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## Specifications – Invitation to tender No VT/2010/019

### Study on a comprehensive overview on traineeship arrangements in Member States

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#### 1. TITLE OF THE CONTRACT

Study on a **comprehensive overview on traineeship arrangements in Member States**

#### 2. BACKGROUND

Improving young people's education and their transition to the labour market has been a key priority in EU education, employment and youth policies over the last years. The economic crisis and its repercussions on the labour market have shown that young people are particularly affected. As they are labour market outsiders, it is particularly difficult for them to gain work experience in times of reduced labour market demand and strong competition with more experienced jobseekers.

Under the new Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth the Commission intends to launch a Youth employment framework outlining policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment rates; this should promote, with Member States and Social Partners, young people's entry into the labour i.a. through **internships, stages or other work experience**.

The renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) adopted by the Council in November 2009 encourages Member States and the Commission within their respective spheres of competence to promote quality **traineeships**.

"Stages" or "internships" or "traineeships" (hereafter summarised under "traineeships") are periods that a person spends at a workplace with the aim to practice the theoretical knowledge acquired in education and to experience workplace routine. Traineeships are undertaken in particular by young people during or after their studies and are therefore a key tool in familiarising the students with the world of work and thus help to facilitate their transition from education to employment. Traineeships support young people's choice of professional orientation. In some professions (e.g. doctors, lawyers, teachers) internships or traineeships are a mandatory element, and in many other university curricula they are also obligatory. Another specific case of "traineeships" are active labour market policies aiming at connecting or reintegrating (young) people with the labour market.

The legal framework governing traineeships is highly diverse in the 27 Member States of the EU. While in some countries trainees have student status, in other countries they are considered as workers. Some countries have recently introduced specific legislation on traineeships (e.g. France). There are also diverse situations as regards the degree of detail of the legal provisions (e.g. as regards social security coverage, remuneration).

For young people in the EU it is a more and more common practice to undertake a traineeship abroad in another Member State. However, there is no source available at

European level where they could access information about the legal framework on traineeships in other Member States.

Another reason why the Commission needs to get a detailed overview of the legal frameworks in Member States is that over the last years, several complaints have been voiced by young people including over quality problems in traineeships. A petition has been addressed to the European Parliament in 2008. The study should therefore also report on the actual practice of traineeships in Member States.

### **3. SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACT**

The study will provide a comprehensive overview of the **legal frameworks and current practices of traineeships in all EU Member States.**

To do so the study will present:

- an overview per Member State of the legislation governing traineeships and of the current practices in each Member State, including whether there are any provisions defining the rights of trainees;
- information about the availability of traineeship places in the public and the private sector, including NGOs and report on the conditions in which these traineeships take place;
- information about public or private programmes or schemes in place in Member States for the funding of traineeships (including financial support for undertaking a traineeship in another Member State);
- Information about the use of traineeship schemes as a component of active labour market policies in Member States and eligibility criteria applicable;
- A discussion and assessment of the quality aspects of traineeships in Member States.

The following questions may serve as an initial, but not exhaustive guidance for the completion of these tasks:

*Legal aspects:* Is any specific legislation related to traineeships in place? Is any specific soft-law in place? Does a definition of traineeship or equivalent in national language exist? Does a definition of trainee or equivalent in national language exist? Are there provisions on the duration of a traineeship? Are there provisions on the remuneration of a traineeship? Are there any formal obligations for the parties involved (for example: written agreement, health insurance)?

*Practice of traineeships:* Vocational education and training: to what extent are traineeships parts of vocational training pathways? (This question is particularly important for countries with a mainly school-based vocational education and training system); Is the private or public sector actively pursuing the recruitment of trainees? Higher education: to what extent are traineeships an obligatory part of study curricula? Higher education: to what extent are traineeships voluntary part and practice during studies? To what extent is it practice that young people having obtained a degree in vocational education and training do traineeships? Are they remunerated? To what extent

is it practice that young people holding university degrees do traineeships? Are they remunerated? Are there sectors, including the public sector, where traineeships are particularly common?

*Public perception:* Are there sectors, including the public sector, that have a reputation for questionable practices in traineeships? Are there any organisations representing trainees? Are there diverging views, for example on the side of the government and social partners, on the issue of traineeships?

*Statistical information and studies:* include statistics available on traineeships and discuss the findings of any studies or evaluations available concerning traineeships.

#### **4. PARTICIPATION**

Please note that:

The competition is open to any physical person or legal entity coming within the scope of the Treaties and any other physical person or legal entity from a third country which has concluded with the European Union a specific agreement in the area of public contracts, under the conditions provided for in that agreement.

Where the Multilateral Agreement on Public Contracts concluded within the framework of the WTO applies, the contracts are also open to nationals of States that have ratified this Agreement, under the conditions provided for therein. It should be noted that research and development services, which come under category 8 of Annex II A of Directive 2004/18/CE, are not covered by this Agreement.

#### **5. TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CONTRACTOR**

##### **5.1 Tasks to be carried out**

The study should:

1. Give an overview of the legal framework for traineeships arrangements in Member States;
2. In relation with the above objective, present an overview per Member State of the availability of in-company, public traineeship places and experiences gained in NGOs for young people;
3. Discuss and assess quality aspects of traineeships;
4. Identify eventual changes in this context over the last 5 years, with a specific focus on changes in the context of the crisis.
5. Analyse the effectiveness of traineeship programmes and practices in terms of facilitating access to employment for young people and avoiding longer spells of unemployment among young people;
6. Make recommendations how good practice of traineeships could be further enhanced in Member States and at EU level, taking into account the possibilities for action at EU level.

## 5.2 General publicity and information requirements:

In accordance with the General conditions, the Contractor is under the obligation to acknowledge that the present service is delivered on behalf of the European Union in all documents and media produced, in particular final delivered outputs, related reports, brochures, press releases, videos, software, etc, including at conferences or seminars.

For publications it is also necessary to include the following reference: "*The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission*"

With regard to publication and any communication plan linked to the present activity, the Contractor will insert the European Union logo and mention the European Commission as the Contracting Authority in every publication or related material developed under the present contract.

## 6. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

See Annex IV of the draft contract, CVs and classification of experts.

## 7. TIME SCHEDULE

See Article I.2. of the draft contract.

The full duration of the contract should not exceed **12 months** from the date of the signature of the contract.

## 8. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (SPECIFIC DEADLINES FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF TASKS)

The contractors are asked to provide the following:

- An **inception report** within one month from the signature of the contract with:
  - a proposed literature review;
  - a description of envisaged data sources to be used;
  - a detailed description of the research methodology;
  - possible case studies;
  - a detailed work schedule for the remaining 11 month period describing how the team's work will be structured, the technical means and methods that will be used;
  - an indication of missions or visits required for the whole the project.
- An **interim** report after five months from the signature of the contract with:
  - the provisional findings and a summary of the work carried out;
  - the work programme planned for the following period;
  - present status of expected output documents, and comments on the degree of achievement;

- any comments, suggestions or recommendations judged useful or necessary by the Contractor.
- A **draft final report** in English after 10 months from the signature of the contract, in the form of a revised and amended version of the intermediate report.
- A **final report** in English after the period of 12 months as established in the contract, accompanied by an executive summary in English, French and German.

All reports described above will be submitted in English language (plus French and German for the executive summary), in 3 hard copies as well as in electronic format (CD-ROM).

The contractor should anticipate 4 to 6 working meetings with the Commission Services, to take place in Brussels approximately every two months.

## 9. PAYMENTS AND STANDARD CONTRACT

In drawing up the bid, the tenderer should take into account the provisions of the standard contract comprising the "General terms and conditions applicable to service contracts".

Payments will be made at intervals throughout the contract period as a function of the progress made, the reports submitted and the quality of the work undertaken.

- **Pre-financing**

Following signature of the Contract by the last contracting party, within 30 days of the receipt by the Commission of a request for pre-financing with a relevant invoice, a pre-financing payment equal to 30% of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1 of the contract shall be made.

- **Interim payment**

Requests for interim payment by the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by

- a interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I of the contract,
- the relevant invoices,
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7 of the contract, provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have 30 days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Within 30 days of the date on which the interim report is approved by the Commission, an interim payment corresponding to the relevant invoices, up to maximum 40% of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1 of the contract, shall be made.

- **Payment of the balance**

The request for payment of the balance of the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by:

- the final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I of the contract,
- the relevant invoices,
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7 of the contract, provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have 30 days in which to submit additional information or a new report. Within 30 days of the date on which the report is approved by the Commission, payment of the balance of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1 of the contract shall be made.

## **10. PRICES**

Under the terms of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union, the latter are exempt from all charges, taxes and duties, including value added tax; such charges may not therefore be included in the calculation of the price quoted. The amount of VAT is to be indicated separately.

The total **price of the offer** will not exceed **€400.000 (four hundred thousand euro)**.

Bidders should note that any bid exceeding these limits will not be considered.

The price must be stated in EUR(€), net of VAT (using, where appropriate, the conversion rates published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union on the day when the invitation to tender was issued), and broken down according to the model in Annex III included in the attached standard contract.

Expenditure other than for fees and direct costs, such as estimated travel and subsistence expenses, must be indicated separately and is reimbursable on receipt by the Commission of **original** supporting documentation, to include receipted invoices, travel documents including tickets, boarding passes, etc.

■ **Part A: Professional fees and direct costs**

- Fees, expressed as the number of person-days multiplied by the unit price per working day for each expert proposed. The unit price should cover the experts' fees and administrative expenditure, but not the reimbursable expenses referred to below.
- Other direct costs (to be specified if any)
- Any translation expenses
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■ **Part B: Reimbursable expenses**

- Travel expenses (other than local transport costs)
- Subsistence expenses of the Contractor and his staff (covering the expenditure incurred by experts on short-term trips outside their normal place of work)
- Expenses for the shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage, directly connected with performance of the tasks specified in Article I.1 of this Contract
- Contingencies

Total price = Part A + Part B <= 400.000 €

## 11. GROUPINGS OF ECONOMIC OPERATORS OR CONSORTIA

Tenders can be submitted by groupings of service providers/suppliers who will not be required to adopt a particular legal form prior to the contract being awarded, but the consortium selected may be required to assume a given legal form when it has been awarded the contract if this change is necessary for proper performance of the contract<sup>1</sup>. However, a grouping of economic operators must nominate one party to be responsible for the receipt and processing of payments for members of the grouping, for managing the service administration, and for coordination. The documents required and listed in the following points 12 and 13 must be supplied by every member of the grouping.

Each member of the grouping assumes a joint and several liabilities towards the Commission.

## 12. EXCLUSION CRITERIA AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1) Bidders must provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated, that they are not in one of the situation referred to in Articles 93 and 94 a) of the Financial Regulation.

Those articles are as follows:

"Article 93 :

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<sup>1</sup> These entities can take the form of an entity with or without legal personality but offering sufficient protection of the Commission's contractual interests (depending on the Member State concerned, this may be, for example, a consortium or a temporary association).

The contract has to be signed by all members of the group, or by one of the members, which has been duly authorised by the other members of the grouping (a power of attorney or sufficient authorisation is to be attached to the contract), when the tenderers have not formed a legal entity.

Applicants or tenderers shall be excluded if:

- a) 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;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;
- c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union' financial interests;
- f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1)<sup>2</sup>.

(...)

*Article 94 :*

Contracts may not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:

- a) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or fail to supply this information;(..."

2) The tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded shall provide, within a time limit defined by the contracting authority and preceding the signature of the contract, the evidence referred to in Article 134 of the implementing Rules, confirming the declaration referred to in point 1 above.

*Article 134 of the Implementing Rules – Evidence*

§3. The contracting authority shall accept as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is not in one of the situations described in point (a), (b) or (e) of Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent extract from the

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<sup>2</sup> "Article 96(1): The contracting authority may impose administrative or financial penalties on the following:

- (a) candidates or tenderers in the cases referred to in point (b) of Article 94;
  - (b) contractors who have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the budget.
- (...)"

judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied. The contracting authority shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer is not in the situation described in point (d) of Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned.

Where the document or certificate is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

§4. Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraph 3 shall relate to legal persons and/or natural persons including, where considered necessary by the contracting authority, company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the candidate or tenderer.

**See Annex I (which may be used as a checklist) for the supporting documents accepted by the European Commission to be provided by applicants, tenderers or tenderers to who the contract will be awarded.**

3) The contracting authority may waive the obligation of a candidate or tenderer to submit the documentary evidence referred to in Article 134 of the Implementing Rules, if such evidence has already been submitted to it for the purposes of another procurement procedure launched by DG EMPL and provided that the issuing date of the documents does not exceed one year and that they are still valid.

In such a case, the candidate or tenderer shall declare on his honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure and confirm that no changes in his situation have occurred.

### **13. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The candidates will be selected on the basis of their financial and economic capacity and their professional and operational capacity.

#### **a) Economic and financial capacity:**

Tenderers must provide sufficient information to satisfy the Commission of their financial standing and more particularly that they have the necessary resources and financial means to carry out the work that is the subject of the tender and that the tenderer is viable for the duration of the contract.

The following three documents should be provided:

- A bank declaration providing evidence of sound financial standing;
- A statement that the tenderer's overall turnover is at least twice the value of this contract;

- Accounts - balance sheets and profit and loss accounts - for the last two financial years, for which accounts have been closed, certified by an external audit, if required by national law.

In the case of tenders from consortia, these three documents must be provided by each member of the consortium.

If, for some exceptional reason which the contracting authority considers justified, the tenderer or candidate is unable to provide the references requested by the contracting authority, he may prove his economic and financial capacity by any other means which the contracting authority considers appropriate.

**b) Technical capacity:**

Educational and professional qualifications of the service provider will be substantiated by providing:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae of all members of the proposed project team and an explanation of the nature and extent of their participation in the project (see Annex IV "*CVs and classification of experts*" of the draft contract);
- Solid experience of analysis in the field of the call, including the theoretical and empirical aspects: in-depth knowledge of EU employment and social policies and current EU priorities, acquaintance with EU stakeholders involved in employment and economic and social policies and good analytical and drafting capacity.  
Moreover, members of the team should have the ability to work in the three languages (German, English and French at least should be covered by the core team collectively), to organise and chair seminars, to manage a team of experts and to deal with high-level experienced contacts. These skills have to be attested by the CVs and related documentation of the experts proposed (see Annex IV "*CVs and classification of experts*" of the draft contract);
- The contractor should prove strong analytical qualifications on international expertise in the field (eg experience gained in the context of ILO, OECD or other international organisations);
- A declaration by the project manager / co-ordinator certifying the competence of the team to carry out the required tasks, including professional and linguistic capabilities. The contractor or consortium should demonstrate solid linguistic capability covering at least the three working languages of the Commission (English, German, French) and should ensure that the project contains provision for interpretation and translation if this is considered necessary by the contractor;
- A list of experts to be used for the study, together with their CVs , qualifications and professional capacities;
- A list of principal services or studies provided in the relevant policy domain over the past 3 years. In the case of work done for the Commission, tenderers must also indicate the reference number of the contract and the department for which the contract was performed;

- In the case of tenders from consortia: clear identification of the co-ordinator of the work who will also be responsible for signing the contract, and written confirmation from each member of the consortium that they would be ready and willing to participate in the project, and describing their role.

#### **14. AWARD CRITERIA**

The contract will be awarded to the bid offering the best quality/price ratio, taking account of the following criteria:

##### **(i) Quality of the offer                      40%**

- Understanding of the nature of the project, the context and the results to be achieved, (indicate 20%)
- Clarity and coherence of the work plan, organization of work, distribution of staff competencies. (indicate 20%)

##### **(ii) Methodological approach              60%**

- Methods to processing information and interpretation of the quantitative and qualitative information, (indicate 30%)
- Completeness of the methodology, (indicate 15%)
- Effectiveness of the methodological approach. (indicate 15%)

Please note that the contract will not be awarded to any bid that receives less than 70 % in the award criteria.

The points total will then be divided by the price, with the highest-scoring bid being chosen.

#### **15. CONTENT AND PRESENTATION OF BIDS**

##### **Content of bids**

Tenders must include:

- all information and documents necessary to enable the Commission to appraise the bid on the basis of the selection and award criteria (see points 13 and 14 above);
- a bank ID form duly completed and signed by the bank;
- a "legal entity" form duly completed;
- the price;
- the detailed CVs of the proposed experts in a standardised Europass format<sup>7</sup>;
- the name and function of the contractor's legal representative (i.e. the person authorised to act on behalf of the contractor in any legal dealings with third parties);
- proof of eligibility: tenderers must indicate the State in which they have their registered office or are established, providing the necessary supporting documents in accordance with their national law.

## **Presentation of bids**

- Bids must be submitted in triplicate (i.e. one original and two copies).
- They must include all the information required by the Commission (see points 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 above).
- They must be clear and concise.
- They must be signed by the legal representative.
- They must be submitted in accordance with the specific requirements of the invitation to tender, within the deadlines laid down.

Tenders must be presented in three parts:

- Part I: containing all administrative information
- Part II: containing the technical content of the bid
- Part III: containing the financial part of the bid.

Regarding the presentation of the bid, it is recommended to:

- Print the documents double-sided, where possible;
- Use only 2-hole folders (please do not bind or glue).

## **16. VALIDITY OF TENDERS**

Period of validity of the tender: 6 months from 04/08/2010.

**Annex I:** Articles 93 & 94 of the Financial Regulation (see point 12 – Exclusion Criteria)

## Annex I of the Tender Specifications

Exclusion criteria (Article 93(1) FR)	Supporting documents to be provided by applicants, tenderers or tenderers to who the contract will be awarded		
	Procurement (Article 93(2) FR; Article 134 IR)		
<b>1. Exclusion from a procurement procedure, Article 93(1) FR :</b> <i>« Candidates or tenderers shall be excluded from participation in a procurement procedure if:</i>			
<b>1.1. (subparagraph a)</b> <i>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<sup>1</sup>;</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Recent extract from the judicial record <b>or</b></li> <li>– recent equivalent document issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance <b>or</b></li> <li>– Where no such certificate is issued in the country concerned : sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance</li> </ul>	–	–
<b>1.2. (subparagraph b)</b> <i>they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata<sup>2</sup>;</i>	Cf. supporting documents for Article 93(1)(a) FR above		

<sup>1</sup> See also Article 134(4) IR : Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the tenderer or candidate is established, the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall relate to legal persons and/or natural persons including, where considered necessary by the contracting authority, company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the candidate or tenderer.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. footnote n° 1.

Exclusion criteria (Article 93(1) FR)	Supporting documents to be provided by applicants, tenderers or tenderers to who the contract will be awarded	
	Procurement (Article 93(2) FR; Article 134 IR)	
<b>1.3. (subparagraph c)</b> <i>they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;</i>	Declaration by the candidate or tenderer that he is not in the situation described	
<b>1.4. (subparagraph d)</b> <i>they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed<sup>3</sup>;</i>	Recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned confirming that the candidate is not in the situation described <b>or</b> Where no such certificate is issued in the country concerned : sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance	
<b>1.5. (subparagraph e)</b> <i>they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union' financial interests<sup>4</sup>;</i>	Cf. supporting documents for Article 93(1)(a) FR above	
<b>1.6. (subparagraph f)</b> <i>they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1)<sup>5</sup>. »</i>	Declaration by the candidate or tenderer that he is not in the situation described	

<sup>3</sup> Cf. footnote n°1.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. footnote n° 1.

<sup>5</sup> Article 96(1) FR: The contracting authority may impose administrative or financial penalties on the following:

(a) candidates or tenderers in the cases referred to in point (b) of Article 94;

Exclusion criteria (Article 94 FR)	Supporting documents to be provided by applicants, tenderers or tenderers to who the contract will be awarded	
	Procurement	Grants
<b>2. Exclusion from a procurement or grant award procedure Article 94 FR :</b> « <i>Contracts may not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:</i>		
<b>2.1. (subparagraph a)</b>  <i>are subject to a conflict of interest;</i>	Statement by the applicant, tenderer or bidder confirming the absence of conflict of interests, to be submitted with the application, bid or proposal	—
<b>2.2. (subparagraph b)</b>  <i>are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information»<sup>6</sup>.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— No specific supporting documents to be supplied by the applicant, tenderer or bidder</li> <li>— It is the responsibility of the authorising officer, represented by the evaluation committee, to check that the information submitted is complete<sup>7</sup> and to identify any misrepresentation</li> </ul>	—

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(b) contractors who have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the budget.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Article 146(3) of the FR Implementing Rules: « ...the evaluation committee may ask candidates or tenderers to supply additional material or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the exclusion and selection criteria, within a specified time-limit. » and Article 178(2) of the FR Implementing Rules: « The evaluation committee may ask an applicant to provide additional information or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the application. »

<sup>7</sup> Cf. footnote n°1

