



South and East European Development Center

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Call for External Experts for implementing activities, for the FP7, EUBORDERREGIONS project

The deadline for receipt of the applications is 2nd of November, 2012.

Posted by the South and East European Development Center (SEED), Department of Planning and Regional development, University of Thessaly, Greece

1. Background

"EUBORDERREGIONS. European Regions, EU External Borders and the Immediate Neighbours. Analysing Regional Development Options through Policies and Practices of Cross-Border Co-operation" is a 4-years long FP7 research project, launched in March 2011, with the main objective to identify challenges to economic, social and territorial cohesion as well as regional development potentials in different borderlands at the EU's external frontiers. (www.euborderregions.eu/). The project study is organized around 11 case-studies along the EU borders and each case study assumes the implementation of extensive empirical research program. This program is designed as a series of standardized sociological efforts and must be applied in the same accurate manner in all countries and by all teams. The results yielded in the course of the field work will be used for the writing of comprehensive case-study reports, complementing the background geographical, and statistical, economic, historical and geopolitical analysis.

This research will focus on economic, social, cultural, political and environmental factors of transnational importance that will influence development and condition development options in regions at the external borders of the EU. It will do this taking into account different mesoregional contexts that affect interaction between the EU and its Neighbourhood. Furthermore, EUBORDERREGIONS will take a cross-cutting approach that both analyses socio-economic dimensions of regional change in more global terms and focuses on selected regional case studies of cohesion challenges and development potentials. The specific case study refers to the Greek region of East Macedonia and Thrace (GR11, NUTS2) and the Turkish region of Tekirdağ (TR21, NUTS2).

2. Scope of the work

The successful external expert applicant will work in cooperation with the scientific team of EUBORDERREGIONS project at the University of Thessaly towards achieving the goals of the empirical work.

The following sociological empirical methods (=toolsets) will be applied in the research work:

1. **Description and analysis of the structure of cross-border relations and major stakeholders:** This is an empirical investigation of the selected border areas and border-crossing checkpoints (identification of the main societal actors and stakeholders of cross-border activities inclusive quantitative interviews with those actors). This study is implemented using the following particular instruments:
 - Matrix and dossiers of regional stakeholders
 - Saturated matrix and contacts of stakeholders
 - Short formalized contact and orientation questionnaires (4QQ)
 - Cross-border questionnaire (CBQ)
 - Qualitative expert interviews
 - Network analysis (CBC networks)
2. **Qualitative in-depth expert interviews** with the representatives of major groups of stakeholders identified in the stakeholder's selection (tool one).
3. **Structured observations** at a sample of check points at border crossings;
4. **Media Analysis:** Analysis of regional media as well of the coverage of local cross-border issues in wider media landscapes;
5. **"Stakeholders forums":** Series of stakeholder's workshops in the selected cross-border areas and locations, where the main findings of the empirical and background studies will be presented and discussed.

Aiming to ensure a better understanding of the political and socio-economic background of the area under investigation, the successful external expert applicant will organize his/her empirical work around the following activities and research tasks involving the collection, study and analysis of:

- Desktop research,
- Initial Interviews
- Field work
- Preliminary Reporting
- Presentation and discussion

3. Deliverables

During the contract period the successful external expert applicant should prepare and submit under the guidance of the scientific team of TERCO project at the University of Thessaly and will be responsible for:

- Collecting preliminary information about key-actors (stakeholders) active on either side of the border at a particular
- check-point
- Start filling in a **matrix (dossiers) of stakeholders** (actors' profiles + contact data) using the following tools:
 - Initial information as above
 - **WEB-analysis:** Collecting additional information about an actor (stakeholder) + continued later on as a "Mental mapping" search on web-sites of these actors
- Start approaching these stakeholders, applying one or several of the following interview tools (techniques).
- 4 **QQ** (Contact and orientation interview – 4 questions) (telephone, face-to-face, Skype). Longer formalized contact interview (10 core questions + 4 orientation questions)
- 200 (100 on both sides of a border) **CBQ** (Cross-border Questionnaire) (10 core questions + 4QQ questions) (telephone, face-to-face, e-mail, Skype).
- 100 (50 on both sides of a border) **EXQ**–Expert Interviews (qualitative in-depth expert interviews) (only face-to-face). A qualitative face-to-face interview with a sample of identified stakeholders (+ 4 orientation questions at the end).
- **Media Analysis:**
 - Pilot phase: identification and selection of the local media on the two sides for analysis.
 - Fieldwork phase: between Fall 2012 and Summer 2013, on the 4 selected weeks (identical to the observation weeks).
 - Analysis phase: Incorporation of the media analysis into the case study.

- **Stakeholders forums:** Organizing two meetings on two sides of the border with mixed participation on the same topic.

4. **Required Skills and Experience**

Education

- University Degree in economics or social sciences or any other related applied sciences.
- Master's degree in economics or social sciences or any other related applied sciences (preferably with specialization in Sustainable Development).
- Expertise in Legislative Framework Analysis of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Experience

- Experience in implementing and coordinating Cross-Border projects.
- Previous experience in Turkey-related issues is an important asset.
- Previous experience with international development agencies will be a strong advantage.

Language requirements

- Fluency in speaking, reading and writing Greek and English is required.
- Sound knowledge of the Turkish language will be a strong asset.

Interview

- All the applicants will be interviewed at a date set by the members of SEED-UTH, and they will be informed of the date, time and place.

Other Requirements:

- Involvement in territorial cooperation related projects.
- Advanced IT skills are welcomed.
- Ability to work effectively.
- Strong communication skills and cooperation skills;
- Have excellent analytical skills;
- Working in Teams

5. **Equal Opportunities**

Equal opportunities policy without distinction on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation will be applied.

6. **Location and duration**

The services by the successful external expert applicant will be executed under the guidance and coordination of the SEED-UTH Team. Most of the services listed in Article 2 and 3, will take place across the Greek-Turkish-Bulgarian triangle. The time length of the Contract spans to a twelve (12) month period after the contract has been signed.

7. **Contract**

There will be a fixed term contract for the period November 15, 2012-November 2013. The total amount of money available in order to complete the above activities comes to ten thousand euros (12.300,00) € VAT included. Travels and accommodation expenses for the successful external expert applicant have to be considered within their contract agreement budget. Hence, travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the successful external expert applicant.

8. Evaluation Criteria

- Adequacy of the Decrees (20 points)
- Greek Language Level (10)
- English Language level (10)
- Turkish Language level (15)
- Work Experience in the field (30 points)
- Interview (15 points)

9. Procedure of applying

If you are interested in this contract (legal or physical entities), you should submit the **Required documents** mentioned below either by post or by courier not later than **02/11/2012**, in which case the evidence of the date of dispatch shall be constituted by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, to the following address:

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Required documentation:

- Degrees/Certificates, prior working experience certificates. Genuine copies and official translations of originals will be submitted by applicants before their final selection for the recruitment of the SEED. Failure to submit genuine copies of the originals shall automatically mean the rejection of the candidate.
- The name, current position, and relationship to the applicant, of one referee

All candidate external experts (legal or physical entities) must sent the expression of interest together with all supporting documents **by post (registered post or courier) not later than 2nd of November, 2012**

For further information please contact: Dr. Ageliki Anagnostou at +302421074596, email: aganag@uth.gr.