

Information Note



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Higher Education European Funding Services

Competitiveness & Innovation Programme Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme

Call for Tenders

Feasibility Study on New Forms of EU Support to Member States and Regions to Foster SMEs Innovation Capacity

Deadline: 26 October 2010

55/PP/ENT/CIP/I0/F/S01C16

Background

An EU consultation exercise¹ revealed that enterprises expect better innovation support from public intervention. Efforts have been made at EU level to promote better practices in innovation support through policy learning and policy cooperation activities. However, no consistent strategy has been followed so far to identify how to achieve better complementarities between EU and Member State actions and to understand which policy gaps could be best supported at EU level. The purpose of the feasibility study, therefore, is to examine how to achieve complementarities by identifying which key challenges for fostering SME innovation capacity would be best addressed at EU level and how European added value could be enhanced through new forms for EU support. The results of the study will be used to prepare future EU support actions that will complement other innovation support available under, for example, the Enterprise Europe Network, the Structural Funds and the Research Framework Programme.

Purpose of the Contract

The feasibility study is required to address the question of better innovation support at Member State and European level, with a view to providing a better understanding of the needs and scope for more effective forms of innovation support. Specifically the study will:-

- Identify the top ten key challenges for providing better support to foster the innovation capacity of SMEs in Europe;

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/files/swd_effectiveness_en.pdf



- Identify and assess the barriers to faster development of better innovation support practices and their coordination; and
- Provide recommendations on the form of support the EU could/should provide to successfully address these challenges in full respect of the subsidiarity principle while highlighting the European added value of the creation of synergies between the regional, national and European levels.

Technical Features

- Contract duration is 8 months
- Contract is expected to start 3/1/2011
- Maximum price for contract is €200,000

Selection Criteria

Contractors will be required to demonstrate their financial and technical capacity to deliver the contract. The contract will be awarded to the most cost effective tender having taken the following criteria into consideration:-

Criteria	Proportion of score available
Degree of understanding of the objectives of the tasks to be performed including the organisation and understanding of the work to be carried out in order to achieve the objectives	20%
Overall quality, innovativeness and coherence of the proposed methodology	20%
Quality of the analytical approach to elaborate on the research hypothesis and to assess different options for implementation	30%
Quality of the work programme and efficiency of the project management	15%
Quality of the proposed strategy to involve stakeholders in the study and disseminate its results	15%

Further Information

All information relating to this call for tenders can be found at:-

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4502&lang=en&ref=newsbytheme%2Ecfm%3Flang%3Den%26displayType%3Dfo%26fosubtype%3Dt%26period%3Dlatest%26month%3D%26page%3D