the individual(s) entitled to sign the contract.

- **Individual(s) to supervise the contract**

Tenderers should state the name and position of the individual that will supervise the contract.

- **Financial identification form**

The financial identification form in annex IV must be sent, duly completed and signed, with the tender.

3. AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

3.1. Awarding procedure/method

The offers which are eligible and meet the exclusion and selection criteria will be assessed in terms of quality and price.

The contract shall be awarded to the Tenderer submitting the offer with the best value for money (best quality-price ratio).

A quality-price ratio will be calculated for each tender by dividing the total of quality points by the total price of the offer (see point 3.2.2.1 below), thus indicating which tender represents the best value for money.

Tenders scoring less than 65 quality points (of maximum 100 points), will not be considered acceptable.

3.2. Award criteria

3.2.1. *Quality evaluation of the tender*

3.2.1.1. Quality criteria

The quality of the tender will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria and weighting:

- a) Demonstration of in-depth understanding of the context and of the general objective of the contract, described in 4.1. **(15 points)**;
- b) Adequacy of the overall approach proposed with regard to the purpose and objective of the contract, described in 4.1. **(15 points)**;

- c) Demonstration of in-depth understanding of the specific objectives to be achieved and of the purpose of the different tasks, described in 4.2. **(25 points)**;
- d) Relevance of the various activities and specific work steps proposed with regard to the detailed results to be achieved and the purpose of the different tasks, described in 4.2. **(30 points)**;
- e) Appropriateness of the work plan, and of the organisation and coordination of the different activities and work steps, relevant to the time table of the contract **(10 points)**;
- f) Relevance of the preliminary assessment of likely difficulties in carrying out the work and proposed actions **(5 points)**.

3.2.1.2. Evidence to be provided

The Tenderer must provide the following documents and information in compliance with 3.2.1.1.:

- a) Brief discussion of the state of the art regarding the availability of statistics on initial vocational education and training at European level, including a list of key references;
- b) Description of the methodological study approach, including an indicative list of polls on education, training and/or lifelong learning that will be subject to in-depth investigation;
- c) Description of the various activities and work steps relevant to the specific objectives and tasks in 4.2.;
- d) Indicative list of statistical instruments to be explored in relation to 4.2.3;
- e) Detailed work plan including a time schedule, and a description of the organisation and coordination of the various activities and work steps;
- f) Preliminary assessment of likely difficulties in carrying out the work and proposed actions.

3.2.2. *Financial evaluation of the tender*

3.2.2.1. Evidence to be provided

The financial offer will be assessed on the basis of the total price of the tender. The Tenderer must provide a breakdown of the total price including the number of person-days and the price per person-day.

3.2.2.2. Information concerning price

- a) The price quoted must be fixed and not revisable.
- b) Prices must be quoted in Euro and include all expenses.
- c) Under article 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities, Cedefop is exempt from all charges, taxes and dues, including value added tax (VAT). Such charges may not therefore be included

in the calculation of the price quoted. The VAT amount must be indicated separately.

- d) Travel expenses for any meeting organised by Cedefop should not be included in the financial offer (see point 4.3.3)
- e) All costs incurred in preparing and submitting tenders are borne by the Tenderer and cannot be reimbursed.

4. OBJECTIVES AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

4.1. Context and general objective

Monitoring the implementation of common policies and strategies in education and training and of new methods of policy coordination at European level requires structured and continuous support in the form of adequate statistical indicators and benchmarks. Therefore, closing the knowledge gap in comparable statistics has become a priority for the European Union. Internationally comparable data on education, training and skills have acquired particular importance with the continuing integration of European countries and the Education and Training 2010 work programme ⁽⁴⁾.

The ‘Maastricht Study’ (Leney et al., 2004) ⁽⁵⁾ has analysed in-depth existing data and their limitations for assessing the progress made by Member States in achieving the Copenhagen objectives for vocational education and training (VET) ⁽⁶⁾. Accordingly, the Maastricht Communiqué (2004) ⁽⁷⁾ identified ‘the improvement of the scope, precision and reliability of VET statistics’ *as a priority*, arguing that ‘adequate data and indicators are the key to understanding what is happening in VET and what additional interventions and decision-making are required by all parties involved’.

At EU level, over the coming years the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) will improve the availability and quality of data through several new or new rounds of surveys, and further development of existing surveys, e.g.:

- The third European survey of vocational training in enterprises (CVTS, 2006) will allow comparisons between data gathered for 1993 and 1999, and the identification of trends in training in enterprises;
- The Adult Education Survey (AES, 2005-07) will provide comparable European data on participation in various forms of learning as well as on obstacles to and attitudes towards learning;
- The multi-annual approach of the UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat (UOE) data collection will improve the quality and availability of data on VET, including VET finance data;
- The EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC, 2004 onwards) is a longitudinal survey including variables related to income, poverty, social exclusion, living conditions, employment, health and education and training;

⁽⁴⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html

⁽⁵⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/study_en.html

⁽⁶⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/copenhagen/copenhagen_declaration_en.pdf

⁽⁷⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/vocational_en.html

- The new ad hoc module of the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS, 2009) will provide important data on the entry of young people into the labour market, and the impact of educational pathways and attainment for this process.

Whereas such developments constantly improve the availability and quality of quantitative statistical information on education and training, very little is known at European level about the individual attitudes and opinions of citizens towards (vocational) education and training.

A first feasibility study for a harmonised opinion survey on vocational education and training at European level, commissioned by Cedefop in 1999, provided useful and relevant conclusions and recommendations ⁽⁸⁾.

In spring 2003, a special Eurobarometer survey carried out in the then 15 EU Member States provided a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of citizens' views on lifelong learning ⁽⁹⁾. In spring 2005, an analogous special Eurobarometer survey was carried in the 10 new EU Member States ⁽¹⁰⁾.

In autumn 2004, a special Eurobarometer survey on vocational training (EB VT) was carried out in the 25 EU Member States ⁽¹¹⁾. In the run-up to the Maastricht Conference, where it was agreed to strengthen cooperation with a view to modernising vocational education and training systems, the survey tried to determine whether current vocational training systems meet the needs of citizens and to identify the types of reform and innovation necessary to meet the Copenhagen objectives.

However, the EB VT survey revealed several weaknesses. Contrary to the initial purpose, the survey did not entail specific findings on initial vocational education and training and on vocational training systems. The majority of questions covered either (again) general lifelong learning or continuing vocational training (mainly in enterprises). Just one question touched on the issue of education and training systems (question on 'recommendations to school leavers: vocational training/apprenticeship versus general/academic studies'). Inconsistent use of terms within the questionnaire, imprecise wording and lack of compatibility with the concepts and definitions usually applied in the field did not allow clear, coherent and reliable interpretation of the results or comparisons across EU Member States. Typical of Eurobarometer surveys, sample sizes and definitions, if any, did not allow reliable, valid and specific breakdowns as necessary.

The study to be carried out under this contract will investigate the feasibility of a harmonised European poll dedicated specifically to initial vocational education and training (IVET poll); it will define the indispensable conditions and requirements for a feasible poll and provide a corresponding draft of the statistical methodology. This draft of the statistical methodology will comprise concepts, definitions, survey guidelines and the questionnaire; it will include recommendations on the appropriate survey instrument. The proposed overall approach should take into consideration the relevant findings of the study carried out in 1999 ⁽¹²⁾, and ensure that the shortcomings of the special EB VT are not replicated. A future harmonised IVET poll should

⁽⁸⁾ *Feasibility study for a harmonised opinion survey on vocational education and training*
http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Information_resources/Bookshop/publications.asp?section=13

⁽⁹⁾ *Lifelong learning: citizens' views in close-up*
http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Information_resources/Bookshop/publications.asp?section=13

⁽¹⁰⁾ to be published in 2006; the draft publication will be provided to the Contractor

⁽¹¹⁾ <http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/news/default.asp?idnews=1659>

⁽¹²⁾ *Feasibility study for a harmonised opinion survey on vocational education and training*
http://www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Information_resources/Bookshop/publications.asp?section=13

be applicable in all EU Member States and provide for the collection of valid, reliable and comparable data and information.

4.2. Specific objectives and tasks of the Contractor

4.2.1. First objective

The first objective is to evaluate and assess polls that have been implemented since 1995 at European and national levels and that are significant for education and training, and to define the framework conditions for a feasible IVET poll.

Tasks:

- to review, in form and content, all aspects of polls that have been implemented since 1995 at European and national levels and that are related wholly or partly (single questions) to education and training;
- to assess the strengths and weaknesses of those surveys and to draw conclusions for a European harmonised IVET poll;
- to define the necessary and sufficient basic conditions and requirements for a feasible European harmonised IVET poll.

4.2.2. Second objective

The second objective is to draft a relevant statistical methodology for a European harmonised IVET poll.

Tasks:

- to develop a harmonised practical concept of ‘IVET’ (‘what is meant by IVET’ and how it should be defined) to ensure valid, reliable and comparable data and information across EU Member States;
- to develop relevant content-related concepts and definitions for the following aspects to be covered by a harmonised IVET poll:
 - ✎ the image and attractiveness of IVET (e.g. participation in IVET, reasons for participation/non-participation in IVET, guidance for and recommendations to school-leavers, parental view/influence, public image of IVET, appreciation by employers, perceived personal image, awareness of and access to IVET measures, benefits to individuals, advantages in the labour market, job prospects, labour-market status, income, career development, access to continuing training/to higher education, cost for participants and financial incentives);
 - ✎ the impact and effectiveness of IVET (e.g. successes and obstacles in transition from IVET to work, need for adaptation training, quality of IVET, importance and relevance of different forms of IVET, acquired knowledge and skills versus demands of the labour market, sustainability of IVET);
- to deduce statistical variables appropriate for measuring the image, attractiveness and effectiveness of IVET;
- to characterise in detail the statistical variables, including the definition of relevant terms and the identification of relevant statistical classifications;

- to define and describe necessary socio-economic background variables and context information needed to appropriately detail and interpret results;
- to develop a outline survey questionnaire.

4.2.3. Third objective

The third objective is to formulate recommendations for the most suitable survey instrument, and to define the statistical-technical conditions that are indispensable for ensuring valid, reliable and comparable data and information across EU Member States.

Tasks:

- to evaluate the pros and cons of different survey instruments (e.g. special Eurobarometer survey, Eurostat surveys, new ad hoc EU instrument, national surveys) that might be appropriate to implement a harmonised IVET poll at European level;
- to come up with a proposal for the most suitable survey instrument, including its description, and to justify the decision considering such aspect as, e.g., the relevant and feasible sample sizes, organisation of the survey, timing, estimated costs;
- to define those conditions that will be essential for a harmonised application of the proposed survey instrument in all EU Member States, and to outline corresponding basic survey guidelines.

4.3. Deliverables, indicative timetable and budget

4.3.1. Deliverables

The Contractor is required to submit an **interim report** that should include:

- a) the tentative structure of the final report;
- b) a description of the overall approach;
- c) interim results and indicative conclusions for the three specific objectives;
- d) information on problems encountered, solutions found or proposed, and impact on further work.

The Contractor is required to deliver a **draft final report** and a **final report** that should include:

- a) a summary and key results;
- b) a detailed presentation of results for the three specific objectives;
- c) general conclusions and recommendations;
- d) a possible annex with a bibliography, with a list of surveys/studies explored, with tables and other additional relevant information, e.g. methodological details.

Cedefop will provide comments on the interim report and the draft final report. The Contractor must take account of those comments, liaising closely with Cedefop. Payment of the balance is conditional on Cedefop's acceptance of a revised final report.

The Contractor is required to submit the reports in **English**, in **hard copy and in electronic form** (Word/Excel). The electronic files must correspond fully to the hard-copy versions. Tables and graphs (including the data) created in Word/Excel (as appropriate) should be provided in separate files.

4.3.2. *Indicative timetable*

The Contractor is required to submit:

- **the interim report within 3 months** of the date on which the contract is signed by the last contracting party;
- **the draft final report within 6 months** of the date on which the contract is signed by the last contracting party;
- **the final report within 8 months** of the date on which the contract is signed by the last contracting party.

Cedefop will invite the Contractor to a kick-off meeting that will take place preferably in Thessaloniki within two weeks of the signing of the contract by the last contracting party. Further meetings might be required during the performance of the contract.

4.3.3. *Budget*

Travel expenses for meetings at the request of Cedefop will be reimbursed by Cedefop separately, according to the applicable rules (see Annex II to the draft contract).

ANNEX I

Contract Notice

ANNEX II

Draft Contract



European Centre for the
Development of Vocational Training

DRAFT CONTRACT No

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 Mr Manfred Tessaring, Acting Head of Area A, Developing research,

of the one part,

and

[official name in full]

[official legal form]

[statutory registration number]

[official address in full]

[VAT registration number]

hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor", [represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by [name in full and function,]]

of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

the **Special Conditions** and the **General Conditions** below and the following Annexes:

Annex I – Tender Specifications (Invitation to Tender No [complete] of [complete]) and Monitoring.

Annex II – Rules concerning the reimbursement of the travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses of experts from outside Cedefop invited to meetings.

Annex III – Contractor’s tender.

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 III).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of the Contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory. Ambiguities or discrepancies within or between such parts shall be explained or rectified by a written instruction issued by Cedefop, subject to the rights of the Contractor under Article I.7 should he dispute any such instruction.

I – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE I.1 - SUBJECT

- I.1.1.** The subject of the Contract is [short description of subject] in accordance with the conditions laid down in this contract and the annexes thereto and as set out in Annex I.
- I.1.2.** The Contractor shall execute the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the Tender Specifications annexed to the Contract (Annex I).

ARTICLE I.2 - DURATION

- I.2.1.** The Contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party.
- I.2.2.** Execution of the tasks may under no circumstances begin before the date on which the Contract enters into force.
- I.2.3.** The duration of the tasks shall not exceed 12 months. This period and all other 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 such period elapses.

ARTICLE I.3 – CONTRACT PRICE

- I.3.1.** The [*maximum*] total amount to be paid by Cedefop under the Contract shall be EUR [amount in figures and in words] covering all tasks executed.
- I.3.2.** The total amount referred to in the above paragraph shall be fixed and not subject to revision.
- I.3.3.** In addition to the total amount specified in Article I.3.1, travel, subsistence and shipment expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with Annex II.

ARTICLE I.4 – PAYMENT PERIODS AND FORMALITIES

Payments under the Contract shall be made in accordance with Article II.4. Payments shall be executed only if the Contractor has fulfilled all his contractual obligations by the date on which the invoice is submitted. Payment requests may not be made if payments for previous periods have not been executed as a result of default or negligence on the part of the Contractor.

I.4.1. Pre-financing:

Following signature of the Contract by the last contracting party, within 30 days of the receipt by Cedefop of a request for pre-financing with a relevant invoice, a pre-financing payment, equal to 30% of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1., shall be made.

I.4.2. Interim payment

Request for interim payment by the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by:

- the interim report on accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I
- the relevant invoice(s)

Provided the report has been approved by Cedefop.

Cedefop shall have twenty days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have twenty days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Within thirty days of the date in which the report is approved by Cedefop, an interim payment corresponding to the relevant invoice(s) equal to 30% of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1., shall be made

I.4.3. Payment of the balance:

Request for payment of the balance of the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by:

- the final report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I
- the relevant invoice(s)

Provided the report and the other documents have been approved by Cedefop.

Cedefop shall have forty-five days from receipt to approve or reject the above documents, and the Contractor shall have forty-five days in which to submit additional information, a new report or new documents.

Within thirty days of the date in which the above mentioned documents are approved by Cedefop, the payment of the balance, corresponding to the relevant invoice(s), equal to 40% of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1., shall be made

Invoices must state:

a detail of costs in EUR and the total price excluding VAT

the VAT amount in EUR separately

that the amount invoiced is exempt from VAT under the Articles 3 and 4 of the PPI. The current provisions in Greece shall apply to VAT exemption.

ARTICLE I.5 – BANK ACCOUNT

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

Name of bank: [complete]

Exact designation of account holder: [complete]

IBAN code: [complete]]

BIC code: [complete]

ARTICLE I.6 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Any communication relating to the Contract shall be made in writing and shall bear the Contract number. Ordinary mail shall be deemed to have been received by Cedefop on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible indicated below. 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

Contractor:

Mr/Mrs/Ms [complete]
[Function]
[Company name]
[Official address in full]

ARTICLE I.7– APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- I.7.1.** The Contract shall be governed by the Greek law.
- I.7.2.** Any dispute between the parties resulting from the interpretation or application of the Contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be brought before the courts of Thessaloniki.

ARTICLE I.8 – OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

II – GENERAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE II.1 – PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

- II.1.1.** The Contractor shall perform the Contract to the highest professional standards. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him, notably those resulting from employment, tax and social legislation.
- II.1.2.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility 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 him are to be executed.
- II.1.3.** Without prejudice to Article II.3 any reference made to the Contractor's staff in the Contract shall relate exclusively to individuals involved in the performance of the Contract.
- II.1.4.** The Contractor must ensure that any staff performing the Contract have the professional qualifications and experience required for the execution of the tasks assigned to him.
- II.1.5.** The Contractor shall neither represent Cedefop nor behave in any way that would give such an impression. The Contractor shall inform third parties that he does not belong to the European public service.
- II.1.6.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for the staff who execute the tasks assigned to him.

The Contractor shall make provision for the following employment or service relationships with his staff:

- staff executing the tasks assigned to the Contractor may not be given orders direct by Cedefop;
 - Cedefop may not under any circumstances be considered to be the staff's employer and the said staff shall undertake not to invoke in respect of Cedefop any right arising from the contractual relationship between Cedefop and the Contractor.
- II.1.7.** In the event of disruption resulting from the action of a member of the Contractor's staff working on Cedefop premises or in the event of the expertise of a member of the Contractor's staff failing to correspond to the profile required by the Contract, the Contractor shall replace him without delay. Cedefop shall have the right to request the replacement of any such member of staff, stating its reasons for so doing. Replacement staff 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 him resulting from the replacement of staff in accordance with this Article.
- II.1.8.** Should any unforeseen event, action or omission directly or indirectly hamper execution of the tasks, either partially or totally, the Contractor shall immediately and on his own initiative record it and report it to Cedefop. 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 his obligations under the Contract. In such event the Contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.
- II.1.9.** Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract in accordance with the provisions laid down therein, Cedefop may - without prejudice to its right to terminate the Contract - reduce or recover payments in proportion to the scale of the failure. In addition, Cedefop may impose penalties or liquidated damages provided for in Article II.16.

ARTICLE II.2 – LIABILITY

- II.2.1.** Cedefop shall not be liable for damage sustained by the Contractor in performance of the Contract except in the event of wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of Cedefop.
- II.2.2.** The Contractor shall be liable for any loss or damage caused by himself in performance of the Contract, including in the event of subcontracting under Article II.13. Cedefop shall not be liable for any act or default on the part of the Contractor in performance of the Contract.
- II.2.3.** The Contractor shall provide compensation in the event of any action, claim or proceeding brought against Cedefop by a third party as a result of damage caused by the Contractor in performance of the Contract.
- II.2.4.** In the event of any action brought by a third party against Cedefop in connection with performance of the Contract, the Contractor shall assist Cedefop. Expenditure incurred by the Contractor to this end may be borne by Cedefop.
- II.2.5.** The Contractor shall take out insurance against risks and damage relating to performance of the Contract if required by the relevant applicable legislation. He 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 Cedefop should it so request.

ARTICLE II.3 - CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- II.3.1.** The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could arise during performance of the Contract must be notified to Cedefop in writing without delay. In the event of such conflict, the Contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

Cedefop reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken, if necessary, within a time limit which it shall set. The Contractor shall ensure that his staff, board and directors are not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to Article II.1 the Contractor shall replace, immediately and without compensation from Cedefop, any member of his staff exposed to such a situation.

- II.3.2.** The Contractor shall abstain from any contact likely to compromise his independence.
- II.3.3.** The Contractor declares:
- that he has not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the Contract,
 - that he 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, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating to performance of the Contract.
- II.3.4.** The Contractor shall pass on all the relevant obligations in writing to his staff, board, and directors as well as to third parties involved in performance of the Contract. A copy of the instructions given and the undertakings made in this respect shall be sent to Cedefop should it so request.

ARTICLE II.4 – PAYMENTS

II.4.1. Pre-financing :

Where required by Article I.4.1, the Contractor shall provide a financial guarantee in the form of a bank guarantee or equivalent supplied by a bank or an authorised financial institution (guarantor) equal to the amount indicated in the same Article to cover pre-financing under the Contract. Such guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party.

The guarantor shall pay to Cedefop at its request an amount corresponding to payments made by it to the Contractor which have not yet been covered by equivalent work on his part.

The guarantor shall stand as first-call guarantor and shall not require Cedefop to have recourse against the principal debtor (the Contractor).

The guarantee shall specify that it enters into force at the latest on the date on which the Contractor receives the pre-financing. Cedefop shall release the guarantor from its obligations as soon as the Contractor has demonstrated that any pre-financing has been covered by equivalent work. The guarantee shall be retained until the pre-financing has been deducted from interim payments or payment of the balance to the Contractor. It shall be released the following month. The cost of providing such guarantee shall be borne by the Contractor.

II.4.2. Interim payment:

At the end of each of the periods indicated in Annex I the Contractor shall submit to Cedefop a formal request for payment accompanied by those of the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions:

- an interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7.

If the report is a condition for payment, on receipt Cedefop shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- to reject it and request a new report.

If Cedefop does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations or information enclosed.

Where Cedefop requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

II.4.3. Payment of the balance:

Within sixty days of completion of the tasks referred to in Annex I the Contractor shall submit to Cedefop a formal request for payment accompanied by those of the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions:

- a final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7.

If the report is a condition for payment, on receipt Cedefop shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- to reject it and request a new report.

If Cedefop does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations and information enclosed.

Where Cedefop requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

ARTICLE II.5 – GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING PAYMENTS

II.5.1. Payments shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which Cedefop's account is debited.

II.5.2. The payment periods referred to in Article I.4 may be suspended by Cedefop at any time if it informs the Contractor that his payment request is not admissible, either because the amount is not due or because the necessary supporting documents have not been properly produced. In case of doubt on the eligibility of the expenditure indicated in the payment request, Cedefop may suspend the time limit for payment for the purpose of further verification, including an on-the-spot check, in order to ascertain, prior to payment, that the expenditure is eligible.

Cedefop shall notify the Contractor accordingly by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent. Suspension shall take effect from the date of dispatch of the letter. The remainder of the period referred to in Article I.4 shall begin to run again once the suspension has been lifted.

II.5.3. In the event of late payment the Contractor may claim interest within two months of receiving the payment. Interest shall be calculated at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its most recent main refinancing operations (“*the reference rate*”) plus seven percentage points (“*the margin*”). The reference rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment is due shall apply. Such interest rate is published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union. Interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the calendar day following expiry of the time limit for payment up to the day of payment. Suspension of payment by Cedefop may not be deemed to constitute late payment.

ARTICLE II.6 – RECOVERY

II.6.1. If total payments made exceed the amount actually due under the Contract or if recovery is justified in accordance with the terms of the Contract, the Contractor shall reimburse the appropriate amount in euro on receipt of the debit note, in the manner and within the time limits set by Cedefop.

II.6.2. In the event of failure to pay by the deadline specified in the request for reimbursement, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.5.3. Interest shall be payable from the calendar day following the due date up to the calendar day on which the debt is repaid in full.

II.6.3. Cedefop may, after informing the Contractor, recover amounts established as certain, of a fixed amount and due by offsetting, in cases where the Contractor also has a claim on the Communities that is certain, of a fixed amount and due. Cedefop may also claim against the guarantee, where provided for.

ARTICLE II.7 - REIMBURSEMENTS

II.7.1. Where provided by the Special Conditions or by Annex I, Cedefop shall reimburse the expenses which are directly connected with execution of the tasks on production of original supporting documents, including receipts and used tickets.

II.7.2. Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed, where appropriate, on the basis of the shortest itinerary.

II.7.3. 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;
- d) travel outside Community territory shall be reimbursed under the general conditions stated above provided Cedefop has given its prior written agreement.

II.7.4. Subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of a daily allowance as follows:

- a) for journeys of less than 200 km (return trip) no subsistence allowance shall be payable;
- b) daily subsistence allowance shall be payable only on receipt of a supporting document proving that the person concerned was present at the place of destination;
- c) daily subsistence allowance shall take the form of a flat-rate payment to cover all subsistence expenses, including accommodation, meals, local transport, insurance and sundries;
- d) daily subsistence allowance, where applicable, shall be reimbursed at the rate specified in Article I.3.3.

II.7.5. The cost of shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage shall be reimbursed provided Cedefop has given prior written authorisation.

ARTICLE II.8 – OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULTS - INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Any results or rights thereon, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be owned solely by Cedefop, which may use, publish, assign or transfer them as it sees fit, without geographical or other limitation, except where industrial or intellectual property rights exist prior to the Contract being entered into.

ARTICLE II.9 – CONFIDENTIALITY

- II.9.1.** The Contractor undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to performance of the Contract. The Contractor shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks.
- II.9.2.** The Contractor shall obtain from each member of his staff, board and directors an undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information which is linked, directly or indirectly, to execution of the tasks and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of the tasks.

ARTICLE II.10 - USE, DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

- II.10.1.** 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 or relating to the Contract, in particular the identity of the Contractor, the subject matter, the duration, the amount paid and the reports.
- II.10.2.** Unless otherwise provided by the Special Conditions, Cedefop shall not be required to distribute or publish documents or information supplied in performance of the Contract. If it decides not to publish the documents or information supplied, the Contractor may not have them distributed or published elsewhere without prior written authorisation from Cedefop.
- II.10.3.** Any distribution or publication of information relating to the Contract by the Contractor shall require prior written authorisation from Cedefop and shall mention the amount paid by Cedefop. It shall state that the opinions expressed are those of the Contractor only and do not represent Cedefop's official position.
- II.10.4.** 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 II. 11 – TAXATION

- II.11.1.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for compliance with the tax laws which apply to him. Failure to comply shall make the relevant invoices invalid.
- II.11.2.** The Contractor recognises that Cedefop is, as a rule, exempt from all taxes and duties, including value added tax (VAT), pursuant to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.
- II.11.3.** The Contractor shall accordingly complete the necessary formalities with the relevant authorities to ensure that the goods and services required for performance of the Contract are exempt from taxes and duties, including VAT.
- II.11.4.** Invoices presented by the Contractor shall indicate his place of taxation for VAT purposes and shall specify separately the amounts not including VAT and the amounts including VAT.

ARTICLE II.12 – FORCE MAJEURE

- II.12.1.** Force majeure shall mean any unforeseeable and exceptional situation or event beyond the control of the contracting parties which prevents either of them from performing any of their obligations under the Contract, was not due to error or negligence on their part or on the part of a subcontractor, and could not have been avoided by the exercise of due diligence. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making it available, labour disputes, strikes or financial problems cannot be invoked as force majeure unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure.
- II.12.2.** Without prejudice to the provisions of Article II.1.8, if either contracting party is faced with force majeure, it shall notify the other party without delay by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.
- II.12.3.** Neither contracting party shall be held in breach of its contractual obligations if it has been prevented from performing them by force majeure. Where the Contractor is unable to perform his contractual obligations owing to force majeure, he shall have the right to remuneration only for tasks actually executed.
- II.12.4.** The contracting parties shall take the necessary measures to reduce damage to a minimum.

ARTICLE II.13 – SUBCONTRACTING

- II.13.1.** The Contractor shall not subcontract without prior written authorisation from Cedefop nor cause the Contract to be performed in fact by third parties.
- II.13.2.** Even where Cedefop authorises the Contractor to subcontract to third parties, he shall none the less remain bound by his obligations to Cedefop under the Contract and shall bear exclusive liability for proper performance of the Contract.
- II.13.3.** The Contractor shall make sure that the subcontract does not affect rights and guarantees to which Cedefop is entitled by virtue of the Contract, notably Article II.17.

ARTICLE II.14 – ASSIGNMENT

- II.14.1.** The Contractor shall not assign the rights and obligations arising from the Contract, in whole or in part, without prior written authorisation from Cedefop.
- II.14.2.** In the absence of the authorisation referred to in 1 above, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, assignment by the Contractor shall not be enforceable against and shall have no effect on Cedefop.

ARTICLE II.15 – TERMINATION BY CEDEFOP

- II.15.1.** Cedefop may terminate the Contract in the following circumstances:
- (a) where the Contractor is being wound up, is having his 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;

- (b) where the Contractor has been convicted of an offence concerning his professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) where the Contractor has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) where the Contractor has not fulfilled 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 he is established or with those of the country applicable to the Contract or those of the country where the Contract is to be performed;
- (e) where Cedefop seriously suspects the Contractor of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) where the Contractor is in breach of his obligations under Article II.3;
- (g) where the Contractor was guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by Cedefop as a condition of participation in the Contract procedure or failed to supply this information;
- (h) where a change in the Contractor's legal, financial, technical or organisational situation could, in Cedefop's opinion, have a significant effect on the performance of the Contract;
- (i) where 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 Cedefop;
- (j) where the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract;
- (k) where the Contractor, after receiving formal notice in writing to comply, specifying the nature of the alleged failure, and after being given the opportunity to remedy the failure within a reasonable period following receipt of the formal notice, remains in serious breach of his contractual obligations.

II.15.2. In case of force majeure, notified in accordance with Article II.12, either contracting party may terminate the Contract, where performance thereof cannot be ensured for a period corresponding to at least to one fifth of the period laid down in Article I.2.3.

II.15.3. Prior to termination under point e), h) or k), the Contractor shall be given the opportunity to submit his observations.

Termination shall take effect on the date on which a registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt terminating the Contract is received by the Contractor, or on any other date indicated in the letter of termination.

II.15.4. Consequences of termination:

In the event of Cedefop terminating the Contract in accordance with this Article and without prejudice to any other measures provided for in the Contract, the Contractor shall waive any claim for consequential damages, including any loss of anticipated profits for uncompleted work. On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the tasks executed up to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding sixty days from that date.

Cedefop may claim compensation for any damage suffered and recover any sums paid to the Contractor under the Contract.

On termination Cedefop may engage any other contractor to complete the services. Cedefop shall be entitled to claim from the Contractor all extra costs incurred in making good and completing the services, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees it has under the Contract.

ARTICLE II.16 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract within the time limits set by the Contract, then, without prejudice to the Contractor's actual or potential liability incurred in relation to the Contract or to Cedefop's right to terminate the Contract, Cedefop may decide to impose liquidated damages of 0.2% of the amount specified in Article I.3.1 per calendar day of delay. The Contractor may submit arguments against this decision within thirty days of notification by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or equivalent. In the absence of reaction on his part or of written withdrawal by Cedefop within thirty days of the receipt of such arguments, the decision imposing the liquidated damages shall become enforceable. These liquidated damages shall not be imposed where there is provision for interest for late completion. Cedefop and the Contractor 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 that may be reasonably anticipated from such failure to perform obligations.

ARTICLE II.17 – CHECKS AND AUDITS

- II.17.1.** Pursuant to Article 142 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, the European Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents held by the natural or legal persons receiving payments from the budget of the European Communities from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.
- II.17.2.** Cedefop or an outside body of its choice shall have the same rights as the European Court of Auditors for the purpose of checks and audits limited to compliance with contractual obligations from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.
- II.17.3.** In addition, the European Anti Fraud Office may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.

ARTICLE II.18 – AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to the Contract shall be the subject of a written agreement concluded by the contracting parties. An oral agreement shall not be binding on the contracting parties.

ARTICLE II.19 – SUSPENSION OF THE CONTRACT

Without prejudice to Cedefop 's right to terminate the Contract, Cedefop may at any time and for any reason suspend execution of the tasks under the Contract or any part thereof. Suspension shall take effect on the day the Contractor receives notification by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, or at a later date where the notification so provides. Cedefop may at any time following suspension give notice to the Contractor to resume the work suspended. The Contractor shall not be entitled to claim compensation on account of suspension of the Contract or of part thereof.

Done at Thessaloniki in duplicate in English.

For the Contractor,
[Company name/forename/surname/function]

For Cedefop,
[forename/surname/function]

signature[s]: _____

signature[s]: _____

Date

Date

ANNEX I to the draft contract

Tender Specifications and Monitoring

The purpose of this Annex is to enable Cedefop to conduct, throughout the duration of the Contract, an accurate appraisal of whether the Contractor is executing the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the provisions of the Contract.

So that Cedefop can regularly identify the progress made in execution of the tasks in accordance with the Tender Specifications, appropriate monitoring, assessment, and supervisory procedures shall be set up. For these purposes, this Annex shall include all necessary details, in particular, where relevant, the following:

- (i) schedule of interim and final reports – terms for approval, structure and content (where provision is made for such reports and a specific annex is not necessary);*
- (ii) schedule of audits to be carried out in accordance with Article II.17 of the Contract.*

All details on Monitoring and Reporting are to be indicated and included in the Tender Specifications.

ANNEX II to the draft contract

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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

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

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

HAVING REGARD to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1416/76 of 1st June 1976 on the financial provisions applying to the European Centre for the development of vocational training, and in particular Articles 2 and 18 thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES:

General provisions

Article 1

The Director of the Centre shall be authorised to grant the reimbursement of the travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses of experts from outside the Centre invited to meetings, in accordance with the following rules.

Travel expenses

Article 2

1. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed on the following basis:

- the shortest and most economical route by first class rail between the departure point, stated in the invitation, and the place where the meeting is held. Tickets need not be produced;
- where the journey includes not less than six hours of night travel between 2200 hours and 07h00, sleeping car accommodation up to the cost of two-berth class, on production of the ticket;
- the cost of seat reservations and transport of necessary luggage and supplements for fast trains, on production of documentary evidence.

2. Where the person invited travels by car, his travel expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of the first-class rail fare, excluding sleeping car or any other supplement. Where two or more persons entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses use the same car, only the person responsible for the car shall be reimbursed, at the rate of 150%. The costs of shipment and a sea crossing shall be reimbursed to the person responsible for the car, on production of documentary evidence.

3. Air fares shall be reimbursed upon production of the air ticket, which shall be for the economy class. It is not admissible to travel by air except when the distance by rail between the place at which the meeting is held and the place to which the invitation is addressed is more than 400 kilometres or when the usual route involves a sea crossing.

Article 3

By way of derogation from Article 2, the Director of the Centre may decide that only the cost of the second-class return rail fare shall be reimbursed. In such case, the conditions of reimbursement shall be stated in the invitation.

Subsistence expenses

Article 4

The allowance for subsistence expenses per day of meetings shall be paid if the distance between the departure point and the place where the meeting is held is more than 100 km.

This allowance shall be a standard amount covering all the expert's expenses at the place where the meeting is held, including the costs of accommodation, meals and local travel.

The amount depends on the place of the meeting and is equivalent to the mission allowances paid to officials of the European Commission.

Article 5

Where the interval between two meetings is insufficient for the expert to return to his point of departure, or if he prefers to stay in the place where the meetings are held, he is entitled to the subsistence allowance for each intervening day. In the second case, however, the total amount of the allowance for the intervening days may not exceed the price of the return air fare.

Article 6

When the person called makes use of a reduced fare, obliging him/her to remain at the place of the meeting for a number of days, he/she will receive a supplementary allowance. However, the amount of this allowance, together with the cost of the air ticket, should not exceed the cost of a full-fare air ticket.

Special provisions

Article 7

The Director of the Centre may, after having obtained the opinion of the Financial Controller, grant the reimbursement of travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses exceeding the ceilings laid down in the preceding Articles upon a duly motivated request by the person concerned.

Article 8

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

Final provisions

Article 9

These rules shall enter into force on the first day of the month following that of their adoption by the Management Board.

Done at Brussels, 24 January 1997

For the Management Board
The Chairman
T. O'Dwyer
(signed)

ANNEX III

Legal Entity Form

(to be downloaded, depending from the nationality and legal entity of the tenderer, from the following website)

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm

ANNEX IV

Financial Identification Form

(to be downloaded, depending from the nationality of the tenderer, from the following website)

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm

ANNEX V

Declaration on Exclusion Criteria

(TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT)

The undersigned:

Name of the individual/company/organisation:

Legal address:

Registration number/ID Card No:

VAT number:

declares on oath that the individual/company/organisation mentioned above is not in any of the situations mentioned below:

- a) is bankrupt or being wound up, is having his/her 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;
- b) has been convicted of an offence concerning his/her professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;
- c) has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which Cedefop can justify;
- d) has not fulfilled 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 he/she is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) has been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, he/she has been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with his/her contractual obligations.

I, the undersigned, understand that contracts may not be awarded if during the procurement procedure the individual/company/organisation mentioned above:

- is subject to a conflict of interest;
- is guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.

Full name:

Date:

Signature:

ANNEX VI

Mandatory documents to be included in the tender	Reference paragraph	Document included		If the document is not included, please provide explanation
Subcontracting	2.1.3	Y	N	
Legal entity form	2.2.2, (Annex III)	Y	N	
Inscription in the professional/trade register (<i>if applicable</i>)	2.2.2	Y	N	
<i>Exclusion criteria:</i> Declaration on honour	2.2.3.2, (Annex V)	Y	N	
<i>Economic and Financial capacity:</i> Statement from the bank <i>and/or</i> balance sheets for the last two years <i>and/or</i> statement of turnover during the last three years	2.2.4.1 a) 2.2.4.1 b) 2.2.4.1 c)	Y Y Y	N N N	
<i>Technical and professional capacity:</i> Detailed CV(s)	2.2.4.3 a)	Y	N	
<i>Technical and professional capacity:</i> List(s) of work results of those person(s) who will perform the tasks	2.2.4.3 b)	Y	N	
<i>Technical and professional capacity:</i> List of contracts performed in the last three years	2.2.4.3 c)	Y	N	
<i>Technical and professional capacity:</i> Description of the Tenderer's work and research facilities	2.2.4.3 d)	Y	N	
Description of planned measures to ensure the overall quality	2.2.4.3 e)	Y	N	
Individual(s) entitled to sign the contract	2.2.5	Y	N	
Individual(s) to supervise the contract	2.2.5	Y	N	
Financial identification form	2.2.5 (Annex IV)	Y	N	
Technical offer	3.2.1.2	Y		
Financial offer	3.2.2, 4.3.3	Y		