

CLARIFICATION N° 2**CEFTA 2026-12****Redesign and Development of the CEFTA Website****Request for clarifications received on 29 September 2026:****Question 1: Duration of the contract**

As far as we understand, point 15 of the Contract Notice refers to a duration of 16 months from the date of contract signature, while section 5.2 of the Terms of Reference refers to 18 months (6 months for activities 1-6 and 12 months for maintenance under activity 7). We may well be misreading one of the two. If it is not too much trouble, could you confirm which duration we should assume, as it affects the extent of the maintenance period we should include in the global price?

CEFTA Secretariat response:

Please note that duration of the overall contract (implementation of activities and maintenance) shall be as per Terms of Reference. Please note that Corrigendum for Contract Notice (Section 15) in this line has been published within tender dossier.

Question 2: Hosting environment

We understand from activity 3 that the website is to be deployed within the existing hosting infrastructure used by the CEFTA Secretariat. So that we can make sure our proposed solution is fully compatible with it, would it be possible for you to share some information about that environment: for instance the operating system and web server, the runtime and database versions, the level of administrative access foreseen for the contractor, and whether there are any constraints on installing third-party components? We appreciate that some of this may only be available at a later stage, and any indication you are able to give would be helpful.

CEFTA Secretariat response:

The website will be developed as a new solution and will be hosted on Microsoft Azure, in a cloud environment provisioned and managed by the Contracting Authority. There is no existing on-premises hosting environment that the solution must fit into. The Contracting Authority does not prescribe a specific technology stack. However, the proposed solution should be based on modern, actively supported and secure technologies, and must be fully compatible with Azure hosting. In particular:

- Hosting model: Preference is given to Azure PaaS services, such as Azure App Service on Linux or containerised deployment (Azure Container Apps or Azure Kubernetes Service), over self-managed virtual machines. Solutions delivered as Docker containers are welcome.
- Runtime: The application runtime and framework, for example .NET, Node.js, PHP, Python or Java, should be a version that Azure currently supports and that is within its vendor support lifecycle.
- Database: The solution should use an Azure-managed database service, such as Azure Database for PostgreSQL or MySQL (Flexible Server) or Azure SQL Database, on a currently supported engine version.
- Storage and media: Uploaded files and media should preferably be stored in Azure Blob Storage or a compatible service, not on the local web server file system.
- Security and configuration: Secrets and connection strings should be externalised, for example in Azure Key Vault or App Settings. The solution should work behind Web Application Firewall and support HTTPS-only access.
- Third-party components: Any third-party plugins, libraries, modules or external services must be compatible with the Azure services above, be actively maintained and properly licensed (where applicable), and be declared in advance with their versions and licence terms. Components that need OS-level installation, root access or specific server software outside the Azure PaaS offering should be avoided or agreed in advance.

The necessary Azure infrastructure will be provisioned according to the technical requirements of the proposed solution. Administrative access to the Azure environment will be granted on a least-privilege, role-based basis, scoped to the resources required for deployment and support of the website. Any other infrastructure, security, access and deployment requirements will be coordinated with the selected Contractor during implementation.

Question 3: Coverage of the expert profiles

Section 6.1 of the Terms of Reference indicates that the minimum requirements are to be covered by the team of experts as a whole. We read this as leaving open the possibility that one individual could cover two of the three profiles, provided that person meets the minimum requirements of both, but we would not want to assume this. Could you kindly confirm whether that reading is correct?

CEFTA Secretariat response:

Please note that one individual may cover more than one of the profiles (Project Management and Coordination, Website Concept and Design, and Web Development and Technical Implementation), provided that the individual meets all the minimum requirements specified for each of the profiles they are proposed to cover. Alternatively, tenderers may propose a different expert for each profile.

Question 4: Tender Submission form

We would like to check a detail before completing the documents, in case we have misunderstood how the form should be filled in. The Tender Submission form provided for this procedure carries the reference "CEFTA 2026 - 12" in its heading, while the Statement of exclusivity and availability within the same document refers to "CEFTA 2026 - 10". Could you please advise which reference tenderers should enter in the statement, so that we complete it as you expect?

CEFTA Secretariat response:

Please note that the reference to "CEFTA 2026-10" in the Statement of Exclusivity and Availability is a typographical omission. The correct tender reference is "CEFTA 2026-12", and tenderers should use CEFTA 2026-12 when completing the Statement of Exclusivity and Availability.

Question 5: Scope of content migration

Section 4.2 mentions approximately 50 news items and 100 legal and related documents for indicative purposes, and notes that the final scope of other content to be migrated will be agreed during implementation. As the contract is a global price one, we would like to make sure we are pricing this correctly. Could you give us an indication of how any content volume beyond those figures would be treated?

CEFTA Secretariat response:

The figures indicated in Section 4.2 are intended to provide tenderers with a reasonable basis for estimating the content migration workload and preparing their global price. The final selection of content will be agreed with the CEFTA Secretariat during implementation. Any variation from the indicative volumes is expected to be limited and to remain within the overall scope of the assignment. No substantial increase in the volume of content to be migrated beyond the indicative scope is envisaged.

Question 6: Approval of the concept and of the design

As far as we understand, activities 1 and 2 foresee that the concept and the visual design are formally approved by the Secretariat before technical implementation proceeds, while the Phase 1 launch is set for 1 December 2026. So that we can propose a realistic and reliable implementation schedule, if it is not too troublesome, could we ask you to indicate the turnaround time the Secretariat would expect to need for each of these two approvals? Any approximate indication would be sufficient for our planning.

CEFTA Secretariat response:

For planning purposes, tenderers may assume that the CEFTA Secretariat will provide its feedback and/or approval within approximately 2–3 working days following submission of the proposed concept under Activity 1 and within approximately 2–3 working days following submission of the proposed visual design under Activity 2.