Answers to questions raised by potential contractors
Contract Notice ENTR/2009/021
Call for Tenders: “Study on the implementation of EC Regulation 1435/2003 on the Statute for European Cooperative Society”
Open procedure 2009/S 75-107905

Q 1
- In case where the tenderer is a consortium, do every member of this consortium has to comply with all the criteria, that is to say to have minimum three years of experience and three publications, or is it enough that, as a whole, the consortium complies with the above conditions?

Q 2
- When an organisation is less than 3 years old but is composed of other member organisations having more than three years of experience in the fields of cooperatives, does this newly created organisation have to comply with the requirement of three years of experience to be accepted as a tenderer?

Q 3
As far as the technical and professional capacities are concerned, can the proposal be submitted by a Consortium consisting of member organizations, out of which:
- one is specialized in providing services for cooperatives, but it has not done relevant publications
- while another, which focuses on cooperative studies, is set up less than 3 years before but it is the follow up and result of transformation of previously existing organizations having a long record of publications in the field? In short, can a Consortium or group of tenderers or an association be considered having as a whole the required technical and professional capacity by taking into account the 3 years experience etc of any individual member organization?

Common answer: The objective of a consortium is to permit to combine different qualities, experience, efforts, etc. of all participants. Thus the advantage of one or other participant becomes a common advantage for the consortium and all participants benefit from it. This principle is applicable in all cases of group of tenderers (see point 1.13 Joint Offers of Tender Specifications) and other forms of partnerships. Of course all facts related to the eligibility (i.e. aimed to prove the compliance with selection criteria in point 3.2.1.) have to be duly certified by the documents referred to in points 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 of Tender Specifications.