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CEDEFOP

Open call for proposals – GP/DVQ/ReferNet_FPA/001/26

ReferNet – Cedefop's European Network of Expertise in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

(C/2026/1123)

1. Objectives and description

With the objective of supporting the operation of the European network of expertise in VET – ReferNet – this call aims at selecting one applicant from the following eligible country: **France**, with which Cedefop will conclude a 20-month framework partnership agreement, and at concluding with the successful applicant a specific grant agreement for an 8-month work plan to be carried out in 2026.

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. Since 2008, Cedefop's cooperation with ReferNet has been taking place through four-year FPAs (Framework Partnership Agreement). Under the new FPA (2024-2027) ReferNet will be the main source of information on national VET systems and developments contributing annually to Cedefop monitoring of policy developments in line with the EU priorities in VET, skills and qualifications. Its role has been strengthened in the integrated approach to policy monitoring and reporting of the Council Recommendation on VET and the Osnabrück Declaration as agreed by the ACVT Committee in its meeting of 8-9 June 2021, calling for a close cooperation of ReferNet with the Directors-General for Vocational Training in the EU Member States.

Framework partnership agreements are implemented through annual specific grant agreements. Therefore, applicants shall not only submit a proposal for the 20-month framework partnership (which, if successful, will lead to the signature of a Framework Partnership Agreement for the years 2026 and 2027) but also the grant application for the 2026 action (which may lead to the signature of a Specific Grant Agreement for 8 months in 2026). The applicant must demonstrate its capacity to carry out all the activities foreseen over the 20-month period and ensure adequate co-financing for the implementation of the requested tasks.

2. Budget and project duration

The estimated budget available for the 20-month duration of the framework partnership agreements amounts to a maximum amount of **EUR 87 240**, depending on the annual decisions of the Budgetary Authority.

The total available budget for the 2026 annual work plan (project duration: 8 months) will be at a maximum value of **EUR 43 620** for the above-mentioned partner.

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 and/or not to request the execution of all activities included in the 2026 ReferNet workplan but only a number of them.

The allocated amount may not under any circumstances exceed the amounts indicated in this call.

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 the country where the grant is applied, i.e. France.

4. **Deadline**

Applications for the framework partnership agreement and Specific Agreement for ReferNet action 2026 must be submitted **at the latest by 26 March 2026**.

5. **Further information**

The detailed specifications of the call for proposals, the application form and its annexes will be available as of **20 February 2026** on Cedefop's website at the following address:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/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.
