

**B-Brussels: identification of future skills needs in micro and craft (-type) enterprises**  
**2009/S 31-044529**

**Prior information notice**

**Services**

**Section I: Contracting authority**

**I.1) Name, addresses and contact point(s):**

European Commission, Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry, Directorate E — Promotion of SMEs' Competitiveness, Unit E3 — Crafts, Small Businesses, Cooperatives and Mutuals, attention: Ms Maive Rute, Director, BREY 05/188, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel. Tel. (32-2) 299 26 39. Fax (32-2) 299 81 10. E-mail: [Entrepreneurship-Smes@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Entrepreneurship-Smes@ec.europa.eu).

**Internet address(es):**

General address of the contracting authority: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/dgs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/dgs/index_en.htm).

Address of the buyer profile: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/calls/calls.html>.

**Further information can be obtained at:**

As in abovementioned contact point(s).

**I.2) Type of the contracting authority and main activity or activities:**

European institution/agency or international organisation.

The contracting authority is purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities: no.

**Section II.B: Object of the contract (supplies or services)**

**II.1) Title attributed to the contract by the contracting authority:**

Identification of future skills needs in micro and craft (-type) enterprises.

**II.2) Type of contract and place of delivery or of performance:**

Services.

Service category: No 11.

**II.3) Short description of nature and quantity or value of supplies or services:**

The study will target exclusively micro, craft-type, rather traditional enterprises with technical knowledge and the need for the appropriate (horizontal) skills.

The study will:

- 1) identify good practices of skills development and lifelong learning in and anticipation of skills needs for micro and craft-type enterprises and SMEs, carried out at regional and national levels;
- 2) on this basis, provide an in-depth analysis of recruitment difficulties as perceived by employers;
- 3) elaborate ways to overcome existing or arising skills gaps/mismatches within these enterprises (and some selected professions, in particular) by better matching the demand and supply side.

The skills needs will be analysed for both employees' and employers. While doing this, particular attention should be paid to the specific situation of craft-type micro enterprises, considering for example:

- adapting recruitment processes,
- adapting initial vocational education and training (IVET),
- offering more and better continuing training to the enterprises,
- establish better links between the VET systems and micro and craft-type enterprises,

— recognise and optimise their (informal) on-the-job training.

4) present recommendations for action at all relevant levels:

national VET systems and related professional bodies, micro and craft-type enterprises and policy level.

To achieve representative results, the study should cover a reasonable number of EU Member States (minimum 7).

Aspects to be considered for the choice of Member States are size of country, geographical position, countries with strong crafts traditions and others, ratio of 'old' and 'new' Member States, different types of education and training systems (including apprenticeship models).

The contractor is expected to have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of:

— micro and craft enterprises and their situation in terms of skills development and training,

— lifelong learning policies and existing initiatives on the anticipation of future skills needs,

— recognition of professional qualifications in Europe.

Estimated cost excluding VAT: EUR 250 000.

Division into lots: no.

II.4) **Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):**  
73200000.

**Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

III.2) **Conditions for participation**

III.2.1) **Reserved contracts:**  
No.

**Section VI: Complementary information**

VI.1) **Contract related to a project and/or programme financed by community funds:**  
Yes.

Reference to project(s) and/or programme(s):

Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24.10.2006 establishing a 'Competitiveness and innovation framework' programme (2007 to 2013) OJ L 310/15, 9.11.2006.

VI.4) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**  
3.2.2009.