



Call for Supply of Services Procurement for an Independent Evaluator - “ECB/inGenious” Project

European Commission – FP7 Science in Society 2010

Project N°: 266622

April 2012



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EUN Partnership aisbl

EUN Partnership aisbl (EUN) is a network of 30 Ministries of Education in Europe and beyond. EUN was created more than 10 years ago with the aim to bring about innovation in teaching and learning to its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers and researchers.

EUN's activities are divided among three areas of work:

- Policy, research and innovation
- Schools services
- Learning resource exchange and interoperability

Its activities are developed by participation in a number of privately and EU funded programmes, as well as by commercial sponsorship. Its participation in EU funded programmes include the Lifelong Learning programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and FP7, the framework programme for research and technological development. It participates in these programmes as a partner as well as a coordinator.

Further details on EUN may be found on the website: www.eun.org

PROJECT OUTLINE

inGenious¹ is the European Coordinating Body (ECB)² in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). ECB/inGenious is a large-scale three year Support Action funded under the EU's 7th Framework Programme. Total funding for this project which started in February 2011, amounts to €8 M.

The overall aim of the ECB is to increase young Europeans' interest in STEM education and careers, addressing two challenges: lack of interest in the subjects and the future skills gap (by 2020, there will be 20 million high-skilled jobs and 30 million medium-skilled jobs using STEM in Europe).

The partnership proposed for the ECB is a multi-stakeholder consortium of 28 partners in 16 countries, associating Ministries of Education, Businesses (major European companies, National science platforms, Organisations representing the interests of industry) and Universities. The financial model of the ECB is based on a shared contribution provided by the major stakeholders of the project; a significant part of the budget is devoted to dissemination and impact activities.

¹ <http://www.ingenious-science.eu>

² This document uses 'ECB' as the formal title for this project, but the brand name 'inGenious' has been developed for public usage. In many cases, the two terms are used interchangeably.

Through innovative initiatives and coordinating and building on existing school/business partnerships in the field of STEM education across Europe, the ECB/inGenious project will develop a repository of practice, disseminate and stimulate good practices in STEM and encourage new practices. Two key areas of work are a portal with an observatory of industry-education information, guidance and good practices in Europe and networks of over 1000 primary and secondary schools (with a leading pilot network of 150 schools) which will validate the best practices, design a programme of activities and organise seminars for teachers on industry-education cooperation in STEM education. A set of major dissemination and exploitation activities are designed to mainstream and sustain good practices and so increase numbers opting for STEM in schools, and ultimately increase the number of Europe's researchers and scientists.

EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUT

The independent evaluation takes place within the evaluation work-package 6. The Evaluation work-package 6 comprises two complementary evaluations. The first one will assess all the activities related to the school practices and this will be carried out by one of the project partners. Whereas, the second evaluation is an independent evaluation on the project as a whole namely; the management and implementation of the whole project including the quality and appropriateness of the events and deliverables. The external evaluation will focus on the following key elements that are part of Quality European Project Management: Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability.³

Terms of reference

To assess:

- The efficacy and effectiveness of the management of each of the six workpackages;
- The quality, relevance and impact of the activities, events and outputs within the project;
- The quality and relevance of the dissemination / exploitation / valorisation actions taken by the project;
- The sustainability of the project activities;
- The active participation and involvement of all project partners;
- To identify key success and failure factors of the overall project;
- To propose measures that will improve effective project delivery.

As part of the application process, the proposed independent evaluation methodology and process should be outlined, together with the number of different instruments to assess the project elements above.

³ For more information see: Project Cycle Management Guidelines DG External relations / EuropeAid http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multimedia/publications/publications/manuals-tools/t101_en.htm

As regards to formal deliverables, the Independent Evaluator will be asked to deliver three reports:

- A preliminary report on the effectiveness of the management of each of the six workpackages (begin of July, 2012)
- ECB External Interim Report (August, 2012)
- ECB External Final Evaluation Report (D6.4, January 2014)

The interim and the final evaluation reports first need to be submitted to EUN in draft format before being finalised. Furthermore, EUN will provide the central administrative and project support for the Independent Evaluator.

CONDITIONS

Duration

The independent evaluation will be carried out over the period from June 2012 to January 2014. Should the ECB project be extended, the period for the independent evaluation will be extended accordingly but this will entail no increase in the fees to be changed. Most of the evaluation work will be done remotely, with the work spread throughout the specified duration. The independent evaluator might be requested to attend Steering Committee meetings or General Assembly meetings upon the invitation of the ECB Steering Committee.

Budget and plan

The evaluator should provide EUN with an estimation of the costs for the successful performance and delivery of the above mentioned activities, as well as a draft implementation plan and timescales. Total professional fees should be separated out from other costs e.g.: expected travel costs. The indicative maximum budget for this procurement is 40,000 Euros and the selection will be based on quality/price ratio

Methodology

- All interviews with work package leaders and partners will be conducted in English;
- Since the evaluation work-package 6 comprises of two complementary evaluations, the independent evaluator will not evaluate schools directly as this will be done by one of the ECB partners however the outcome of these school evaluations need to be taken into account by the independent evaluator.

SELECTION

The selection process will be based on the following factors:

- The relevant experience and quality of the organisation (including the team) who will perform the services (previous experience in EC projects and multi-stake holder projects, expertise and knowledge of teacher professional development, programme evaluation particularly in the area of science education and STEM subjects);
- The proposed methodology and approach to be employed;
- The cost of the services concerned and the timeliness of the delivery of the reports.
- Proficiency in the English language and the knowledge of other European languages would be an asset.
- CVs of persons that will carry out the evaluation.

Exclusion Criteria

Candidates will not be considered for selection if:

- (a) They are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (c) They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- (d) They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct.
- (e) Not submitting all of the above documentation
- (f) Submission of the above documentation after the deadline mentioned in the 'Timescales and deadline for applications'

Timescales and deadline for applications

- Closing date for receipt of questions and comments is: 17:00 CET, 16 May 2012. All enquiries should be emailed in the first instance to the project coordinator contact provided below.
- The deadline for applications is: 17:00 CET, 18th May 2012. Applications should be submitted as a word document, providing details of the proposed approach, experience and costs. This document must be no longer than 20 pages in length (excluding CVs and brochures. Proposals received after the deadline will not be eligible.
- Following evaluation of the submitted proposals, the decision will be communicated via email to all on **1 June 2012**.
- A contract will be agreed upon at the end of May with the successful party. The proposed evaluation will commence in June 2012.

Interested applicants are invited to send their applications with the information requested above by e-mail to:

Charmaine Kerr, ECB Project Coordinator, EUN: ingenious@eun.org

European Schoolnet address :

EUN Partnership AISBL
Rue de Trèves 61,
B-1040 Brussels
t: +32 (0)2 790 75 75
www.europeanschoolnet.org

Attachments:

- [Project Website](#)
- [Link to inGenious/ECB public deliverables](#)

For further information on the project itself or should you have any questions send your request to: Charmaine Kerr, ECB Project Coordinator, EUN: ingenious@eun.org



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