

Open Call for Tender:

Experts for the development of a Pan-European Certificate on Standardization of the RESSE Project - Reinforcing the European Standardization System through Education

(Grant Agreement 4500144481– ESOs AG 2025)

Starting date: 2026-06-01

Deadline for tenders: 2026-07-06

I Introduction

I.1 General

The three European Standardization Organizations – [CEN](#), [CENELEC](#) and [ETSI](#) – have created a consortium to respond to a call under the Single Market Programme aimed at Reinforcing the European Standardization System through Education (RESSE) and addressing the need for skilled experts in standardization.

The aim of the project is to support European competitiveness by fostering the next generation of standardization professionals, aligned with EU policy priorities, and by enabling wider participation by SMEs, students, and young professionals in standardization work.

The ESOs in the project will seek impact through four key actions, namely:

- Development of Education Materials
- Student engagement and Internships
- Pan-European Certificate on Standardization skills
- Training in support of production of quality harmonized standards

The Pan-European Certificate on Standardization will be developed to validate and recognise standardization knowledge across the EU and EFTA. It will further support interest in general understanding of the European standardization system, understanding of specific areas of use of standards and their application in real work environment, or in active participation in technical committees.

I.2 Context

The project builds on CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI's active engagement in the [High-Level Forum on European Standardization](#) (HLF), particularly Workstream (WS) 1 on Education and Skills, and reflects commitments made in the “Pledge on Education & Skills on Standards” signed by a majority of HLF members. As a continuation of these commitments, the ESOs in the project will seek impact through the four key actions mentioned under I.1.

II Objectives

The objective of this tender is to select experts who will be responsible for:

- Developing the scope and content of a pan-European certificate on standardization, including the knowledge requirements for the 3 levels of the certificate (beginners; advanced; experts)
- Validating the infrastructure of the certification scheme
- Finetuning the certification scheme based on first results of the pilot and launch
- Supporting the promotion of the certification scheme

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the Experts for the Pan-European Certificate on Standardization of the RESSE Project

The Experts for the Pan-European Certificate on Standardization of the RESSE Project will be responsible for the execution of the project which involves the tasks listed below.

Depending on the expertise and preference indicated by the applicants in their application, the experts will be divided into two main teams. The focus of the “**Certificate Design & Content Team**” will be on the development of the pedagogical and conceptual framework for the certificate. The focus of the “**Certificate Delivery & Technology Team**” will be on the development and implementation of the technical infrastructure for the certificate (see description of both teams below). The applicants should clearly indicate in their cover letter if they apply for the Certificate Design & Content Team or the Certificate Delivery & Technology Team, or for both.

Certificate Design & Content Team

- Review a mapping of existing certificates on standardization skills to identify best practices and gaps
- Develop the certification structure and design, including:
 - Scope and detailed content for the 3 levels of the certificate (beginners; advanced; experts)
 - Clear description of knowledge requirements for each level
- Create a comprehensive test question database covering all 3 levels of the certificate
- Collaborate with the Certificate Delivery & Technology Team to finetune and modify the certificate setup where necessary, ensuring the content is technically feasible and effectively delivered.

Certificate Delivery & Technology Team

- Development of the certification structure’s testing system, ensuring it is secure, scalable, and user-friendly
- Design and implement the certificate issuing, dissemination, and secure storage systems
- Collaborate with the Certificate Design & Content Team to finetune and modify the certificate set-up where necessary, ensuring the technical infrastructure supports the educational objectives.

III.2 Timeframe

- Deadline for the tender: 6 July 2026
- Selection of experts: July-August 2026
- Start of work: September 2026
- End of project: December 2028

The below schedule is an **indicative** timeline of the various tasks of the project. It is subject to change, e.g. the actual start of the project might change depending on the signature of the contracts. Or, the project manager might decide to implement a different time schedule (considering the binding deadlines of the project).

| Action (Certificate Design & Content Team) | Indicative Timeframe | Indicative number of days per expert |
|---|--|---|
| Review a mapping of existing certificates on standardization skills to identify best practices and gaps | September 2026 | 2 days |
| Develop the certification structure and design, including: -Scope and detailed content for the 3 levels of the certificate (beginners; advanced; experts) -Knowledge requirements document for the 3 certification levels | September 2026 – December 2026 January 2027 – February 2027 | 14,5 days |
| Create a comprehensive test question database: -initially focused on the first level (beginners) -extension of the database to levels 2 (advanced) and 3 (experts) | October 2026 – December 2026 June 2027 – December 2028 | 10 days |
| Collaborate with the Certificate Delivery & Technology Team to finetune and modify the certificate setup where necessary, ensuring the content is technically feasible and effectively delivered. | February 2027 – December 2028 | 2,5 days |

Max. number of days: 29

| Action (Certificate Delivery & Technology Team) | Indicative Timeframe | Indicative number of days per expert |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Development of the certification structure's testing system, ensuring it is secure, scalable, and user-friendly | November 2026 – March 2027 | 18 days |
| Design and implement the certificate issuing, dissemination, and secure storage systems | April 2027 – December 2027 | 18,5 days |
| Collaborate with the Certificate Design & Content Team to finetune and modify the certificate set-up where necessary, ensuring the technical infrastructure supports the educational objectives. | February 2027 – December 2028 | 2,5 days |

Max. number of days: 39

IV Financial support

The European Commission and EFTA have decided to provide financial support to the RESSE Project - Reinforcing the European Standardization System through Education. The financial support from the European Commission and EFTA is based on the SMP 'Single Market Programme Regulation' (including its Financing Decision) and the MGA (Multi or mono beneficiary(ies) Grant Agreement). Unless specified otherwise, costs of external subcontractors are generally funded at 100%, with approx. 95% being borne by EC and 5% by EFTA. Costs have to qualify as eligible as defined in GA N° 4500144481– ESOs AG 2025 and also in compliance with [EC Financial Regulation](#), and be justified. The payment is usually divided into several instalments after completion of defined milestones and approval of the final report and the justification of costs. The subcontractors shall fulfil the conditions of the GA N° 4500144481– ESOs AG 2025, including those relating to liability, ownership of results, confidentiality, conflict of interests, publicity, evaluation, assignment, checks and audits.

The subcontractors' costs shall be justified with copies of the relevant invoices. All relevant evidence shall be kept in view of future payments (reports, work, drafts and deliverables, contracts & invoices, time sheets).

Costs incurred before the selection procedure is finalized, will not be considered as eligible for EU financial support.

V Selection criteria

The applicants shall comply with the following requirements:

- *Legal persons who reside in an EU or EFTA country*
- *Knowledge and experience in the field of European standardization*
- *Project management experience*
- *Strong collaboration and communication skills*
- *Relevant technical and/or academic background*
- *Price (best value for money)*

The selection will be carried out by the Tender Evaluation Committee.

VI Award criteria

Candidates may apply to the "Certificate Design & Content Team", to the "Certificate Delivery and Technology Team", or to both. If applying to both, they will receive a separate score for each application (max 100 points per application).

The selection of the most suitable candidate will be made based on the following criteria:

- a) Documented experience (60 points)
- b) Organisation (30 points)
- c) Price (10 points)

a) Documented experience (maximum **[60 points]**):

For the **Certificate Design & Content Team**, the 60 points under "Documented experience" will be allocated as follows:

- Knowledge and experience in the field of European Standardization (20 points)
- Experience with education content creation and knowledge validation (20 points)
- Experience with Learning Management Systems (5 points)
- Experience with similar projects on education and standardization (15 points)

For the **Certificate Delivery & Technology Team**, the 60 points under “Documented experience” will be allocated as follows:

- Knowledge and experience in the field of European Standardization (10 points)
- Experience with developing and integrating online assessment/testing systems (10 points)
- Experience with Learning Management Systems (20 points)
- Experience with setting up and managing digital certification systems and/or educational modules (10 points)
- Experience with database design, storage, and data security for educational modules (10 points)

b) Organisation (demonstration of the ability to carry out the project, maximum **30 points**):

- Project management experience, including proven experience in adhering to structured timelines and deadlines for funded projects (10 points)
- Strong collaboration and communication skills (5 points)
- Demonstrated experience working in interdisciplinary teams (5 points)
- Relevant industrial and/or academic background (10 points)

c) Price (maximum **10 points**):

The candidate who will reach the highest score will be considered as the best value for money offer and hence should be the candidate selected to perform the expected activities (unless force majeure).

VII Eligibility criteria

The following candidates will be excluded:

- Candidates who do not hold EU/EFTA citizenship
- Candidates who were the subject of a non-likely judgment of recourse for a professional infringement
- Candidates who are in an irregular tax situation or in an irregular special taxation situation
- Candidates who provide incomplete or erroneous information
- Candidates who submit their application after the submission deadline
- Candidates with any conflict of interest
- Candidates who are employed by CEN and/or CENELEC Member organisations cannot apply to the call
- Candidates who have already been selected for the RESSE Advisory Steering Committee

VIII Tenders

Tenders shall be sent to [\[inno@cencenelec.eu\]](mailto:inno@cencenelec.eu), as soon as possible, to be received at the latest by **[2026-07-06]**. The object of the email should be “[Your family name] – RESSE WP4 call for tender”. The tender shall be in English and contain:

- Curriculum Vitae demonstrating the necessary expertise for the position;
- Application to the Call for Tender
- Cover letter of maximum one page, clearly explaining the motivation for the application and specifying the preference for the “Certificate Design & Content Team”, the “Certificate Delivery & Technology Team”, or both (cf section III.1).
- A table in the format given in Annex A with detailed information on the costs; (included in the Application)
- Any further documents to prove the qualification required in the above Clauses on Selection and Award criteria;

Please note that, to ensure equal treatment of all tenders, it is not possible to modify offers after their submission in relation to the technical and financial proposals. Therefore, incompleteness in this section can only result in negative impact for the evaluation of award criteria. Please note also that proposals deviating from the technical specifications may be rejected for non-conformity.

Tenders should be sent by legal representative, i.e. to be considered, any possible association has to be formalized according to the local legislation before submitting the tender. Potential candidates may come from the public sector as well as from the private industry. It is essential however that the qualifications and experience of the individual fulfilling the tasks are properly described.

Regarding questions concerning the information provided in this call for tender or in case of need for clarification or additional information please contact Sophie Zimmer, RTD project manager: szimmer@cencenelec.eu

If due to queries or other reasons supplementary information to this call for tender is required, this will be published on the website of CEN CENELEC.

Annex A

The following table shall be used in the tender to give detailed information on the costs regarding the work of the advertised position.

| Organisation / Staff level | Daily rate | Number of man-days | Total cost |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 |