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(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

CEDEFOP

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS — GP/D/ReferNet-FPA/001/07

ReferNet — European Network of Reference and Expertise in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

(2007/C 164/04)

1. Objectives and description

The European Network of Reference and Expertise in VET (ReferNet) comprises a national consortium in each Member State, Iceland and Norway, made up of organisations representative of VET. Each consortium is led by a national consortium leader.

To facilitate these activities this call invites proposals from national consortia or key organisations involved in VET. For each Member State, Norway and Iceland one beneficiary shall be selected. The national consortium will cooperate with the national ReferNet representative and Cedefop in implementing and validating the activities.

The overall objective of this call is to select and conclude a four year framework partnership agreement with one successful applicant (one organisation or one consortium) in each of the eligible countries to set-up and lead a representative national consortium of key organisations in the field of VET in order to support Cedefop and carry out, with the consortia partners, activities agreed each year in an annual action plan (see section 3). Implementation of the ReferNet framework partnership agreement is subject to adaptation, by decision of Cedefop's Governing Board in the last quarter of 2007, of the Annual Work Programme.

In addition to establishing the framework partnership, this call also requires applicants to propose an action plan for 2008.

Activities in each consortium's action plan will be selected from those listed in the 'scope of activities'. Although the consortium leader must demonstrate that the consortium has the capacity to carry out all of the activities listed, it should be noted that not all of the activities listed need to be carried out by the consortium every year.

The consortium's annual action will be financed by a specific grant agreement concluded each year. The grant will vary according to the country size and the action (set of activities) carried out.

2. Budget and project duration

The estimated budget available for the four year duration of the framework partnership agreements amounts to **EUR 4 000 000**, depending on the decisions of the Budgetary Authority.

The total available budget for the 2008 annual action (project duration: 12 months) is **EUR 925 000** for the 27 Member States, Iceland and Norway.

The total available budget will be distributed on the basis of three country groups based on country population:

- *Country group 1*: Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Iceland. Maximum grant amount: EUR 22 580.
- *Country group 2*: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Sweden and Norway. Maximum grant amount: EUR 32 590.
- *Country group 3*: France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom. Maximum grant amount: EUR 42 585.

The Community grant is a financial contribution to the beneficiary's (and/or co-beneficiaries) costs which must be supplemented by own financial contribution and/or local, regional, national and/or private contributions. The total Community contribution shall not exceed 70 % of the eligible costs.

Cedefop reserves the right not to award the total budget available.

3. Eligibility criteria

Applications which comply with the eligibility criteria will be the subject of an evaluation.

3.1. Eligible organisations

To be eligible, the applicant (national Consortium Leader) must satisfy the following requirements:

- be a public or a private organisation, with a legal status and legal personality (consequently, natural persons — i.e. individuals- may not submit applications);
- lead a national consortium whose composition represents the stakeholders' diversity within the country;
- be able to carry out all activities within the scope of those detailed in section 3 of the call for proposal full text (collection and analysis of information, research, documentation and databases, dissemination and promotion).

3.2. Eligible countries

Applications from the following countries are eligible:

- EU 27 (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom);
- Norway and Iceland;

Organisations established in countries other than the countries listed above are not eligible.

3.3. Eligible proposals

Submission deadline and all other formal eligibility criteria specified in section 13 of the call for proposal full text must be complied with.

Cedefop reserves the right to disregard proposals that are still incomplete by the deadline. It also reserves the right to request additional information necessary to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

4. Deadline

Applications for the framework partnership agreement AND 2008 action plan must be sent **at the latest on 14 September 2007**.

The proposed 2008 action plan for the award of the specific grant agreement 2008 (see annex I of the call for proposal full text) must start in January 2008 for a duration of 12 months.

5. Further information

The detailed specifications of the call for proposals, the application form and its annexes are available on Cedefop's website at the following address:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?section=3&sub=2>

Applications must comply with the requirements set out in the full text of the call and be submitted using the official forms provided.

The evaluation of proposals will be based on the principles of transparency and equal treatment.

All eligible applications will be evaluated by a Committee against the quantitative and qualitative award criteria defined in the full text version of the call. External experts will be invited to participate in the evaluation procedure.
