



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](#).

EPSS service for ICT Calls

The EPSS service for ICT Call 1 and the Continuous (FET Open) call was launched on Tuesday 28th March. Thank you for your assistance in distributing Part B templates in advance to those proposers who asked you for them.

Please encourage proposers with whom you are in contact to register now with the service. Future proposers who contact you for templates should be directed to register with the EPSS in order to obtain them.

Integrated projects

One small bug has turned up in the EPSS version of the A3 form (the costs and funding table) for Integrated projects. Training activities in an IP project should be included in the cost category *Other*, as is indicated in the Guide for applicants and in the pop-up note which appears in the EPSS system when you run your mouse over the *Other* column. The column *Training* which has appeared on this form is an error, figures can't be entered into it, and we will remove it as soon as we can.

STREPs in ICT

Those of you who are involved in other parts of FP7 as well as ICT will already be aware that there are differences in the definition of a Small and medium scale focused project (STREP) between the different themes in the programme.

Those themes which are managed by our colleagues in DG Research define Focused projects simply on budget. All Collaborative research projects can carry out a wide range of activities – *R&D, Demonstration, Management* and *Other* are the categories – and those below a certain level of funding are considered to be Focused projects, those above it are Large scale integrating projects.

In DG INFSO we have chosen to maintain that there is qualitative difference between IPs and STREPs, not merely a quantitative one. Specifically, we expect STREPs to be well-planned

tightly-focused research or demonstration projects. The implication of this is that in ICT the main activities in a STREP can be just three – *R&D*, *Demonstration* and *Management*. So a proposer who registers for an ICT call will find, when completing his A3 form for a STREP in the EPSS system, that only these three categories can be filled in.

Proposers who specifically plan to include other activities closely related to the research work of the project, such as protection of their IPR or dissemination of their results, can put these under the Management category (or if they wish to bear some of the cost themselves, under R&D).

While the old 7% limit on the amount of costs applicable to the fully-funded Management has been removed in FP7, if a project goes substantially over that figure it will be looked at during the grant agreement negotiations. There is no problem if the proposed actions here are indeed related to the management of the project, we will just want to be satisfied that no peripheral activities are being funded, and also that R&D or Demonstration are not appearing here in disguise.

SICAs

You will see there is one additional template in ICT Call 1 in the EPSS which was not sent to you earlier. This is the Specific International Cooperation Actions - SICAs. The template is identical to a STREP, we decided to provide a version of the STREP template labelled "SICA" just to make things easier for proposers. A SICA is in fact just a STREP with a special eligibility criterion.

The special eligibility criterion for SICAs is that instead of the usual rule of at least three mutually independent partners from three different Member or Associated states, a SICA requires just two Member or Associate state partners, but then also two mutually-independent partners from two different countries in the region being targeted for international cooperation.

We have only one objective open for this special form of STREP in ICT Call 1, this is ICT-2007.5.2 *Advanced ICT for Risk Assessment and Patient Safety*, which is looking for research in collaboration with countries in Latin America. In ICT Call 2 we will include one objective for SICAs also, in ICT-2007.6.3 *ICT for Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency* – no specific overseas region is named in this case.

International cooperation in ICT

Apart from these special SICA actions, partners from elsewhere in Europe or overseas can always participate in any other project, provided the minimum three EU/AS partners are in place. And if their country is listed on page 95 of our Workprogramme as an International Cooperation Partner Country they are funded for their participation on exactly the same basis as an organisation in a Member state. (Organisations in non-listed overseas countries can exceptionally be funded if their participation is essential to the project - there is a section in the proposal Part B where they are invited to explain about this).

Associated states

Our colleagues in International cooperation have dedicated a section of their website to keeping track of the [Association agreements](#) with FP7. Countries presently in association are Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. More countries are in discussion about association, keep watching this page!

NoE funding

A big change between FP6 and FP7 has been made in the funding of Networks of excellence. The old system was a curious hybrid between lump sum and eligible cost funding; the overall maximum budget was calculated as a lump sum based on the number of researchers involved, but payments were made on the basis of claims of eligible costs, just like for all the other instruments.

In FP7 the confusion is removed. In their proposal A3 form NoE proposers forecast their costs just like everybody else. They use three categories *R&D*, *Management* and *Other*. The research is funded at up to 50% (or at the special rate of 75% which will apply to the universities and research institutes which usually make up the consortium in a NoE). The management and other activities are funded at 100%.

But what then does a NoE do? What we always put on the briefing slides for the Joint Programme of Activities of a NoEs is:

Integrating activities

- coordinated programming of the partners' activities
- sharing of research platforms/tools/facilities
- joint management of the knowledge portfolio
- staff mobility and exchanges
- relocation of staff, teams, equipment
- reinforced electronic communication systems

Activities to support the network's goals

- Development of new research tools and platforms for common use
- Generating new knowledge to fill gaps in or extend the collective knowledge portfolio

Activities to spread excellence

- training researchers and other key staff
- dissemination and communication activities
- networking activities to help transfer knowledge to outside of the network
- where appropriate, promoting the exploitation of the results generated within the network
- where appropriate, innovation-related activities

Of these, the "Generating new knowledge" bullet point is clearly research as is "Development of new research tools". So these are funded at 50% / 75%. The dissemination and communication actions are funded 100% except if they involve some demonstration activities, and if so, that demonstration part would be funded at 50%.

All the rest are "Other activities", which are funded at 100%. And it must be remembered that these are the most important part of the NoE. A NoE is not principally a vehicle for carrying out research – that is the job of a STREP or an IP. The goal of a NoE is to achieve the permanent fusion of the activities of the members of the consortium in their research sector, replacing the fragmentation which currently exists there. So all these "other" activities, such as staff mobility and exchanges, reinforced electronic communication systems and coordinated programming of the partners' activities should be the main part of the JPA, with collaborative research playing only a supporting role, in stimulating useful cooperation between the partners.

With that in mind our experts will be briefed to look critically at the planned activities of NoE proposals. Are they really likely to lead to the permanent restructuring of the research sector? Two warning signs are:

- Is this consortium too large? Is it likely that those 44 partners in 25 countries are going to end up in five years time as in effect branches of the same big cooperative organisation, or is this just a five-year Coordination action we are asked to fund?
- Is this a continuation of an NoE from FP6 ? Why didn't they succeed in fully merging their activities last time? Why will they be any more successful this time?

ICT Call 2

Despite heavy involvement in planning for the evaluation of ICT Call 1 we have also made our first timetable for ICT Call 2.

All being well, we will publish the call in the Official Journal on Tuesday 15th May. The EPSS service, now fully in action of course, will go live for the call on the same day. The call will close at 17h00 on Tuesday 9th October. We will carry out the evaluation during the month of November, the week for hearings of IP and NoE proposers will be the week beginning Monday 26th November. Proposers will receive their ESRs for Christmas.

New Competitive call

The IST project IPCity "*Integrated Project on Interaction and Presence in Urban Environments*" is now looking for an additional partner with outstanding computer vision and augmented reality expertise, which is able to develop core technology in these directions. The required technologies are summarised as follows:

- *Augmented paper maps* for urban planning situations should be developed which combine both static information on physical maps and dynamical information using projector-based augmentation information.
- *Handheld map tracking*: similar to the augmented paper maps, a portable map tracking algorithm should be developed which allows augmentation on handheld devices rather than direct augmentation on physical maps.
- *Model-based outdoor tracking*: we are looking for robust model-based outdoor tracking algorithms which are complementary to GPS and INS tracking and which run on handheld devices (i.e. ultra-mobile PCs, smartphones).

The call closes on 2nd May 2007. More information at <http://www.ipcity.eu> – select *News* then *Competitive call*

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
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	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
IDEALIST	Ideal-ist 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

IST-NCPs

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