

Before submitting any written question to the Commission, the tenderers should consult this frequently asked questions section relating to the invitation to tender. Questions and answers are published here with full respect to the anonymity of the enquiring tenderers.

Frequently Asked Questions about the tender notice - Analytical support for monitoring the implementation of the major trans-national axes connecting the EU and its neighbours (2007/S 69-083633) and specifications (TREN/B1/174-2007)

1. Task 2 of this tender is virtually identical with the tender - TREN/B1/159-2007. What does the Commission have in mind here that is different from this previous tender?

The geographical focus of the two studies is very different. Whilst the tender TREN/B1/159-2007 focuses on the EU territory, the current one has its emphasis on the trans-national axes extending the trans-European networks to the countries neighbouring the EU. The analysis should cover the bottlenecks outside the EU.

2. In Task 3, sub-task 1 states that the aim is to "... assess the benefits and drawbacks, in line with the Commission Guidelines on Impact, of various forms of coordination frameworks ..." This same sub-task then goes on to say that for each form of coordination framework, the following should be assessed, investments, horizontal packages etc. The question that I have is: does the Commission want to have an assessment of the pro and cons of various forms of coordination, does it want to assess the suitability of various forms of coordination for implementing policy measures in different categories (investments, horizontal measures etc.), or does it want an assessment of policy measures in the different categories? If it is the first two, what would the Commission like to see in terms of the impact assessment following the IA guidelines? If it is the last, is this any different from Task 2 of this tender?

The objective is to assess both the impacts of the policy packages (infrastructure and horizontal measures) and the effectiveness of various forms of coordination in delivering the policy package. Assessment of the impacts of the policy per se is the aim of task 2 whilst the impacts of the coordination frameworks are to be covered under task 3.

3. Task 4 has a budget of Euro 150,000. If I estimate that the consultant pays for the travel and hotel of participants from non-EU countries, we are talking about at least 35-40 people, plus the travel of the consortium members. There are two conferences. Thus we are talking about at least 70-80 people spending 1.5 days in Brussels. In addition, there are a maximum of 10 regional meetings to organise, each to include 25 participants for 3 days. This is 250 trips for 3 days, excluding the travel costs of consortium members. Could you please let us know how the figure of 150000 euros was derived?

In estimating the cost of the task 4, average unit prices in similar types of contract were used. The tenderers should note that for the task 4, price should be presented per conference and per regional meeting. The terms of reference also stipulate that the achievement of the conferences and the regional meetings will only take place on Commission's request.

4. How does the Commission plan to coordinate this and the project -TREN/B1/159-2007?

Coordination will be organised through joint meetings between the project teams, exchange of data between projects in an early stage and through continuous monitoring by the commission services.