

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Open call for tenders for a study on the impact of the information society on the territorial planning in less favoured regions

(96/C 149/11)

1. **Awarding authority:** The European Commission, Directorate-General for Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research, DG XIII/A, for the attention of Ms Alison Birkett, BU 31 3/58, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.

Tel. (32-2) 296 83 42/296 82 09. Facsimile (32-2) 296 83 93.

2. **Category of service and description:** New developments in information society (IS) services and applications have the potential to reduce the relevance of distance, narrow the cost disadvantage of being located in remote areas and therefore improve the geographical integration of the Community. To what extent these new facilities will contribute to the centralization or to the decentralization of the economic agents, industry and services is not well understood.

The study will analyse the major sectors of activity within the less favoured regions and will report where and in which sectors there is a tendency for centralization, decentralization, delocalization, etc. The results of this study will enable the identification of application areas and systems of particular importance for individual regions to their territorial planning and local development and the relationship with IS.

The study will also analyse to what extent the new opportunities opened by the information society at the social and societal level, in particular telemedicine and distance learning, will impact the population spatial planning, in particular concerning remote and/or peripheral regions.

The suggested approach is to select a limited number of case studies that well illustrate the role played by IS in the development of a particular region, to explain what kind of activities (industries, trade, etc.)

are concerned. The socio-economic analysis should be able to explain what conditions should be met to allow the development of the region or to retain a population in a rural area. The role played by the regional and by the urban authorities should also be indicated.

If such an approach is followed, the case studies should be selected in 2 or 3 different countries affected by cohesion problems or industrial decline. It is expected that at least 3 different regional approaches are covered. A summarized description and justification for the case studies should be included in the proposal.

The study will be completed with recommendations to be addressed to the Commission in order to stimulate private investments, according to the catalyst role of the Commission.

3. **Place of delivery:** As in 1.

4., 5.

6. **Variants:** Are not acceptable.

7. **Duration of contract:** The proposed contract will start in 1996. The overall duration should not exceed 6 months.

8. a) **Name and address of the service from which the terms of reference for the studies may be requested:** As in 1.

b) **Final date for making such requests:** 2. 6. 1996.

c) **Requests for the terms of reference for the studies may be made by facsimile or letter:** When requests are made by facsimile, they must be confirmed by letter dispatched before the expiry of the time limit referred to in 8. b).

9. a) **Final date for submission of tenders:** 24. 6. 1996.

- b) **Name and address of the service to which proposals must be sent:** As in 1.
10. a) **Persons authorized to be present at the opening of tenders:** Official representatives of the European Commission and 1 authorized representative of each tenderer.
- b) **The opening will take place on:** 24. 7. 1996 (10.00).
- Address: The European Commission, Directorate-General for Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research, avenue de Beaulieu 31, Meeting Room No 2, Third Floor, B-1160 Bruxelles.
- 11.
12. **Main terms concerning financing:** The study will receive 100 % funding.
13. **Legal form in the case of group bidders:** Tenders may be submitted individually or jointly. If 2 or more applicants submit a joint bid, 1 of them must be designated as the lead contractor and agent responsible.
14. **Information concerning the service provider's own position:** The tenderer will be required to provide economic and technical information for appraisal purposes. These requirements will be specified in the administrative procedures for contract implementation.
15. **Validity period:** 8 months.
16. **Evaluation criteria:** Will be included in the terms of reference.
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18. **Date of dispatch of the notice:** 3. 5. 1996.
19. **Date of receipt by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 3. 5. 1996.
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