

CLARIFICATION No 1

Reference: EEA/IDM/CEI/15/008

Title: Call for expression of interest (CEI) to provide assistance to the EEA in setting up and coordinating the Copernicus in situ component

Question 1

According to the CEI, experts are invited to put themselves forward as candidates, provided they are established in one of the 33 EEA member countries and employed at the institutions comprising the Eionet. The application form specifically requires "Evidence of employment at the institutions comprising the Eionet Network and authorisation to allocate their time (or part of it) for the work of the task force".

- 1) Does this mean that a candidate is expected to be granted leave on absence from his/her institution for any potentially awarded contracts and work as a self-employed on the potential tasks? The latter might raise practical and potentially juridical questions as it limits the opportunity to nominate experts to the Eionet community while decoupling successful experts from their home institutions during the time they work for EEA.
Or
- 2) is possible that an institution within Eionet forwards a specific expert as candidate and the EEA then reimburses the institution for work carried out by the expert under potentially awarded contracts? In that case, the expert would continue to be employed by his/her home institution which appears to be more coherent with the EEA's reasoning to limit the CEI to the Eionet community.

Answer 1

According to the terms of reference of the CEI, there's no need "to be granted leave on absence from his/her institution". In fact, there are 2 scenario's possible:

The scenario mentioned as the second bullet point (2), i.e. the institution proposes one or more experts, and potential contracts are dealt with via the institution, with the clear understanding that the tasks are effectively performed by the proposed expert, but within the normal functioning of that expert as an employee of the institution, i.e. using the infrastructure of the institution, and ensuring that superiors accept that x% of his/her time is spent on potential contracts with EEA.

A scenario in which an expert submits a personal application (e.g. somebody working only half-time at the institution), but then with the evidence that his/her institution agrees with the fact that this expert uses infrastructure (e.g. computer infrastructure, office...) from that institution.

In both scenario's, it is essential that the institution links to Eionet.