

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and Strengthening the Foundations of the European Research Area'

(2004/C 267/06)

1. In accordance with Decision No 1513/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2002 concerning the sixth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002 to 2006) ⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (2002 to 2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as 'the specific programme').

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (referred to as 'the Commission') adopted on 9 December 2002 a work programme ⁽³⁾ (referred to as 'the work programme') setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities of the specific programme, and the timetable for implementation.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Regulation (EC) No 2321/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in, and for the dissemination of research results for, the implementation of the European Community sixth framework programme (2002 to 2006) ⁽⁴⁾ (referred to as 'the rules for participation'), proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted under the terms of calls for proposals.

2. The present call for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as 'the call') comprises the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the Annex. The Annex indicates in particular, the date of closure for the

submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions, an indicative date for the completion of the evaluations, the indicative budget, the instruments and the areas concerned, the evaluation criteria for the evaluation of proposals for indirect RTD actions, the minimum number of participants, and any applicable restrictions.

3. Natural or legal persons fulfilling the conditions stated in the rules for participation and that do not fall under any of the exclusion cases in the rules for participation or in Article 114(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾ (referred to as 'the proposers') are invited to submit to the Commission proposals for indirect RTD actions subject to the conditions in the rules for participation and in the call concerned being fulfilled.

The conditions of participation of the proposers will be verified within the framework of the negotiation of the indirect RTD action. Before that however, proposers will have signed a declaration stating that they do not fall under any of the cases given by Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation. They will also have given the Commission the information listed in Article 173(2) of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁶⁾.

The European Community has adopted an equal opportunities policy and, on this basis, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals for indirect RTD actions or participate in the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 4789, as amended by C(2003) 577, C(2003) 955, C(2003) 1952, C(2003) 3543, C(2003) 3555, C(2003) 4609, C(2003) 5183, C(2004) 433, C(2004) 2002, C(2004) 2727, C(2004) 3324 and C(2004) 4178, all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

4. The Commission makes available to proposers a guide for proposers relating to the call which contains information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. The Commission also makes available Guidelines on proposal evaluation and selection procedures⁽¹⁾. These guides and guidelines, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the call, can be obtained from the Commission at the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
Internet address: www.cordis.lu/fp6

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are invited to be submitted only as an electronic proposal via the web-based electronic proposal submission system (EPSS⁽²⁾). In exceptional cases however, a coordinator may request permission from the Commission to submit on paper in advance of a call deadline. This should be done by writing to one of the following addresses:

European Commission
Directorate General RTD – Unit A1
B-1049 Brussels,

or e-mail address: rtd-policies@cec.eu.int. The request must be accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought. Proposers wishing to use paper submission take the responsibility for ensuring that such requests for exemption and the associated procedures are completed in time for them to meet the call deadline.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and then submitted on-line.

The EPSS software tool (for off-line or on-line usage) is available via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu. Proposals for

indirect RTD actions may then be submitted on-line via the same website.

Further details on the various proposal submission procedures are given in Annex J to the Guidelines on proposal evaluation and selection procedures.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete, illegible or contain viruses will be excluded.

Versions of proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on a removable electronic storage medium (e.g. CD-ROM, diskette), by e-mail or by fax will be excluded.

6. Proposals for indirect RTD actions have to reach the Commission at the latest on the closure date and at the time specified in the call concerned. Proposals for indirect RTD actions arriving after this date and time will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions not satisfying the conditions relating to the minimum number of participants indicated in the call concerned will be excluded.

This also applies regarding any additional eligibility criteria given in the work programme.

7. In the case of successive submissions of the same proposal for an indirect RTD action, the Commission will examine the last version received before the closure date and time specified in the call concerned.

8. If foreseen in the relevant call, proposals for indirect RTD actions could be taken up in the framework of a future evaluation.

9. In all correspondence relating to a call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal for an indirect RTD action), proposers are invited to cite the relevant call identifier.

⁽¹⁾ C(2003) 883 of 27 March 2003, as last amended by C(2004) 3337 of 1 September 2004.

⁽²⁾ The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.

ANNEX

1. **Specific programme:** 'Integrating and strengthening the ERA'.
2. **Activity:** Specific activity covering policy-orientated research under 'Policy support and anticipating scientific and technological needs'.
3. **Call title:** Scientific Support to Policies.
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-SSP-4.
5. **Date of publication:** 30 October 2004.
6. **Closure date:** 1 February 2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. **Total indicative budget:**

Instrument (1)	EUR (millions)
STREP, CA and SSA	77,8

(1) STREP = Specific targeted research project; CA = Coordination action; SSA = Specific support action.

8. **Areas called and instruments:**

Areas under priority 'Sustainable management of Europe's natural resources'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative Community contribution (EUR million)
8.1.B.1.1. Modernisation and sustainability of agriculture and forestry, including their multifunctional role in order to ensure the sustainable development and promotion of rural areas	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9,	STREP	12
	6	CA or SSA	
	4, 5, 10	SSA	
8.1.B.1.2. Tools and assessment methods for sustainable agriculture and forestry management	1	STREP	5
	6	CA	
	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	CA or SSA	
8.1.B.1.3. Modernisation and sustainability of fisheries, including aquaculture-based production systems.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12	STREP	16,3
	10,11	CA	
	13	SSA	
8.1.B.1.4. New and more environment friendly production methods to improve animal health and welfare including research on animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever and development of marker vaccines	1	STREP	1,9
	2	CA	
	3,4	SSA	
8.1.B.1.5. Environmental assessment (soil, water, air, noise, including the effects of chemical substances)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	STREP	10,4
8.1.B.1.6. Assessment of environmental technologies for support of policy decisions, in particular concerning effective but low-cost technologies in the context of fulfilling environmental legislation	1, 2	STREP	1,1

Areas under priority 'Providing health, security and opportunity to the people of Europe'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative Community contribution (EUR million)
8.1.B.2.1. Health determinants and the provision of high quality and sustainable health care services and pension systems (in particular in the context of ageing and demographic change)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
8.1.B.2.2. Public health issues, including epidemiology contributing to disease prevention and responses to emerging rare and communicable diseases, allergies, procedures for secure blood and organ donations, non-animal test methods	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
8.1.B.2.3. The impact of environmental issues on health (including safety at work and methods for risk assessment and the mitigation of risks of natural disasters to people)	1, 2, 3	CA	2,75
8.1.B.2.4. Quality of life issues relating to handicapped/disabled people (including equal access facilities)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
8.1.B.2.5. Comparative research of factors underlying migration and refugee flows, including illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings	1, 2, 3, 4	STREP or CA	4
8.1.B.2.6. Improved means to anticipate crime trends and causes, and to assess the effectiveness of crime prevention policies; assessment of new challenges related to illicit drug use	1, 2, 3	STREP or CA	3
8.1.B.2.7. Issues related to civil protection (including biosecurity and protection against risks arising from terrorist attacks), and crisis management	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	CA	2,75
	6, 7	SSA	
Areas under priority 'Underpinning the economic potential and cohesion of a larger and more integrated European Union'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative Community contribution (EUR million)
8.1.B.3.1. Underpinning European integration, sustainable development, competitiveness and trade policies (including improved means to assess economic development and cohesion)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

Areas under priority 'Underpinning the economic potential and cohesion of a larger and more integrated European Union'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative Community contribution (EUR million)
8.1.B.3.2. The development of tools, indicators and operational parameters for assessing sustainable transport and energy systems performance (economic, environmental and social)	6, 7	CA	3,5 (transport tasks 1-4) + 3 (energy tasks 5-9) = 6,5
	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9	SSA	
8.1.B.3.3. Global security analysis and validation systems for transport and research relating to accident risks and safety in mobility systems	1	CA	3,5
8.1.B.3.4. Forecasting and developing innovative policies for sustainability in the medium and long term	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	STREP	3,8
	3	CA	
8.1.B.3.5. Information society issues (such as management and protection of digital assets, and inclusive access to the information society)	1, 2, 3	STREP or SSA	1,9
8.1.B.3.6. The protection of cultural heritage and associated conservation strategies	1, 2, 3, 4	STREP	2,9
	5	SSA	
8.1.B.3.7. Improved quality, accessibility and dissemination of European statistics	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

9. **Minimum number of participants** ⁽¹⁾:

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
STREP and CA	Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC
SSA	One legal entity from a MS or AS

10. **Restriction on participation:** None.

11. **Consortium agreement:** participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are not required to conclude a consortium agreement.

12. **Evaluation procedure:**

- The evaluation shall follow a single-stage procedure.
- Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. **Evaluation criteria:** See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.

⁽¹⁾ MS = Member States of the EU; AS (incl. ACC) = associated States; ACC = associated candidate countries.

Any legal entity established in a Member State or associated State and which is made up of the requested number of participant may be the sole participant in an indirect action.

14. **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:** Evaluation results: considering the wide scope of SSP and the need to ensure coherence with thematic priorities of the work programme, evaluations will be carried out at various dates and the results are not expected to become available earlier than May 2005.

Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force in autumn 2005.
