

SwissCore Synopsis Research

August-October 2002

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◆ Focus

Specific programmes for FP6 adopted at last

Although the end of the legislative way was quite tormented, the Decision establishing the Specific Programmes for Research under the 6th Framework Programme was finally adopted by the Council of Ministers on 30 September 2002.

Four of the five Specific Programmes were adopted by consensus while the Specific Programme on “Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area” was adopted by qualified majority voting.

In the last weeks before the adoption of the Specific Programmes, the Council and the European Parliament had an open conflict on the inclusion in the text of amendments on ethical issues. Before the summer break, Council and Parliament had agreed on a text that only needed to be formally adopted by the Council. But, because of internal discussions, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Austria opposed the text previously agreed upon. An amendment to that text with regard to ethics was then negotiated between Council and Commission, which allowed the text to be adopted (only Italy voted against).

This compromise also allowed for better relations between the institutions. According to Mr Westendorp, Chairman of the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (ITRE), the compromise “has secured the Parliament’s right to be fully involved when the specific rules on ethics would be established”. The Parliament could therefore live with this solution and the conflict has now died out.

The above-mentioned compromise foresees that an ethical framework concerning research activities involving the use of human embryos or embryonic stem cells funded by the EU be established by 31 December 2003. In the meantime, the Commission will not allow Community funding for such research, with the exception of the study of banked or isolated human embryonic stem cells in culture.

With regard to the implementation of the Framework Programme, a regulatory Committee on ethics will also be set up in order to examine proposals for research projects in the above-mentioned areas.

In spring 2003, the Commission will organise a seminar on bioethics in order to foster a Europe-wide and well-structured discussion process on ethical issues. Following these discussions, the Commission will draw up a proposal setting out guidelines for research projects using human embryos and stem cells. Council and Commission will “do their utmost, counting on the support of the Parliament, to complete the legislative procedure as early as possible and at the latest in December 2003”.

Until September 2003, the Commission will also follow the evolution of legislation and ethical rules in this field and report to the Council and the Parliament, whose consultation will be formal but not binding.

The text (still subject to minor linguistic amendments) of the five Specific Programmes can be found under:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/documents_en.html#sp

New Commission Communication: “More research for Europe. Towards 3% of GDP”

On 11 September, the European Commission published a Communication looking into Europe's under-investment in research and how to bridge it in order to reach the goals the EU has set itself with regard to R&D investment.

Indeed the EU would like to reach an average investment in R&D of 3% of GDP by 2010. Two thirds of this amount should be covered by private sector investment. The current average investment in R&D in the EU & candidate countries amounts to 1.76% of GDP and private sector investment represents 56% of the total.

In order to reach these targets, the Communication identifies the different areas where concerted actions would be needed. These include:

- the supply of human resources,
- a strong public research base,
- a dynamic entrepreneurship culture,
- adequate systems of Intellectual Property Rights,
- research and innovation- friendly regulations and competition rules,
- supportive financial markets, macro-economic stability and
- favourable fiscal conditions.

Objectives to be pursued in each of the above areas have been sketched. The Commission is now looking to engage in a discussion and consultation process with European institutions, Member States, regions, industry and other interested parties in order to identify actions to be taken to reach these objectives. As a result, an orientation report will be presented by the Commission to the 2003 Spring European Council. Depending on its conclusions, the Commission will then propose a set of prioritised actions which would be supported through the method of open co-ordination.

Commission Communication: “More research for Europe. Towards 3% of GDP” COM(2002)499:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/pdf/com3percent_en.pdf

Supporting document by the European Commission containing relevant data and statistics:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/pdf/staffwp3percent_en.pdf

Commission to publish research policy papers in October

During the month of October 2002, the European Commission is expected to publish Communications on the following topics:

- 1) Bioresearch in ERA (Commissioner Busquin)
- 2) ERA beyond FP6: new perspectives (Commissioner Busquin)

A Communication on “Linking the Bologna and Lisbon processes: Towards a European knowledge area” (Commissioners Busquin and Reding) has been postponed to early 2003 as other Directorate Generals such as Information Society and Competition were looking at a possible inclusion of their perspectives into this document.

More information will follow as soon as these papers are published.

What exactly is “excellence” and where are its limits?

For obvious reasons, no funding agency is interested in funding low quality research. And indeed, “excellence” has been one of the key evaluation criteria in all research programmes, either implicitly or also on an explicit level. However, as the authors of a recent paper published by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies in Seville argue, there will be a point when considerations other than excellence will have to be included. An “excellence-only approach” will create an increasingly smaller base to fund, i.e. it will tend not to promote the kind of diversity that may be necessary to foster innovation. In contrast, in a “portfolio approach” the

funding is spread widely, with the understanding that there will be failures and that the benefits from large-scale successful results will fund the failures. This would be, so the authors claim, a small price to maintain diversity in the range of subjects.

This line of reasoning is particularly relevant for the establishment of the new Networks of Excellence in FP6. The IPTS study strongly argues for a flexible organisation which would make them responsive to emerging research areas and open to newcomers.

<http://www.jrc.es/pages/iptsreport/vol66/english/ITP1E666.html>

Report on benchmarking of scientific productivity

Apart from setting the goal for the EU to become “the most dynamic knowledge-based society” by 2010, the Council meeting in Lisbon in 2000 called for a “new open method of coordination” of RTD policies. As one of the core activities, the first benchmarking exercises of RTD policies was launched in order to compare processes and performances, identify best practices, and establish a continuous process of mutual learning.

Five final reports have now been published and one of them focuses on scientific productivity. Keeping in mind that “scientific publications and patents are only intermediate outputs of research” and that their measurements “is a partial proxy for the achievement of broader goals in the advancement of knowledge”, the very precise, thought- and carefully written report states some interesting findings:

- In absolute numbers, the EU represents the largest source of scientific publications, ahead of the USA and Japan.
- In publications per inhabitant, the US are in the lead, ahead of Japan and the EU. The gap between the US and the EU has almost halved between 1995 and 1999.
- In citations per scientific publication, the US is ahead of the EU and Japan.
- In US patents per money spent in business, the EU lags behind the US and Japan. In “triad patents” (patents held in the US, EU and Japan) however, which is a more appropriate indicator for comparison, some European countries (Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands) outperform Japan and the US, while the UK and France follow Japan but are still ahead of the US.
- The number of patents is highly dependent on the sectorial composition of national industries, so that it is not possible to assess whether inter-country differences in the ratio of patents to business R&D expenditure are due to differences in the propensity of patent or to differences in the S&T productivity without taking into account the different specialisation pattern of these countries.

Furthermore, the report makes internal comparisons of S&T productivity of EU countries, and summaries results of benchmarking EU infrastructures, public research systems, and industry-science relations.

All five benchmarking reports can be downloaded from CORDIS:

<http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/era-developments/benchmarking.htm>

“Human resources in RTD” (including attractiveness of S&T professions), Final report, August 2002: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/bench_0802.pdf

“The Impact of RTD on Competitiveness and Employment (IRCE)”, Final report, August 2002: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/bench_irce_0802.pdf

“Public and private investments in R&D”, Final report, June 2002: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/bench_ppi_0602.pdf

“Benchmarking the Promotion of RTD culture and Public Understanding of Science”, Final report, July 2002: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/bench_pus_0702.pdf

Annexes: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/bench_pusannexes_0702.pdf

“Benchmarking S&T Productivity”, Final report, June 2002: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/bench_stp_0602.pdf

Re-organisation of DG Research

In time before the launch of FP6, DG Research has completed an internal reorganisation to reflect the structure of the coming programme. The changes can be followed in each of the Directorates. Some of the substantial changes: The Unit "Research and SMEs" has moved from the Directorate A to Directorate B, "Structuring ERA", and is now headed by Xabier Goenaga. And the Directorate "Science and society" gained a sector dealing with "Young people and science".

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/research/pdf/organisation_en.pdf

Greek Presidency already has plans for research policy

Although Greece will only take over the EU Presidency from Denmark on 1 January 2003, it seems to have already chosen its priorities in the field of research and development policy.

According to Research Europe (nr. 126), these will be:

- a) Promotion of the European Research Area (ERA). The role of EU institutions as well as that of the public and private sector should be strengthened in this perspective. The opening of national R&D programmes, the development of pan-European organisations such as Eureka as well as discussion on the rules on bioethics will also be high on the agenda.
- b) Promotion of private investment in research and innovation. This is in line with the EU's goal to increase investment in research in order to reach 3% of EU GDP by 2010 (see article above).
- c) Promotion of the R&D cooperation with Western Balkan countries.

◆ 6th Framework Programme

Call for Expression of Interest: publication of Commission reports and Eols

On 2 October, the European Commission published the much-awaited reports on the analysis of the Expressions of Interest.

If the "General Introduction" report gives only a short methodological and statistical overview of the exercise, the reports concerning the different thematic areas can give some very useful information with regard to the preparation of FP6 projects.

The structure and content of the thematic analyses vary greatly but most start off with a general part with comments and statistics about the national and institutional origin of the Eols, the type of instruments and the thematic breakdown within the priority area.

For certain priority areas, the analysis goes in detail into specific research topics which are considered "ready for possible implementation" or which are considered "mature" for the new instruments without being quite ready for implementation. This type of formulation makes quite clear which topics are likely to be included in the first calls of FP6 as well as demonstrates the importance given to the Eol exercise by certain priority areas. This pattern is especially clear in the priorities 1 (Genomics and Biotechnology), 4 (Aeronautics and Space), 6.1 (Sustainable Energy Systems - Medium and Longer Term), 6.3 (Global Change and Ecosystems), Nuclear Research, and in priority 7 (Citizens and Governance) to a certain extent.

The report on Eols in the field of IST shows a different approach and format – it is 63 pages long. The analysis is very detailed and far-reaching and brings together the submitted Eols into clusters of research topics naming how many Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence were submitted for each of these thematically organised clusters. This illustrates the will of the Commission as well as the need for the researchers to aggregate their ideas and preliminary project proposals as "only a small fraction of those submitting Eols will be funded under FP6" (report on Global Change and Ecosystems).

Most reports also give useful information about the research topics which the Commission was missing in the research community's response and the improvements required with a view to the proposals in the first calls. Other patterns that stand out from the analysis are the lack of inclusion and participation of industry, in some fields, and SMEs as well as the low percentage of "mature" Eols received (20-25% on average).

The reports on the results of the analysis of the Expressions of Interest can be found under:
<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-analysis.htm>

Simultaneously, the Commission launched a website where individual Eols can be searched and consulted. Although this database should contain "all the complete Eols (...) unless the submitters have requested otherwise", it can only give a partial view of the readiness of the scientific community. There are different reasons for that: a) about 20% of Eol submitters asked for their Eol not to be published, b) some research groups decided purposefully not to submit Eols and c) some Eols were "lost" in the publication process.

In such cases, submitters had the possibility, until 4 October, to have their Eol added to the database. This possibility was, of course, only available for submitters who had submitted their Eol before the closing of the call and whose Eols were considered "complete". After 4 October, submitters not finding their Eol in the database are invited to use the Cordis Partnersearch Service. Update of the Eols as well as the addition of the up to five pages of supplementary information should be completed by 18 October.

Individual Eols can be accessed and searched under the following address:
http://eoi.cordis.lu/search_form.cfm

Note: All statistics and searches relating to countries are based on the country of the coordinator only. For this reason, this data is not sufficient to assess the overall participation by a single country. This is especially relevant for Switzerland since it is not clear whether Swiss researchers will be able to coordinate projects from the beginning of FP6.

Rules for participation

After going through the European Parliament on 3 July 2002, it was once expected that the "Rules for Participation" would be adopted by the Council even before the summer break. Then the planned date was 23 September. And now we are still waiting for this last formal step, but it can't take long, we hope. Still, the latest version as of 30 September can be downloaded from the web.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/pdf/rules_en.pdf

First calls postponed to 17 December

As has become known from different (and usually very reliable) sources, the first calls in FP6 have been postponed. Whereas they had been expected to come out on 30 November, the scheduled date is now 17 December 2002.

Organisation of Work Programme(s) for FP6

There will only be one Work Programme for the entire FP6. This will include an introduction and general section on application, evaluation, etc., and specific technical sections for the thematic priorities and horizontal topics. Practical issues for proposers will also be collected and explained in the "Guide for Proposers".

Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence: more details available

One of the innovative dimensions in FP6 are the "new instruments", i.e. the Integrated Projects and the Networks of Excellence. On 5 August, the Commission launched revised editions of the working papers explaining these instruments in more detail. In addition, the Commission has

produced documents both on the “traditional” instruments, i.e. the Specific Targeted Research Projects, and a general introduction into the different ways of organising and funding research projects in FP6.

The related PowerPoint presentations are currently not available, but updated versions are expected for some time in October.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/networks-ip.html>

Conférence de lancement du 6e Programme-cadre à Bruxelles: programme détaillé

Du 11 au 13 novembre 2002, la Commission européenne organisera une grande conférence de lancement du 6^e Programme-cadre à Bruxelles. Le programme détaillé ainsi que les horaires exacts de la manifestation sont maintenant disponibles à l'adresse suivante :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/detailed-programme_en.html

Une vue d'ensemble ainsi qu'un format « imprimable » se trouvent sous:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/programme_en.html

Pour toutes informations générales, inscription ainsi que la liste des stands présents lors de la conférence : http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html

European Parliament: report on the state of research in applicant countries

On 7 October, the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (ITRE) adopted an own-initiative report on “the state of research in applicant countries and measures needed to ensure their full participation in the framework programme”.

This report by the German conservative Jürgen Zimmerling is based on the recognition that research systems in applicant countries have been put “under enormous strain” by the transition to market economies as well as the fact that up to twelve applicant countries are expected to have become EU Member States by the end of FP6.

In a resolution, still to be adopted by the Plenary, the rapporteur looks at a number of measures to be taken in order to allow applicant countries to benefit as much as possible of their association to FP6.

In the perspective of FP6, the report also identifies the benefits and the obstacles identified by applicant countries in FP5. Indeed, in a Working Document (partially reproduced as an annex to the report), Zimmerling presents the results of a survey on the applicant countries' own assessment of FP5 and expectations for FP6. This survey, which was addressed to the relevant ministries in the applicant countries, gives an interesting overview of the strengths identified in their FP5 participation as well as their opinion on FP6 priorities and instruments. This document also gives concise information on the cooperation of Joint Research Centres (JRCs) and applicant countries as well as on their national policies on women and science.

The survey makes clear that FP6 priorities and the new instruments are often judged not ideal for the applicant countries, which were not involved in the formal, i.e. institutional, decision-making of FP6. Instead, opinions and national positions could be voiced through such bodies as CREST or Committees where applicant states have an observatory status.

The report, as adopted by ITRE, will be available shortly under:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/itre_home.htm

The Working Document is available under:

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/itre/20020910/473041en.pdf>

Draft workprogramme available

At a first informal meeting of the Programme Committee of the first Thematic Priority, HEALTH, on 11 October, Commission representatives stated that they were quite pleased with the outcome of the EoI exercise in their field. Consistent with the overall statistics on all seven priorities, approx. two thirds of the proposals suggested an Integrated Project, the other third a Network of Excellence. Only 4% of submitters came from industry, which was clearly lower than expected. To reach the aim of allocating 15% of the budget on SME, a strong driving force will have to be found and created.

The workprogramme is currently only available as a draft version, but it is obviously strongly based on the EoI handed in to the Commission. The first action line, “Fundamental knowledge and basic tools for functional genomics in all organisms” will support research to decipher the function of genes and gene products relevant to human health and to explore their interactions with each other and with their environment. In “Application of knowledge and technologies in the field of genomics and biotechnology for health”, special attention will be given to innovation and exploitation of knowledge, in order to foster Europe’s biotechnology industry. In addition, an ethical assessment will take place during the scientific evaluation for all proposals. Research activities “related to human cloning for reproductive purposes”, “intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable”, or “intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or stem cell procurement” will not be funded throughout FP6. The action line “Application-oriented genomic approaches to medical knowledge and technologies” will concentrate exclusively on a genomic approach through all relevant organisms, with an emphasis on bringing basic knowledge through to clinical application. In “Combating cancer”, multi-disciplinary research, including clinical trials, is supported, aimed at the development of improved patient-oriented strategies of combating cancer. The action line dealing with “communicable diseases linked to poverty” also includes the EDCTP (see below). It aims at developing new candidate drugs for pre-clinical and early human testing, and at establishing a clinical trials programme to support phase II and III clinical trials.

Throughout the priority, 80-90% of the budget is earmarked for the new instruments (except the first call of the last action line, which will only fund new instruments), and it is envisaged that only 1 project using a new instrument will be funded for each topic. The restricted funding will lead to competition both within and between topics, i.e. some suggested topics will not be funded.

Improved coordination in cancer research

Cancer is the second main cause of death in Europe, and cancer research has been identified as a priority in FP6. To discuss and find ways of better integrating and coordinating cancer research in Europe, the Commission and the European Parliament organised a conference “Towards greater coherency in European cancer research” in Brussels on 19 September, 2002. In front of an audience of approx. 250 representatives from medical professions, governments, patients organisations, foundations and industry, Commissioner Busquin emphasised that European cancer research is an area of excellence characterised by quality research but hampered by structural weaknesses.

FP6 will be the first framework programme explicitly to cover clinical research. The underlying idea is to enable researchers and clinicians to collaborate in Networks of Excellence or

Integrated Projects, thereby making it possible for patients to profit earlier and faster from scientific progress.

Clinical trials in the field of poverty-linked diseases

The European Commission has published its proposal to fund a 600 million € programme combating communicable diseases linked to poverty. AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis alone account for 5 million deaths every year, with 95% of these in the developing world. The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, EDCTP, is the first pilot scheme for the application of Article 169 of the EU Treaty, which specifically allows the Community to make provision, in implementing the Framework Programme, for participation in research and development programmes undertaken by several Member States. Adoption will need co-decision process, and the Commission proposal will now be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament.

Within EDCTP, the national clinical research programmes can be combined to provide a common platform to develop new medicines and vaccines against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The Commission will come up for 200 million €, the participating states will jointly contribute 200 million €, and the third 200 million will be provided by other donors and industry.

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/documents_r5/natdir0000022/s_1859009_20020903_094048_IC021859en.pdf

Andrea Degen is the Swiss National Contact Point (NCP) for this thematic priority: life.ncp@euresearch.ch

◆ Information society technologies

IST draft workprogramme for 2003-2004

SwissCore has had access to a first version of the draft workprogramme for IST in FP6 (2003-2004). Dated from 16 September 2002, this workprogramme defines the priorities and instruments that will be used for calls during these two years. This version is only a preliminary one and the final version should be available at the end of November.

Based on the work of the IST Programme Committee, the IST Advisory Group, the response to the call for Expressions of Interest as well as other preparatory activities, the workprogramme presents a clear planning for FP6:

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006
Indicative budget (Mio Euros)	835	891	935	964
Calls per year	2 calls, covering 2003 and 2004 budgets	One call, drawing on 2005 budget	Not Specified	Not Specified

With regard to the new instruments, it is expected that 70% of the budget for the 2003 and 2004 calls for proposals will be devoted to Integrated Projects (IP) and Networks of Excellence (NoE). These calls will also be open for the use of other instruments. It is expected by the European Commission that “for each strategic objective a limited number of IP and NoE (on average 2 or 3) will be funded”.

The first call for proposals, which should be open for all instruments, will concentrate on the following strategic objective:

- Pushing the limits of CMOS, preparing for post-CMOS
- Microsystems
- Broadband Access for All

- Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G
- Towards a global dependability and security framework
- Multimodal Interfaces
- Semantic-based knowledge systems
- Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms
- Networked organizations, businesses and governments
- e Safety of road and air transport
- e Health
- Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage

The workprogramme also defines in detail each of these objectives. This workprogramme will be reviewed yearly. Interesting information can also be found in the report on the IST Expressions of Interest: ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp6/docs/eoi_analysis_112.pdf

More information can also be obtained from Patrick Furrer, National Contact Point for IST: ist.ncp@euresearch.ch

Nouveau Directeur-général à la DG INFSO

Depuis le 1^{er} juillet, la Direction générale de la Société de l'Information (INFSO) a un nouveau directeur : l'italien Fabio Colasanti. Economiste de formation, celui-ci a précédemment été Directeur général de la DG Entreprise ainsi que chef de cabinet du Président de la Commission Romano Prodi.

Le nouvel organigramme de la DG INFSO (en date du 1^{er} septembre 2002) et disponible sous : http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/directory/pdf/organi_en.pdf

More information can also be obtained from Patrick Furrer, Swiss National Contact Point for IST:

ist.ncp@euresearch.ch

◆ Nanotechnologies and nanosciences

Nanotechnology Industrial platform to be launched in 2003

At a conference on nanotechnology in Copenhagen on 7 October, Commissioner Busquin announced that the Commission is planning to launch a "Nanotechnology Industrial Platform" in 2003. This forum should gather all major nanotechnology stakeholders at EU level. The aim will be to allow for more cross-sector, interdisciplinary and cross-industry approaches on a scale broader than the national research environments. More details should be published in the spring of 2003.

The Swiss NCP for this thematic priority is Stefan Müller: growth.ncp@euresearch.ch

◆ Food quality and safety

Inaugural meeting of the European Food Safety Authority

In the White Paper on Food Safety, which was published in January 2000, the setting up of a European Food Safety Authority, EFSA, was suggested, as a reaction to the severe food crises and problems of public trust in food production in the years before. Following this proposal, the Council of Ministers adopted the necessary regulations at the beginning of 2002, and a tight schedule towards the start of its operation as early as possible still in 2002 was drawn up. And indeed, on 18 / 19 September 2002, the Inaugural Meeting of the management board of EFSA took place in Brussels in the presence of David Byrne, Commissioner for Food Safety, and on 2 October 2002, Geoffrey Podger was nominated as new Executive Director.

The primary responsibility of the Authority is to provide independent scientific advice on all matters with a direct or indirect impact on food safety. In order to avoid a repetition of past failures to identify emerging risks in one field that may have an impact on another (e.g. as in the case with BSE which emerged initially only as an animal health problem), the Authority has been given a very wide brief. It will cover all stages of food production and supply, from primary production to the safety of animal feed, right through to the supply of food to consumers. EFSA is a Community body with its own legal identity, funded from the Community budget but operating independently from the Community institutions. Although its main “customer” will be the Commission, it will be open to respond to scientific questions from the European Parliament and the Member States and it can also initiate scientific investigations on its own behalf.
<http://www.efsa.eu.int>

The NCP for “Food quality and safety” is Andrea Degen: life.ncp@euresearch.ch

◆ **Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems**

New High Level Group on hydrogen and fuel cells

On 10 September, Commissioner Philippe Busquin announced that a High Level Group on hydrogen and fuel cells be set up. The aim of the group is to foster the development and use of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Members will consist of representatives from European research centres, fuel cell systems and component producers, energy companies and utilities, automotive companies, and public transport bodies. The High Level Group should, in collaboration with the Commission, develop a consistent strategy for fuel cell and hydrogen research at EU level, thus achieving critical mass and improving the effectiveness of EU support.

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=77242002-10-2&DOC=2&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:18927&CALLER=EN_NEWS

The NCP for “Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems” is Giorgio Travaglini: eesd.ncp@euresearch.ch

◆ **Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society**

Commission prepared comprehensive workprogramme

SwissCore gained access to the draft workprogramme for the thematic priority “Citizens and Governance in a knowledge-based society”. Dated from 8 October, the document was apparently already in its 7th internal version (!).

The workprogramme includes detailed information on the different research topics, the budget breakdown for each call as well as evaluation criteria and procedures for the different instruments.

The research topics for the 7th priority as described in the Specific Programmes have been redistributed into 4 “Research Areas” (RA):

- 1) Knowledge and its role in economy and society
- 2) Building a European knowledge-based society in line with European social objectives: options, choices and variety of paths
- 3) Key challenges for the European Union: integration, enlargement, governance and security
- 4) The citizen in Europe: perspectives on identity, culture and history

For each RA, subtopics that were identified as “mature” in the call for Eol will be present in the first calls.

For the budgetary years 2003-2004, the calls should be distributed as follows:

Call	Launch	Deadline	Budget (Mio. Euro)	Instruments	Evaluation
<u>First Call</u>					
First deadline	17.12.02	19.03.03	55	NoE, IP, STRP, CoA	1 stage (for all)
Second deadline	17.12.02	15.12.03	44	NoE, IP	2 stage
<u>Second Call</u>	15.11.04	15.03.05	110	NoE, IP, STRP, CoA	2 stage 1 stage

Integrated Projects: IP

Networks of Excellence: NoE

Specific Targeted Projects: STRP

Co-ordinated Actions: CoA

With regard to the first call the following topics have temporarily been identified:

First Call, First Deadline, Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects:

Research Area 1:

Science and technology in the knowledge based society

Research Area 2:

Changes in work in the knowledge based society

Migration trends and the dynamics of integration as challenges

Research Area 3:

Multilevel governance, democracy and new policy instruments

New approaches to security and the role of Europe

First Call, Second Deadline, Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects:

Research Area 1:

Understanding knowledge

Knowledge dynamics and economic development in Europe and its regions

Research Area 2:

Societal trends in the knowledge based society and their implications for the quality of life

Social cohesion in a knowledge based society

Promoting the knowledge based society through life-long-learning

Research Area 3:

Deepening and widening of the European Union: lessons from the past and visions of the future

Global governance, regulatory frameworks and the role of the European Union

Public interest: conception, regulation and implementation

Towards a European contract law

Research Area 4:

Citizenship and identities in Europe

Cultural dialogue and European society

New perspectives on European History

Other topics for research projects using the "old" instruments have been identified separately. Indicatively, the Commission also indicated that the expected financial contribution to the different instruments will be in the following range:

- NoE and IP: 3-5 Mio Euros over a period of up to 5 years
- STRP: 0.7-1.5 Mio Euros for a period of up to 3 years
- Co-ordination action: 0.3 – 0.8 Mio Euros for a period of up to 3 years

Overall NoEs and IPs should account for approximately 65% of the funding distributed in the first calls. This proportion should increase during FP6.

The final version of this workprogramme will be available at the end of November 2002. Interesting information can also be found in the analysis report of the Eols of the 7th priority.

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◆ Specific measures in support of international cooperation

International cooperation activities in FP6

The Swiss research community has proven over the years that successful participation in the Framework programmes is possible with the status of a "third country which may participate without Community funding". Still, the possibilities to integrate research partners from another "third country" in a research project are often not well known.

A number of countries - Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, India, Russia, South Africa and USA - have Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements with the EU which allow them to participate, on a self-financing basis, in the parts of the Framework programmes covered by the agreement. For more details: <http://www.cordis.lu/inco2/src/research.htm#iii>

In the following article, we have invited Ms. Paola de Rose, Science & Technology Counsellor at the Mission of Canada to the EU, to write about Canada's participation in FP5 and its expectations for FP6.

Partnering with Canada in FP6

Partnership between Canada and Europe is nothing new. Our transatlantic history is long and interwoven, with science and technology forming an ever-growing part of the picture. R&D partnerships thrive at academic, private and public levels, amongst all EU member, associate and candidate states and Canadian provinces. In fact, some 35% of Canada's international collaborative research involves European partners.

The mutual advantages of combining strong science and strong partnerships are evident. Consequently, both Canada and the EU seek to expand research collaboration, especially where large-scale projects and multinational consortia are concerned.

Canadian researchers can participate fully in consortia supported by the European Union's Sixth Framework Program (FP6). This is facilitated by the 1995 Canada-EU Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology, which also enables Europeans to participate in research programs in Canada. The Agreement covers the full range of scientific disciplines, and a parallel agreement facilitates cooperation in nuclear research.

Over 70 FP4 projects involved Canadians, and preliminary statistics indicate that 75 FP5 consortia involve Canadian partners. To facilitate even greater partnering, there will be a strong Canadian presence at the FP6 Launch Conference in Brussels, November 11-13, 2002. A participant's session entitled "Canada and Europe: Building R&D Partnerships under FP6" will take place from 16:00 -19:00, November 12, 2002, in Room 1102F at the conference site. A "Partner with Canada" booth will operate in the exhibitor hall.

Partnering has many benefits and involves certain challenges. The main challenge is that Canadians must obtain Canadian funding to support their end of the partnership, while the Europeans seek European (eg. FP6) funding. Thus the research proposal must pass through peer review on both sides of the Atlantic. Both partners must obtain the needed funds, at the

appropriate time, to enable them to move forward with their collaboration.

When they do, each side gains exposure to ideas, knowledge, technologies, facilities, and most importantly, people. The synergy means that more gets done for the same cost. Indeed, sometimes more gets done for less! Duplication is reduced, complementary research initiatives become more than the sum of their parts, and the critical mass of experts create a climate of intellectual dynamism that fuels innovation.

FP6 and the European Research Area aim to increasing partnering amongst EU member states, and between Europe and the rest of the world. Canada is a dynamic G8 nation, and offers particularly good partnering opportunities. Canada's research strengths complement the FP6 thematic priorities: information and communication technologies, biotechnology, environmental technologies, and aerospace. Alongside a solid R&D infrastructure and a pool of world-class scientists and engineers, Canada has novel and dynamic approaches to S&T networking and partnerships. Innovative partnering is the only option! The vast size of the country, coupled with the relatively small population, have necessitated the development of what CORDIS News calls "a Canadian method of bringing budgets, people and priorities together". See the CORDIS News series of on-line articles about Canadian R&D starting from September 25, 2002.

In the past decade, the "Canadian method" has given rise to the Networks of Centres of Excellence (www.nce.gc.ca) which span the nation and the realms of science; to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (www.innovation.ca) which will have precipitated a capital investment in research infrastructure of over \$9.0 billion by 2010; and to the Canadian Institute for Health Research (www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca) and Genome Canada (www.genomecanada.ca), which consolidate and stimulate research funding in these key areas.

These new initiatives build upon the solid foundation created by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (www.nserc.ca), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (www.sshrc.ca), a wealth of government, university and corporate research laboratories (strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_innov/engdoc/homepage.html), and noted expertise in technology transfer.

To learn more about the possibilities of partnering with Canada's S&T community, visit us at the FP6 Launch, or consult the S&T website of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (www.infoexport.gc.ca/science), where a new Canada-EU section will be operational in late October, 2002. The new section will expand upon the snapshot presented in this article, giving a complete overview of the broad range of Canadian S&T players, and the distinctive feature of the Canadian S&T system: partnerships.

For further information contact:

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Chile signs a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement with the EU

On 23 September 2002, a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was signed between the EU and Chile. This agreement, which will enter into force in time for the start of FP6, will initially focus on the following issues: genomics, biotechnology and health, IST, food safety, sustainable growth and climate change.

First glance at the draft workprogramme for INCO in FP6

SwissCore has had access to a (very) preliminary version of the workprogramme for international cooperation activities in FP6 (ex-INCO). In this document dated 7 October 2002, the Commission outlines its objectives and planned activities for the years 2003-2006.

Three sets of measures to encourage international cooperation in FP6 should function complementarily:

- 1) An international dimension integrated to the different thematic priorities
- 2) Dedicated international cooperation activities, as outlined below
- 3) Actions to support the international mobility of researchers

With regard to the specific international cooperation activities, thematic research actions are grouped according to four geographical groups.

Specific research actions for Russia and the other New Independent States will concentrate on:

- 1) Environmental protection
- 2) Adjusting the system of industrial production and communication
- 3) Health safety

For the Mediterranean countries, the research actions will cover the following:

- 1) Integrated management of limited water resources
- 2) Hydric risks and environmental security
- 3) Protection and conservation of cultural heritage
- 4) Renewable energies for specific Mediterranean needs
- 5) Health

Research actions aimed at the Western Balkan countries will be concentrating on:

- 1) Environment and energy
- 2) Health

With regard to developing countries, the research topics will be:

- 1) Health and public health
- 2) Rational use of natural resources
- 3) Food security

Multilateral coordination activities will also be encouraged in this area, including the setting up of a forum for international scientific and technological cooperation and the encouragement of trans-regional dialogue on R&D.

As it is clear from the above description, the current version of this workprogramme only delivers preliminary information on international cooperation activities in FP6. A final version should be available at the end of November 2002.

The Swiss National Contact Point for international cooperation activities in the FP is Olivier Kuettel: inco.ncp@euresearch.ch

◆ Publications

New website on EU-funded agricultural research

Under http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/agriculture/index_en.html the EU has launched a new page giving information and advice on EU-funded agricultural research. It gives a comprehensive overview of EU agricultural research including: general and political issues, management of the programmes, funded projects, events and publications.

JRC activities: annual report 2001

During the year 2001, the Joint Research Centres (JRCs) went through a phase of reorganisation. Research institutes were restructured and nuclear-safety and other energy-related activities were concentrated on the site of Petten (NL), which brought down the number

of centers from eight to seven. Activities were refocused on a smaller number of research topics. Other changes such as more cooperation with outside partners also took place. These measures were the results of an evaluation that had taken place in 2000-2001. The Annual Report for 2001 is now available and describes their implementation. It can be found under:

http://www.jrc.cec.eu.int/default.asp?sldSz=more_information

Growth projects funded in FP5: synopses of projects published

The Commission has just published two synopses of projects which have been funded under FP5 in the following fields of the Growth programme:

- 1) Land transport and marine technologies (ISBN: 92-894-2077-4)
- 2) Measurement and testing and support for research infrastructures (ISBN: 92-894-2077-0)

The publication includes information on the objectives, work plan, expected results, budget and partners of each project.

Copies can be ordered from the Office for official publications of the European Communities quoting the above ISBN numbers.

http://publications.eu.int/general/en/salesagents_en.htm