

Proposals and projects in FP7

Enterprise networking Infoday

Brussels: 8/9 February 2007

Seventh Framework programme

Procedures generally similar to FP6

1. Streamlining and simplification in:

- Minimum consortium composition
- Cost models
- Proposer documentation
- Evaluation criteria
- Project management (*still being developed*)

2. Increased funding levels

Minimum consortia

- Three independent legal entities from three different Member States or Associated countries (CR, TU; CH, IC, IS, LI, NO)
- EEIGs composed of members that meet the criteria above
- Participation of international (intergovernmental) organisations
- Participants from third countries if in addition to minima (*ICPC countries are funded!*)
- Support actions; no restrictions

Reimbursement of eligible costs

Cost reporting models eliminated; all participants report **direct** and **indirect** (overhead) eligible costs

Eligible costs

- Actual
- Incurred during the project
- Determined according to usual accounting and management principles/practices
- Used solely to achieve project objectives
- Consistent with principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- Recorded in the accounts (or the accounts of third parties)

Direct costs IP, STREP, NoE

- **Research and technological development activities:**
 - **50%** funding of eligible costs except for:
 - Public bodies (non-profit): – 75%
 - Secondary and higher education establishments: – 75%
 - Research organisations (non-profit): – 75%
 - Small and Medium sized Enterprises - SMEs: – 75%
- **Demonstration activities-** All: – **50%** of eligible costs
- **Other activities-** All: – **100%** including e.g. consortium management

Direct costs CA, SA

- **Coordination and support actions – 100%**

Indirect costs IP, STREP, NoE

Any participant

- **Actual** indirect costs (participants may use a simplified method of calculation)
or
- **Flat-rate** of 20% of direct costs excluding subcontracts

Non-profit public bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs unable to identify real indirect costs

- Flat-rate of 60% of direct costs excluding subcontracts (until end 2009)
- Flat rate of minimum 40%, to be established by the Commission (for subsequent calls)

Indirect costs CA, SA

Flat rate based on direct eligible costs: 7%

Guarantee mechanism

Commission will establish and operate a
Participant guarantee fund

Contribution to guarantee fund of max.
5% of the EC contribution by each
participant, to be returned at the end of
the project

Guarantee fund replaces all other forms of
financial guarantees

Funding schemes

- 3 funding schemes – 5 “instruments”

Collaborative Projects (CP)

Small or medium scale focused research actions (“STREP”)

Large Scale Integrating Projects (“IP”)

Networks of Excellence (NoE) – not in Call 1

Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

Coordinating or networking actions (“CA”)

Support Actions (“SA”)

- ICT Workprogramme shows budget pre-allocation to instruments

Integrating Projects (IPs)

Activities in an Integrating Project may cover

- research and technology development activities
- demonstration activities
- technology transfer or take-up activities
- training activities
- dissemination activities
- knowledge management and exploitation
- consortium management activities
- other activities

An Integrating Project comprises

- a coherent set of activities
- and an appropriate management structure

Integrating Projects (IPs)

Experience of IPs in FP6

- Purpose: Ambitious objective driven research with a 'programme approach'
- Target audience: Industry (incl. SMEs), research institutions. Universities – and in some cases potential end-users
- Typical duration: 36-60 months
- Optimum consortium: 10-20 participants
- Total EU contribution: €4-25m (average around €10m)
- Flexibility in implementation:
 - Update of workplan
 - Possibility for competitive calls for enlargement of consortium

Focused projects (STREPs)

Targeting a specific objective in a clearly defined project approach

Fixed overall work plan with stable deliverables that do not change over the life-time of the project

Contain two types of activity or combination of the two:

- A **research and technological development activity** designed to generate new knowledge to improve competitiveness and/or address major societal needs /or
- A **demonstration activity** designed to prove the viability of new technologies offering potential economic advantages but which can not be commercialised directly (e. g. testing of product like prototypes)

as well as

- **Consortium management activities** (including innovation related activities like protection of knowledge dissemination and exploitation)

Focused projects (STREPs)

Experience of STREPs in FP6

- Purpose: Objective driven research more limited in scope than an IP
- Target audience: Industry incl. SMEs, research institutes, universities
- Typical duration: 18-36 months
- Optimum consortium: 6-15 participants
- Total EU contribution: €1-4 m (average around €2m)
- Fixed workplan and fixed partnership for duration

Coordination actions

Designed to

- promote and support the ad hoc networking and co-ordination of research and innovation activities at national, regional and European level over a fixed period for a specific purpose
- by establishing in a coherent way coordinated initiatives of a range of research and innovation operators, in order to achieve improved cooperation of the European research

May combine the following two types of activities

- Co-ordination activities
- Consortium management activities

(Coordination actions do not conduct S&T research !)

Coordination actions

Coordination activities include

- Organisation of events (conferences, meetings)
- Performance of studies, analysis
- Exchanges of personnel
- Exchange and dissemination of good practice
- Setting up of common information systems
- Setting up of expert groups
- Definition, organisation, management of joint or common initiatives
- Consortium management activities

Coordination actions

Experience of CAs in FP6

- Purpose: Co-ordination of research activities
- Target Audience: Research institutions, universities, industry incl. SMEs
- Typical duration: 18-36 months
- Optimum consortium: 13-26 participants
- Total EU contribution: €0.5-2m (average around €1m)
- Fixed overall workplan and partnership for the duration

Support actions

Designed to

- underpin the implementation of the programme
- complement the other FP7 funding schemes,
- help in preparations for future Community research and technological development policy activities and
- stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of SMEs, civil society organisations, small research teams, newly developed and remote research centres, as well as setting up research clusters across Europe
- Cover one off events or single purpose activities

May combine the following two types of activities

- Support activities
- Consortium management activities

(Support actions do not conduct S&T research !)

Support actions

Support activities include

- Conferences, seminars, working groups and expert groups
- Studies, analysis
- Fact findings and monitoring
- Preparatory technical work, including feasibility studies
- Development of research or innovation strategies
- High level scientific awards and competitions
- Operational support, data access and dissemination, information and communication activities

SA proposals may be presented by a consortium or a single organisation, from any country or countries

Support actions

Experience of SSAs in FP6

- Purpose: Support to programme implementation, preparation of future actions, dissemination of results
- Target audience: Research organisations, universities, industry incl. SMEs
- Typical duration: 9-30 months
- Optimum consortium: 1-15 participants
- Total EU contribution: €0.03-3m (average around €0.5m)
- Fixed overall workplan and partnership for the duration

Evaluation criteria

1. Scientific and technical quality

Threshold 3/5

2. Implementation 3/5

Threshold 3/5

3. Impact 3/5

Threshold 3/5

Overall score

Threshold 10/15

Information for proposers

- Workprogramme 2007-2008
- Guide for Applicants
now including the *Guidance notes for evaluators*
and the *Background note* on the funding
scheme
- Evaluation forms with notes
- EPSS manual
- Model grant agreement



Electronic Submission

EPSS - Electronic Proposal Submission System

- Online preparation only
- Improved validation checks before submission is accepted
- FP6 Submission failure rate = $\pm 1\%$

Main reason; waiting till the last minute

- Technical problems
- Panic-induced errors
- Too late starting upload, run out of time

Submit early, submit often!
If in trouble, call the helpdesk !

Ethical issues

New annex “ICT-Ethics” in the Guide for Applicants.

Post-evaluation review for any selected proposals which have ethical issues, *based on the contents of the original proposal*

Does your proposal show...?

- that you fully understand the ethical issues involved in your planned action
- that you have adequate plans to deal with them
- that there are clear lines of responsibility
- that you will review and report on these issues on a regular basis

When writing your proposal....

Divide your effort over the evaluation criteria

Many proposers concentrate on the scientific element, but lose marks on project planning or impact description

Think of the finishing touches which signal quality work to a busy evaluator:

- clear language
- well-organised contents, following the Part B structure
- useful and understandable diagrams
- no typos, no inconsistencies and obvious paste-ins, no numbers which don't add up, no missing pages ..

When writing your proposal....

Make it *easy* for the evaluators to give you high marks. Don't make it hard for them!

- Make sure you submit the latest, complete version of your proposal
- Don't write too little; cover what is requested
- Don't write too much
- Don't leave them to figure out why it's good, tell them why it's good
- Leave nothing to the imagination

Timetable of ICT Call 1

- Deadline for submission of proposals:
17h00 8th May 2007
- Evaluation of proposals: *Commencing early June*
- Invitation letter to Hearings: *Weeks commencing 11th or 18th June*
- Hearings (IPs): *Week commencing 25th June*
- Evaluation Summary Reports: *Mid-July*
- Invitation to negotiations : *Early August*
- Signature of first grant agreements : *October-November*

Getting help with your proposal

The ICT theme supports

- Information days and briefings in Brussels and elsewhere
- Partner search facilities (<http://www.ideal-ist.net/>)
- A supporting website of advice, information and documentation (<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/>)
- A Helpdesk for proposers' questions, reachable by email or phone (and a Helpdesk for electronic proposal submission)
- A list of contact persons for the objectives in each call

And a network of National Contact Points in Europe and beyond:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html