

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Open call for proposals — GP/DSI/ReferNet_FPA/001/15

**ReferNet — Cedefop's European Network for Information on Vocational Education and Training
(VET)**

(2015/C 186/05)

1. Objectives and description

With the objective of establishing a European network for information on VET – ReferNet –, this call aims at selecting one applicant from each eligible country (EU Member States, Iceland and Norway) with which Cedefop will conclude a four-year framework partnership agreement.

Founded in 1975 and based in Greece since 1995, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) is an agency of the European Union (EU). Acknowledged as an authoritative source of information and expertise on VET, skills and qualifications, its mission is to support European vocational education and training (VET) policy development and contribute to its implementation.

ReferNet is Cedefop's European network for information on VET. The mission devoted to ReferNet is to support Cedefop by reporting on national VET systems and policy developments and by raising the visibility of VET and Cedefop's products. It comprises 30 members known as ReferNet national partners from EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. ReferNet national partners are key institutions involved in VET or labour market policies in the country they represent.

Framework partnership agreements are implemented through annual specific grant agreements. Therefore, after signing a Framework Partnership Agreement for the years 2016 to 2019, successful applicants will be invited to submit the grant application for the 2016 action (which may lead to the signature of a Specific Grant Agreement for the year 2016). The applicant must demonstrate its capacity to carry out all the activities foreseen over the four-year period and ensure adequate co-financing for the implementation of the requested tasks.

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 annual decisions of the Budgetary Authority.

The total available budget for the 2016 annual work plan (project duration: 12 months) will be EUR 980 000 for the 30 partners (from the 28 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway).

The grant varies according to the country population and is awarded for carrying out an annual work plan. The total available budget for the 2016 work plan will be distributed on the basis of three country groups based on country population:

- Country group 1: Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Iceland. Maximum grant amount: EUR 23 615.
- 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 33 625.
- Country group 3: France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom. Maximum grant amount: EUR 43 620.

The Union 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 Union contribution shall not exceed 70 % of the eligible costs.

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

3. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applicants should meet the following requirements:

- (a) be a public or a private organisation, with a legal status and legal personality (natural persons, i.e. individuals, are not eligible);

(b) have their seat registered in a country where the grant is applied, i.e. in one of the following:

- EU-28 (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, 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);
- associated countries (Iceland and Norway).

4. **Deadline**

Applications for the framework partnership agreement must be submitted **at the latest on 21 August 2015**.

5. **Further information**

The detailed specifications of the call for proposals, the application form and its annexes will be available as from 8 June 2015 on Cedefop's website at the following address:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/about-cedefop/public-procurement>

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 submitted applications will be evaluated by a committee of experts against the eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria defined in the full text version of the call.
