

Higher Education European Funding Services Limited

Universities
UK

GuildHE

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Bulletin 5 2009

May 2009

Programmes	Type of Information				
	Summary	Workplan	Calls	Results	Dissemination
Lifelong Learning Programme			<p>Details of a call for applications for the Erasmus University Charter are provided on Page 2</p> <p>Details of a call for proposals for 'Support for European Cooperation in Education and Training' are provided on pages 3 and 4</p>		
PROGRESS					
CULTURE			<p>A reminder about the next deadline for proposals under Strand 1 of the Culture Programme and some additional information can be found on pages 5 and 6</p>		
MEDIA					
Competitiveness & Innovation Programme			<p>Details of a call for tenders under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme of the CIP are provided on pages 7 and 8</p> <p>Details of a Call for tenders concerning the analysis of innovation drivers and barriers in support of better policies are provided on pages 9 and 10</p>		
ESF					
Others			<p>Details of a call for proposals for a Preparatory Action in the Field of Sport are provided on pages 11 and 12</p> <p>Details of a call for proposals under the LIFE+ Programme are provided on pages 13 to 15</p> <p>Details of a call for tender for a study on parental support in ensuring early acquisition of literacy are provided on pages 16 and 17</p> <p>Details of a Prior Information Notice regarding the establishment of a network of recognised and experienced economists in the field of education are provided on page 18</p>		<p>Information about the HEEFS Programme of summer visits is provided on page 19</p>

Erasmus University Charter**Deadline: 30 June 2009****Background**

The Erasmus University Charter (EUC) provides the main framework for the European cooperation activities a HEI may carry out within the Erasmus Sub-Programme as part of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). The Charter is a necessary prerequisite for any HEI wishing to deliver projects under any aspect of the Erasmus Programme, both the decentralised actions (staff and student mobility) managed by the British Council and the centralised actions (transnational cooperation) managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) on behalf of the European Commission.

New timetable

This specific call represents a departure from usual procedure, as in recent years the call for applications for EUCs has been announced at the same time as the main call for proposals under the LLP, in October each year. This current call is timetabled so that new applicants for the Charter will know the outcome of their application in enough time to enable them to be eligible to submit applications for cooperation projects under the main call for proposals in October 2009 for projects that will begin in 2010.

Further Information

It is our understanding that most UK HEIs already hold the Charter and therefore do not need to take any further action. However, as we are charged with assisting HEIs to increase involvement in the decentralised actions of the Erasmus Programme, we need to ensure that any Institution we assist to participate in the Erasmus Programme has the EUC in place.

Details of the procedure for submitting an application can be found at:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2010/call_erasmus_university_charter_en.htm

If you are unsure whether your Institution currently holds the Charter you may wish to consult the lists available from the following link:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/erasmus/erasmus_en.htm#euc

Deadline: 14 August 2009**Background**

This call for proposals covers two types of activities:-

Part A – Raising awareness of lifelong learning strategies and of European cooperation in education and training.

Part B – Support for transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of national and regional lifelong learning strategies.

Clearly, there is some intention that certain activities would be undertaken by national ministries responsible for education and training (or their appointed representatives). The call, however, is open to other public bodies, such as HEIs, and indeed a number of HEIs are involved in projects selected in previous rounds. A compendium of projects selected in 2008 can be obtained from the following link:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2009/call_nlls_2009.html

Objectives

The main objectives of the call are as follows:-

- To support awareness raising activities and the establishment of fora and other activities that will contribute to better coherence and coordination in the establishment and implementation of coherent and comprehensive national lifelong learning strategies
- To support transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive national lifelong learning strategies at both national and regional level, covering all types and levels of learning
- To support the identification of the main critical factors influencing the successful putting into place of national lifelong learning strategies
- To exchange experiences and good practice and to jointly experiment, test and transfer innovation in relation to the development and implementation of lifelong learning strategies
- To ensure strong institutional commitment, coordination and partnership with all stakeholders
- To implement lifelong learning strategies to achieve efficiency and equity

Activities to be supported

Part A – *Raising awareness of lifelong learning strategies and of European cooperation in education and training*

- Awareness-raising activities supporting national debates and dialogue linked to the establishment and implementation of lifelong learning strategies (such as national or regional conferences, seminars and workshops);

- The establishment of fora and other activities which will contribute to better coherence and coordination on the process of establishing and implementing coherent and comprehensive national lifelong learning strategies;
- Dissemination of existing tools and reference materials (e.g. information activities, including media campaigns, publicity events, etc.)
- Follow-up action linked to existing national programmes aiming at establishing and implementing the Education and Training Open Method of Coordination at national level.

Part B - Support for transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of national and regional lifelong learning strategies

- Cooperation projects
- Studies, analyses
- Development, testing and transfer of innovative practices
- Conferences, seminars
- Actions aiming at the creation and development of networks at the regional, national and European level

Technical Features

Start dates	1 January 2010 and 31 March 2010
Maximum duration	12 months
Budget available	€2.787m
Maximum Grant	€120,000 for Part A €200,000 for Part B
Maximum Grant rate	75%
Allocation	expected to be 1/3 of budget to Part A, 2/3 to Part B
No of partners	Part A – projects are not required to have partners Part B – projects must have 3 partners from 3 countries

Further Information

All information relating to this call can be obtained from the following link:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2009/call_nlls_2009.html

Interested?

If you are interested in submitting a proposal in response to this call we may be able to offer some assistance, please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to help:-

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Strands 1.1 and 1.2.1 Co-operation Projects**Deadline: 1 October 2009****Background**

A summary of the Culture Programme and an indication of the opportunities available to HEIs were provided in Bulletin 2, circulated in February of this year. The Culture Programme operates to a published timetable for calls and application deadlines. The next deadline for applications is 1 October 2009. This deadline relates to the two strands considered to offer the most significant opportunities for HEIs:-

Strand 1.1 Multiannual cooperation projects

Strand 1.2.1 Cooperation projects

Set out below is some information made available at a recent 'Information Day' event held by the Executive Agency (EACEA) responsible for the delivery of the Programme.

Objectives of the Culture Programme

There are three specific objectives:-

- Promoting the transnational mobility of cultural operators
- Promoting the transnational circulation of works of art and cultural and artistic products
- Promoting intercultural dialogue

The Programme is open to applications from public and private organisations, having their main activities in the cultural sector. Universities are specifically identified as eligible applicants.

Types of activities eligible for Strands 1.1 and 1.1.2**Strand 1.1 Multiannual co-operation projects**

Large projects

3 to 5 years duration

Involving 6 partners, from 6 countries

Grant available:- €200k - €500k

Grant rate:- up to 50%

Strand 1.2.1 Cooperation projects

Smaller projects

Up to 2 years duration

Involving 3 partners, from 3 countries

Grant available:- €50k - €200k

Grant rate:- up to 50%

- Must address at least one of the specific objectives of the Programme
- Must have a 'real' transnational/European dimension/rationale

Areas of the cultural sector targeted

Cultural heritage

Performing arts

Architecture

Multimedia and new technologies

Visual arts

Literature, books and reading

Design, applied arts

Interdisciplinary

Success Rates

In 2008, for the whole Programme, 900 proposals were submitted and 264 were selected for funding, giving applicants a success rate of around 30%. Of course, this will vary across the strands of the Programme. As with other Programmes, the number of applications from UK based organisations was relatively low, 25, of which 15 were selected.

Hints for HEIs

- Projects involving exchanges must be for people **employed** in the cultural sector, **exchanges of students alone would not be eligible for support.**
- Of the 3 specific objectives, it would seem that **HEIs are best placed to develop proposals concerning the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue**, which aims to *'strengthen respect for cultural diversity....to support the coexistence of different cultural identities and beliefs...to acknowledge the contribution of different cultures to the EU member states' heritage and way of life'*. Under this objective, support is available, for instance, to projects concerned with access to culture and cultural education initiatives. It will support networking, sharing of best practice and awareness raising activities.
- **Education and training programmes on their own are unlikely to secure support**, they can however, form part of a larger project that meets one or more of the Programmes objectives.
- Project co-ordinators speaking at the event, **stressed the importance of early planning** and, in particular, communication with transnational partners, in order to meet application deadlines. They suggested that **applications take around 2 months to pull together** and be ready for submission.

Further Information

All information relating to the Culture Programme and specific calls for proposals is available from the EACEA website:- http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Background to the Programme and general information relating to the European Commission's cultural policies can be found at:-

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

The UK's Cultural Contact Point is EUCLID, there is a lot of useful information about the Programme on their website and they have knowledge of projects already funded, potential partners and the sorts of activities that are likely to be supported. Their contact details are as follows:-

Geoffrey Brown	Tel. +44 - 161 245 3236
EUCLID	Fax +44 - 161 245 3322
12 Charlotte Street	E-mail: info@euclid.info
Manchester M1 4FL	http://www.culturefund.eu/

Interested?

If you are interested in submitting a proposal to the Culture Programme we may be able to offer some assistance, please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to help:-

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Regional Innovation Monitor**Deadline: 3 July 2009****Background**

Tenders for a service contract to provide fact and data about regional innovation policies and performances. The aim is to provide a *'panorama of the state of development of regional innovation strategies and their implementation, also with a view to the national and EU context'*. The intention is that the Regional Innovation Monitor will provide policy makers, other innovation actors and researchers with information on and analysis of the existing innovation policy measures across the EU regions. The results of these activities will be disseminated via the regional pages of the DG Enterprise and Industry website.

Tasks to be undertaken

- Provide a tool for comparing innovation policy approaches and trends at regional level, including for facilitating and improving the implementation of the innovation related strands of the Structural Fund operational programmes;
- Facilitate knowledge management on regional innovation policies with a view to transferring good practices;
- Provide an overview of Community measures in support of the development and implementation of regional innovation initiatives;
- Support the involvement of regional governmental actors in EU initiatives, such as the Lisbon process and the Lead Market Initiative;
- Give easy access to the different EU analytical activities with relevance for innovation at sub-national level.

The tasks above must be included in the work programme proposed in the tender and must address the following main work packages:-

Collection of data and information – production of a general repository of EU regional innovation measures and summaries of classified regional innovation measures

Analysis of regional policies and strategies – to include:-

- Production of 2 thematic papers per year (6 in total)
- 1 workshop per year (3 in total) involving 35 – 50 regional policy innovation makers
- Steering Group - to meet once per year. Composition of the Group to be proposed by the contractor; to involve experts in the field of regional innovation, representatives from innovation and development agencies, policy makers and administrators of regional funding programmes etc.

Presentation of results – to include:-

- Regional reports
- Annual Report
- Internet-based dissemination: Regional Innovation Monitor pages on the Europa website – overall and regional pages

Technical Features

Start date of contract	expected to be 20 November 2009
Length of contract	36 months
Budget	tenders should not exceed €2.5 million
Group tenders	submission by a group of organisations will be accepted

Selection Criteria

To be considered for selection, tenderers are required to provide evidence of their legal status and their financial and technical capacity to undertake the work. Each tender that satisfies these entry criteria will then be assessed against the following weighted award criteria:-

Criteria	Weighting
Quality of the proposed methodology to collect and analyse data and information about regional innovation	30%
Quality and originality of the proposed validation and dissemination mechanisms, including composition of the Steering Group	30%
Overall quality and coherence of the bid, including appropriateness of the allocation of resources and composition of the team	20%
Quality and efficiency of the proposed project management (quality control, risk management, reporting)	20%
Total number of points	100

The contract will be awarded to the most cost effective on the basis of the ratio between the total points scored and the price.

Further Information

All tender documents can be downloaded from the following link on the Europa website:-

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3145&lang=en

Interested?

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Analysis of Innovation Drivers and Barriers in support of better policies**Deadline: 24 July 2009****ENT/CIP/09/11****Background**

Within the framework of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, DG Enterprise and Industry has issued a call for tenders. The contract has two objectives:-

1. to provide an analysis of development worldwide relating to innovation theory and policy as the basis for evidence-based policy making at EU level
2. to provide an analysis of innovation drivers and barriers to innovation at firm level to support the process of evidence-based policy development.

The services to be provided have to be seen in the context of the PRO INNO Europe initiative¹.

Tasks to be undertaken

In order to meet the objectives set out above, the tender is divided into two lots, the tasks associated with each Lot are set out below:-

Lot 1 Innovation policy research and intelligence

The purpose of this Lot will be the provision of analysis and intelligence in innovation policy development worldwide. In each year of the contract the contractor will produce:-

- 2 policy briefs on specific topics regarding innovation policy
- 2 newsletters covering general topics in innovation policy
- 2 workshops to discuss findings of the policy briefs and/or other ad hoc topics

In addition, a blog and news repository will be created and maintained.

Lot 2 Economic and market intelligence on innovation

This Lot requires the provision of studies on barriers and drivers to innovation at firm level. For each study a dissemination workshop will be held. In each year of the contract 2 studies and 2 workshops will be delivered.

Technical Features

Contracts expected to be signed November 2009

Maximum contract duration – 3 years

Maximum cost - €1.25m for each Lot

Selection Criteria

Tenderers will be required to provide evidence of their financial and technical capacity to undertake the tasks outlined. In addition they will be assessed against the following award criteria:-

¹ PRO INNO is the innovation policy initiative of DG Enterprise and Industry which aims to be the focal point for innovation and policy analysis, learning and development in Europe
<http://www.proinno-europe.eu>

Criteria	Weighting
Lot 1	
quality of the proposed methodology to deliver policy briefs	40%
quality of the proposal to deliver the newsletters and the news repository	20%
quality and originality of the proposed validation and dissemination activities	20%
overall quality and coherence of the bid	20%
Lot 2	
quality of the proposed methodology to deliver the studies on innovation drivers and barriers	40%
thoroughness and originality of the proposed research to underpin the results of the studies	20%
quality and originality of the proposed validation and dissemination activities, including the workshops	20%
overall quality and coherence of the bid	20%

The contract will be awarded to the most cost-effective tender, on the basis of the ratio between the total points scored and the price.

Further Information

All documentation relating to the call can be obtained from the following link:-
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3153&lang=en

Interested?

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Preparatory Action in the Field of Sport

Call for Proposals

Deadline: 31 August 2009

EAC/21/2009

Background

This preparatory action is designed to support the Commission's priorities in the field of sport as set out in the White Paper on Sport (http://ec.europa.eu/sport/white-paper/index_en.htm). The objective is to test the establishment and functioning of suitable networks and good practices to serve as the basis for future programmes and activities in the field of sport.

Activities to be supported

This call will support transnational projects put forward by public bodies or civil society organisations in order to identify and test suitable networks and good practices in the field of sport in the following areas:-

Promoting health-enhancing physical activity

Actions will support networking and exchange of best practices between the sport sector and other civil society organisations schools, public authorities and local enterprises in order to strengthen the contribution of the sport sector to healthier lifestyles.

Minimum size of network: partners from at least 4 Member States

Indicative Number of projects: 5

Indicative amount: €1.4m

Promoting education and training in sport

Actions will support activities aimed at promoting sport and physical activity in a school environment and at encouraging sport organisations and sport clubs involved in the training of young athletes to share knowledge in this areas, with particular regard to the question of combined sports training and education for young people.

Minimum size of network: partners from at least 9 Member States

Indicative Number of projects: 5

Indicative amount: €1m

Promoting European fundamental values by encouraging sport for persons with disabilities

Actions will test the promotion of the European dimension of disability sports, such as the integration of disability sport components into mainstream sport events so as to improve the sustainability of sport competitions for people with disabilities, (including the provision of appropriate instruction, training and resources) as well as the organisation of competitions combining the participation of athletes with and without disabilities.

Minimum size of network: partners from at least 9 Member States

Indicative Number of projects: 3

Indicative amount: €1m

Promoting gender equality in sport

Actions will support networking and exchange of best practices in view of strengthening women's access to decision making positions in sport.

Minimum size of network:	partners from at least 4 Member States
Indicative Number of projects:	3
Indicative amount:	€0.6m

Indicative Timetable

Deadline for proposals	31 August 2009
Evaluation and Selection	September/October 2009
Results Announced	October/November 2009
Grant Agreements signed	November/December 2009

Technical Features

Projects must start between 1 December 2009 and 31 March 2010 and must end no later than 31 March 2011

Grant rate of up to 80% of eligible expenditure

Selection Criteria

Applicant organisations must be able to provide evidence of their financial and technical capacity to deliver the project. In addition proposals will be assessed against the following award criteria:-

Criteria	Points available
Quality of the proposed activities	15
European added value	5
Dissemination and exploitation strategy	5
Long lasting impact (sustainability)	5

Further Information

Further information and all documents relating to the call can be obtained from the following link:-

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/preparatory_actions/doc743_en.htm

Interested?

If you are interested in developing a proposal in response to this call we may be able to offer some assistance, please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to help:-

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Deadline: 15 September 2009**Background**

LIFE+ is the EU main financial instrument concerned with the environment. It aims to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of Community environmental policy and legislation, including the integration of environmental policies into other policies, thereby, contributing to sustainability. LIFE+ has an annual call for proposals, this is the third call under the Programme. An allocation is set aside for each Member State, proposals are submitted to a national authority, but the assessment and selection takes place centrally and is the responsibility of the LIFE Unit of DG Environment. The UK allocation under this call is €19.9m.

Objectives

LIFE+ has three components:-

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance
- LIFE+ Information and Communication

The specific objectives of each area as follows:-

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity

- To contribute to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on nature and diversity, including at local and regional level, and to support the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats
- To contribute to the consolidation of the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Community nature and biodiversity policy and legislation
- To support the design and implementation of policy approaches for the monitoring and assessment of nature and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on them
- To provide support for better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.

LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

- To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments
- To contribute to the consolidation of the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policy and legislation
- To support the design and implementation of approaches to monitoring and assessment of the state of the environment and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on it
- To facilitate the implementation of Community environmental policy, with particular emphasis on implementation at local and regional level
- To provide support for better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.

LIFE+ Information and Communication

- To disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues, including forest fire prevention
- To provide support for accompanying measures, such as information, communication actions and campaigns, conferences and training, including training on forest fire prevention.

Activities

The following activities are supported by the Programme:-

- a) Operational activities of NGOs that are primarily active in protecting the environment at European level and involved in the development and implementation of Community policy and legislation;
- b) Developing and maintaining networks, databases and computer systems directly linked to the implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation, in particular when improving public access to environmental information;
- c) Studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building;
- d) Monitoring, including the monitoring of forests;
- e) Capacity building assistance;
- f) Training, workshops and meetings, including the training of agents involved in forest fire prevention initiatives;
- g) Networking and best-practice platforms;
- h) Information and communication actions, including awareness-raising campaigns and, in particular, public awareness campaigns of forest fires;
- i) Demonstration of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments

And

- j) specifically under **LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity**
 - Site specific management and site planning, including the improvement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network
 - The monitoring of conservation status, including setting up procedures and structures for such monitoring
 - The development and implementation of species and habitats conservation action plans
 - The purchase of land under specific conservation related circumstances

Technical Features

- There are no fixed maximum or minimum budgets. However, large, ambitious proposals with a substantial budget are favoured. Historically the average grant awarded has been in excess of €1m
- In general the maximum grant rate is 50% of eligible costs
- Projects do not have to involve transnational partners but should demonstrate European added value
- LIFE+ proposals must be submitted to a national authority, in the UK, the contact details are as follows:-
Thomas Hudson
Beta Technology Ltd
Area 1B, Barclay Court,
Doncaster Carr
Doncaster DN4 5HZ
Tom.hudson@betatechnology.co.uk
- Proposals are then forwarded to the Commission
- Grant agreements for selected projects expected to be signed mid-July to late August 2010
- Earliest possible start date is 1 September 2010

Selection Process

The LIFE Unit of DG Environment is responsible for the evaluation procedure. Each proposal is subject to initial eligibility checks and all those deemed eligible will be assessed against the following weighted selection criteria:-

Selection Criteria	Maximum Points
Technical coherence and quality	15
Financial coherence and quality	15
Contribution to the general objectives of LIFE+	25
European added value and complementarity and optimal use of EC funding	30
Transnational character	5
Compliance with national annual priorities and national added value	10
Maximum score	100

Further Information

Information days have been organised in each Member State, the event in the UK will be held in London on 26 June 2009. Details can be obtained from:-

lifepius-uk@stellaconsulting.com

All documentation relating to the call, plus information about previous LIFE+ projects is available at:-

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifepius.htm>

Interested?

If you are interested in developing a proposal in response to this call we may be able to offer some assistance, please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to help:-

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Ensuring Early Acquisition of Literacy: Study on Parental Support**Deadline: 9 July 2009****EAC/16/2009****Background**

The Commission communication ‘Improving Competencies for the 21st Century’, states that literacy and numeracy are essential foundations for the acquisition of all key competences; these skills are fundamental for further learning.’ The communication also states that reading literacy depends on diverse factors and that good policy practices include family literacy policies. Research evidence shows that early exposure to literacy activities is essential for the acquisition of good reading skills in later life, and that parents have a crucial role to play in the acquisition of reading literacy skills by young people.

Specific Objectives

In this context, the purpose of this study is to inform future policy development by investigating policy approaches, initiatives and programmes in Member States that are linked to improvement of young children’s literacy through parental support. More specifically the study should give an overview of programmes that aim to assist partners of disadvantaged families to support their children’s reading literacy in the early years and to draw possible conclusions and recommendations based on the analysis of good practices.

Results to be achieved by the contractor

To provide the Commission with:-

- a summary of research evidence concerning:-
 - the links between parents’ literacy skills and those of their children
 - factors determining the quality of the support that parents can give their children in order to help them acquire reading literacy
 - the effect of disadvantage on literacy skills and literacy support skills of parents
 - obstacles encountered by policies and programmes to improve the literacy skills and literacy support skills of disadvantaged parents
 - the most effective approaches to improving the literacy skills of children at ISCED level 0-1 through parental support
- a summary of initiatives, policy measures or policy approaches that support the improvement of literacy skills and of literacy support skills of parents with children in ISCED level 0-1
- a comparison and analysis of the effectiveness of these measures/approaches, and the conditions for their successful transfer to other contexts
- a detailed description of 5-10 case studies of national or regional good policy practice, or innovative local projects, that have proved to be effective

On the basis of the above, to:-

- make suggestions how policies, programmes and other initiatives could be designed in order to support disadvantaged parents with a view to improving their children’s reading literacy

- identify actions that could be taken at national or European level to:-
 - improve the role of parents in the acquisition of literacy skills of young children in disadvantaged families
 - improve the support given to disadvantaged parents with a view to improving their children's reading literacy.

Technical Features

Tenders should not exceed a cost of €175,000

Duration of contract – 14 months

Study should cover the EU as a whole, the EFTA-EEA countries and the Candidate countries

Report requirements – contractors will be required to produce the following reports:

- inception report (no later than 1 month after the contract has been signed)
- interim technical report (within 6 months of the contract being signed)
- draft final report (at least 1 month before the expiry date of the contract)
- final report

Further Information

All documents relating to the tender are obtainable from the following link:-

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/1609/index_en.html

Interested?

If you are interested in submitting a tender in response to this call we may be able to offer some assistance, please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to help:-

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**Network of recognised and experienced economists in the field of
education and training**

EAC/22/2009

Background

A prior information notice has been published setting out the Commission's plans to tender for a network of economists in the field of education and training.

Purpose of the Network

The network will advise and support the Commission in the analysis of educational policies and reforms and of their implications for future policy development at national and European level. It will provide evidence on the economic and social costs and benefits of education and training.

Further Information

The notice can be accessed from the following link:-

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/calls/tenders_en.html

HEEFS Programme of Summer Visits

Update

You may recall that we sent an email on 12th May 2009 offering HEIs the opportunity to arrange for us to visit Institutions, to discuss with colleagues, various EU funding opportunities. The offer was made on the basis that we would undertake 10 visits on a first come first served basis. We are very pleased to say that we have received a very good response; indeed all 10 slots were taken up within a week of the email being sent.

We will be visiting the 10 Institutions between June and August 2009. It is our intention, if the visits go well and prove to be of use to HEIs, to organise a second programme of visits in the Autumn.

Support from Higher Education European Funding Services (HEEFS)

In 2008, the Executive Boards of Universities UK and GuildHE decided that the company formerly known as HE ESF Services Limited, should be renamed Higher Education European Funding Services Limited. This change of name reflects the company's change of role which has been widened to cover support to HEIs interested in participating in a variety of EU programmes, such as the **Lifelong Learning Programme**, **PROGRESS**, the **Competitiveness and Innovation Programme**, **Culture** and **MEDIA Programmes** as well as the **Structural Funds**. With regard to these Programmes, HEEFS will offer support to UK HEIs in the following ways:-

- Information
- Support for applicant HEIs
- Support for projects

Information

- i. Analysis of annual workplans to identify relevant calls for proposals;
- ii. Regular monitoring of the Commission's website so that when the relevant calls are announced during the year, they can be identified and HEIs notified;
- iii. When calls are made they will be highlighted in the 'HEEFS Bulletin' which will be circulated to the HEEFS mailing list and placed on HEEFS website.

Support for applicant HEIs

HEEFS will offer support and advice to any HEI interested in submitting a proposal or a tender against any of the calls made by the Commission. Support may take the form, for example, of:-

- Interpretation and explanation of the call documentation;
- Identification of opportunities and assistance with project design to meet requirements;
- Assistance with the preparation of a project proposal or a tender;
- Advice on costing for a project

Support for projects

HEEFS will offer support to any HEI that is successful in the application process. Support may take the form, for example, of:-

- Assisting the HEI to ensure that it is able to comply with contract requirements;
- Assistance with completion and submission of interim and final claims/reports;
- Where appropriate, management of elements of a project, (e.g. managing a network or providing management support);
- Assistance with dissemination of project outcomes via HEEFS contacts network.

The **Information** element of HEEFS support will be provided free of charge to all interested HEIs. HEEFS will however, seek to recover its costs in relation to **Support for applicant HEIs** and **Support for projects** through a levy charged on the funds awarded to HEIs or by building its own costs into overall project costs. As rules governing Programmes differ, details will be negotiated with individual HEIs on a case by case basis.

Interested?

Anyone working in a UK HEI who would like support to submit a proposal under any of the EU Programmes listed above should contact HEEFS for an informal discussion.

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