

**Implementation of Industry Immersive Project Based Learning for Students and Faculty;
RFQ no. 83497421**

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Date: 19.09.2025**

Query: Team Leader Qualifications Clarification--For the Team Leader educational requirement "University degree (master's or equivalent) in Education, Public Policy, Digital Technologies, Innovation Management, or another course of study relevant to higher education reform and digital skills development" - would a PhD in English and Cultural Studies, Psychology, or History be considered acceptable under "another course of study relevant to higher education reform"?

Response: Yes, if the candidate can demonstrate relevancy: e.g. coursework, research, or experience in topics such as pedagogy, curriculum design, digital education, higher ed reform, education policy.

Query: What constitutes "5 years in designing and implementing university-industry collaboration models" - does academic experience in designing industry partnerships and project-based learning curricula qualify, or is commercial consulting experience specifically required?

Response: Academic experience may qualify if it involves direct, sustained collaboration with industry—such as co-designed curricula, internships, or capstone projects. However, commercial consulting experience is preferred, as it brings tested frameworks, logistical capacity, and stakeholder management skills necessary for delivering high-impact, real-world initiatives like hackathons and industry-immersive programs effectively and at scale.

Query: Technical Experience Requirements--For the requirement of "3 reference projects in industry immersive project-based learning (including hackathons)" - do projects conducted within university settings as academic initiatives qualify, or must these be commercial implementation projects?

Response: Academic initiatives may be considered if they involved structured engagement with industry—such as co-designed challenges, active participation from industry mentors, and measurable outcomes. However, the requirement leans toward commercially implemented projects, where delivery was externally contracted, industry partners were formally involved, and execution followed professional standards. These better demonstrate the practical, scalable implementation capacity expected for this assignment.

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Can Faculty Development Programs delivered within a single institution or consortium be counted toward the "Experience of conducting 2 Faculty Development Programs for university faculty in project countries" requirement?

Response: Eligibility of only lead bidder shall be considered.

For the M&E framework requirement - what constitutes "project-based learning" specifically? Does this include general educational program evaluation, or must it be industry-partnership focused?

Response: The “project-based learning (PBL)” in this DS2S context is about students working on real-world / industry-relevant problems, with projects designed in collaboration with industry, often delivering tangible outputs. M&E framework should be able to track indicators relevant to PBL: student learning outcomes, industry engagement, employability, inclusion etc.

Can individual faculty members from DS2S partner institutions participate as expert team members in implementation agencies, given their institutional affiliation with beneficiary organizations?

Response: Individual faculty (or experts) are allowed to be part of implementation teams, even if their institution is a beneficiary, so long as there is disclosure, and they are not in conflict of interest or in a role that compromises impartiality (for example, being both evaluator and beneficiary).

Financial and Commercial Requirements--The GAEF requires "average annual turnover of EUR 85,000 for last three financial years" - is this requirement applicable to Universities or only corporate entities?

Response: This requirement applies to *all bidders* regardless of legal form: universities, nonprofits, consultancies

For the "10 employees" requirement - does this apply to academic institutions differently than commercial entities?

Response: The requirement is 10 employees in last 03 financial year for all bidders.