



This newsletter supports the activities of the ICT Theme's National Contact Points. We provide you each month with key news and information on the current activities of the ICT Theme. The information contained here is not confidential and may be further disseminated. If you have any information which would be of interest to your ICT-NCP colleagues in next month's newsletter, email it [here](#).

Funding STREPs

We continue to get at the ICT Helpdesk many questions about funding of STREP projects in ICT. The notes in the Guide for applicants (and the pop-up instructions in the EPSS for STREPs in ICT) give the following three definitions for activities in a STREP:

RTD activities means activities directly aimed at creating new knowledge, new technology, and products, including scientific coordination.

Demonstration activities means activities designed to prove the viability of new technologies that offer a potential economic advantage, but which cannot be commercialised directly (e.g. testing of product like prototypes).

Management activities include the maintenance of the consortium agreement, if it is obligatory, the overall legal, ethical, financial and administrative management including for each of the participants obtaining the certificates on the financial statements or on the methodology and, any other management activities foreseen in the proposal except coordination of research and technological development activities.

The coordination of the scientific work of the project is therefore explicitly included among the *RTD activities*. Only the financial/administrative coordination of the partners can be included under *Management*. If a STREP finds that it also needs to coordinate and communicate with other projects, then this can only have arisen from its research goals and so it is covered by *RTD activities*.

Dissemination activities are not as significant in a STREP as they are in an IP. An Integrated project is supposed to be an important development initiative significant to a whole industry sector, so it is essential to communicate its outcome widely in Europe and maybe overseas. As IPs can have dissemination funded at 100%, we have decided that for STREPs it can be included in *Management activities*, but if the proposers choose, dissemination can be included under *RTD activities* instead.

IPR protection is not specifically mentioned in the notes, but talking to lawyers, preparing and securing patents etc. is plainly one of a project's *Management activities*.

Normally the exploitation of the results of a project (i.e. producing and selling the actual applications, services or systems) is a commercial activity that takes place after the project is finished, and is therefore outside its scope. So no funding for exploitation. The last funded workpackage in a STREP is most often a demonstration phase.

There should be no training activities in a STREP. Getting through the evaluation successfully means that the participants themselves are considered to be already sufficiently skilled to carry out the work, and training other people to do something is not part of a research-focused action.

Management activities

There was a slip of the pen in the last Newsletter. The old FP6 limit on the funding of Management activities was 7% of the EC contribution, not 7% of the total project cost as was incorrectly stated.

Now there is no formal limit in FP7. However proposers should be aware that management requirements have been substantially simplified from FP6 to FP7. The number of audit certificates has been reduced (only required when the cumulative EC contribution to an organisation in one project is more than € 375,000). The requirements for bank guarantees have been removed and replaced by the guarantee fund. The reporting requirements have been lightened. The requirements for the cost claims have been more clearly specified. The management burdens on the consortia will thus be significantly less in FP7 than in FP6.

Therefore we would expect that the management costs should normally be somewhere between 5% of the grant for the smaller projects and 7% for the larger ones. If we see higher percentages for management we will discuss this during the negotiations, and we would expect to see very clear justifications for higher percentages given these lighter management conditions imposed by the Commission.

The transitional overhead rate & SMEs

Probably the most significant change between FP6 and FP7 was the abolition of the old Additional cost model. This model was principally designed for universities and academic research institutes – they never knew how much time was spent on a project by their permanent "statutory" staff, so they could never calculate the real total cost of their work.

For better or worse the old AC model is gone. In compensation we are offering in IPs, STREPs and NoEs the 60% "transitional" overhead rate. We understand that total costs reported by the institute are still incomplete, but by paying an overhead of 60% on them we compensate the institute for this.

But there is a key point here which some proposers are missing. As mentioned in the Guide for applicants and also shown in the EPSS, this special transitional arrangement is available for "Non-profit public bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, and research organisations and SMEs *which are unable to identify with certainty their real indirect costs for the project.*"

There appear to be many SME proposers who are not reading that last clause. To be granted the transition rate it is not enough merely to belong to one of those categories, you also have to be unable to accurately quantify your costs. As mentioned above, this is typically the case for a university. It would however be surprising to learn of a normal commercial organisation, registered under and conforming to the laws of its country, which does not keep adequate accounts. We do not expect that many SME proposers will be granted the 60% transition rate.

Call 2 launch date

For legal reasons we have been obliged to delay the foreseen launch date of ICT Call 2. The target is now for publication in the Official Journal in early June. The rest of the timetable

remains unchanged; the call will close at 17h00 on Tuesday 9th October, we will carry out the evaluation during the month of November and the week for hearings of IP and NoE proposers will be the week beginning Monday 26th November.

However no need to wait till June to find out about the call. Not only ICT Call 2, but a planned joint call with the Security theme and next year's ICT Call 3 are all already described in detail in the ICT Workprogramme on our [home page](#). This Workprogramme is now also available in French and German as well as English.

NCP Day 23rd May

And ICT Call 2 will also be the main theme of the next ICT-NCP meeting, here in Brussels on 23rd May. We will, as usual, have speakers from each of the units involved in the call to present their technical objectives and to answer your questions. We should also be able to give you information on the level of submissions for ICT Call 1, which will have closed by this time. The meeting takes place in a conference room in our new offices, 25 Avenue de Beaulieu.

If you have any other issues you would like us to cover at this meeting, do please [let us know](#).

New Support project

We have a new addition to the list of projects which support proposers in the ICT theme. This is the project [HAGRID](#), which has two main objectives:

- To exploit the potential synergies between the more than 20 actual and future EU-funded support actions for the benefit of European and ICPC organisations interested in participating in ICT
- To provide added value services tailored to the needs of any interested organisation. These services include PR research profiles, research action plans and tailored training courses; HAGRID services will help to assimilate the know-how, assess the competitive advantages and clarify the strategic research objectives of interested organisations

Thanks to the project coordinator Iacopo De Angelis for this information

Model Grant agreement

The [model Grant agreement](#) for projects in FP7 was approved on 10th April. This model grant agreement is applicable to the indirect actions under the Cooperation and Capacities Specific Programmes. It consists of a core text and several annexes. There is also a list of special clauses to be introduced in the grant agreement where necessary.

Last word - funding requests and the evaluation

While this month's Newsletter is focusing very much on the financial questions which currently are coming to our helpdesk, proposers should not worry that an interpretation of our financial rules which they have made in their proposal can affect its evaluation. This is absolutely not the case. Our evaluating experts are firmly instructed to focus on the [technical content](#) of the proposal. They may certainly analyse the use of resources being foreseen by the proposers, and suggest there are too many person-months here and not enough there, but the amount of funding which is being requested, or the cost categories under which it is being claimed, are of no concern to them.

These matters are our business. When the final selection of proposals is made, based on the rankings supplied by the technical evaluation, we analyse the funding requested by each of the successful proposals. If there are errors in the proposers' calculations –and of course these occur from time to time - we simply re-calculate and make a funding offer which fully conforms to the rules.

And for the record.....



ICT Calls currently open

[ICT Call 1](#) opened on the 22nd December 2006 and will close at 17h00 on 8th May 2007. It covers 20 objectives and will be funded – when the whole budget for 2007 and 2008 is approved – at €1194m.

The ICT [FET Open](#) call was also launched on 22nd December. This is open continuously for the duration of the current Workprogramme. It involves only STREP and CA proposals. STREP proposals have to be submitted in two stages, with an initial five-page short proposal followed, if successful in the evaluation, by the full proposal at a later deadline.

Also on the 22nd December 2006 a [joint DG INFSO-DG RTD call](#) was launched in the "Capacities" specific programme. This call closes at 17h00 on 2nd May. The two objectives within the call which fall within ICT's responsibility (1.2.1 *Scientific digital repositories* and 1.2.2 *Deployment of eInfrastructures for scientific communities*) will be evaluated in parallel with and on the same timetable as ICT Call 1

Useful information

ICT	
INFSO organigramme	Association agreements with FP7
INFSO who's who	FP7 news
Our Commissioner's website	FP7 roadmap
The current ICT Workprogramme	FP7 Library service
ICT on Cordis	The Commission staff directory
ICT on Europa	Information Society A-Z
Information Society factsheets	Application as an expert in evaluations
Read our other newsletters	NEWS
HELP	Cordis Guidance introductory page
The ICT Information desk	Cordis News
The FP7 Enquiry service	Cordis Express weekly briefing
Questions on Intellectual Property Rights	Cordis Wire open forum
The informal association of RTD contact points	Cordis National R&D and Innovation pages
Other support services	Cordis Technology marketplace
	
IST project management support	
The IST Results service	

General support projects

CISTRANA	Coordination of national ICT programmes with each other and with European RTD programmes in the ICT sector
CEEC IST NET	Establish a sustainable network of researchers and entrepreneurs active within the field of ICT in Central and Eastern European countries
ERA-CAN and IST-EC2	Increase research cooperation with Canada
EURO-INDIA	Increase research cooperation with India
EUROPEAN IST	Enhancing participation of research organizations from New Member States and Associated Candidate Countries, networking the ICT research community across Europe
FINANCE NMS	Portal and helpdesk for the latest ICT-related financial information aimed at organisations from the New Member States.
GET IN	Increasing participation of candidate countries SMEs in ICT projects by providing training, tools and support services
HAGRID	
IDEALIST	Ideal-ist is a sophisticated worldwide ICT Partner Search Network - an easy to use, efficient and fast web-based system. Ideal-ist collaborates through a broad geographical network of 50 representatives with more than 10 years of experience. The quality of Partner Searches is assured by a quality team.
IS2WEB	Assist research organisations in the Western Balkan countries to get informed about and actively participate in EU-funded research in the field of ICT
IST MENTOR	Develops a networked group of proficient ICT multipliers, whose task will be to enhance building awareness of the ICT Theme and to assist potential proposers in submitting high quality proposals.
IST WORLD	Set up and populate an information portal with innovative functionalities that helps to promote RTD competencies in ICT in the New Member States and Associate Candidate Countries
IST4BALT	Promote the ICT Theme to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by implementing fast dissemination and awareness actions
STAR-NET	Coordination of support actions in New Member States and Candidate countries

ICT-NCPs

National Contact Points (Please send any corrections or updates here)
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