

**Description of the planned negotiated procedure for a middle value contract for testing the feasibility of the Talents-On-Demand industry-academia knowledge exchange:**

There is an apparent need to improve industry-academia interactions and enhance intersectoral brain circulation in the European Research Area. The European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience<sup>1</sup> foresees testing a new Talents-On-Demand knowledge exchange concept to meet companies' research and innovation needs, complementing the existing university-business collaboration schemes.

The objective of this contract is to test the feasibility of the Talents-On-Demand concept which will support co-creation teams consisting of university students, researchers and companies own R&D personnel to tackle company's specific research and innovation challenges. The contractor will test the concept by running minimum of 3 parallel co-creation teams with companies at least in 3 Member States of which 2 need to be from the widening countries<sup>2</sup> to address internal brain drain in the EU.

The concept testing will comprise the following steps: 1) Selection of the companies and the definition of the specific research and innovation challenges to be solved by the co-creation teams. 2) Selection of the individuals to form small interdisciplinary teams of students, researchers and company's own R&D personnel to tackle the company's defined challenges. Co-creation teams shall consist of individuals from at least 3 EU Member States or Associated Countries. 3) Implementation of the co-creation teams. The contractor will be in charge of the project management for the co-creation teams and provide the teams with professional guidance and facilitation to solve the defined challenges within a limited period of time that should not exceed 10 weeks. 4) Analysis of the results of the co-creation process including a de-briefing workshop on the lessons learnt with the participants in the co-creation teams. 5) Dissemination of the results to share best practices and success stories with relevant stakeholders and for further policy development.

The contractor shall deliver the process architecture and the detailed methodology for the Talents-On-Demand industry-academia knowledge exchange and develop the eligibility and selection criteria for companies, students, researchers and R&D personnel applying to the scheme, as well as the eligibility and selection criteria for the research and innovation challenges to be tackled by the co-creation teams. A process description for the project management of the co-creation teams and a business flow elaborating how the facilitation is done for solving the defined R&I challenges shall be delivered as well. The contractor shall also collect data to establish that the concept and techniques are effective for industry-academia knowledge exchange, and develop monitoring tools and key performance indicators for co-creation teams.

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<sup>1</sup> COM/2020/274 final COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience

<sup>2</sup> Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The contractor shall also deliver a final report describing the process and lessons learnt from the 3 co-creation teams and produce a summary document and communication material on the 3 co-creation teams and their achievements.

As regards the selection criteria for this public procurement, the tenderer must have the necessary technical and professional capacity to execute the contract and must prove at least 6 years' experience in the field of open innovation, open innovation platform management, industry-academia collaboration, research commercialisation and knowledge transfer including IP management, as well as stakeholder engagement. The persons who will be in charge of carrying out the tasks and services must have a relevant university degree in areas such as information and knowledge management, business administration, project management, economics and communication, and at least 6 years' experience in similar tasks and services in the field. Proficiency in English is needed.

Maximum budget for the contract is 75.000 EUR. The estimated date for launching the procedure is September 2020 and the estimated duration of the contract is 8 months.

If you are interested in providing the services required, contact the email address [RTD-VALORISATION-POLICIES-IPR@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-VALORISATION-POLICIES-IPR@ec.europa.eu) at the latest on the 31st of August 2020 confirming you fulfil the required selection criteria.