

Invitation to Submit Expressions of Interest

An opportunity for Europe's research community to help prepare for the first calls of FP6

GUIDE FOR SUBMITTERS

Identifier: EOI.FP6.2002

1. Background

The preparation of the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 2002 to 2006 (FP6) is advancing rapidly. On 28th January 2002 the Member States reached a Common Position on European Community's FP6 and on 10th December 2001 a political agreement on the Euratom FP. On 30th January 2002 the Commission adopted modified proposals for the Specific Programmes designed to respond to the views expressed by Council and Parliament.

One of the new elements of FP6, which is essential for the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA), will be the use of new instruments for funding research, such as Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence. Integrated Projects will contribute to strengthening European competitiveness and help solve major societal problems, by mobilising a **critical mass of research and development** resources and skills existing in Europe. Networks of Excellence will contribute to strengthening European scientific and technological excellence through a better integration of **research capacities** across Europe.

Prior to the formal adoption of FP6 and the Specific Programmes, and without pre-empting the results of the legislative process, the Commission would like to consult the research community on its readiness to prepare research actions using, in particular, the new instruments for topics within the Priority Thematic Areas of Research. This will be done by way of an invitation to submit Expressions of Interest (EoI). This initiative will assist the Commission in preparing Work Programmes, as well as defining the scope of the first calls for proposals of FP6 envisaged later this year. It will also facilitate the understanding by the research community of the potential of the new instruments.

The submission of EoI is by no means obligatory. The Commission's treatment of them does not oblige the Commission to formulate any call in a particular way. Respondents may wish to optimise their chances of having a particular topic included in an early call by ensuring that their ideas are submitted as an EoI.

In order to ensure transparency - and to encourage contacts across the research community - it is intended (*unless the submitter is not in agreement*) that an abstract containing essential non-confidential information on each EoI received together with contact information will be made available at the web address given below by July 2002. The Commission's services will review all the EoIs received. An analysis of the EoI exercise will also be published at the web address given below by September 2002. This will be the principal feedback to those submitting EoI and the research community as a whole. The Commission will use the outcome of the EoI exercise when drawing up its proposals for the Work Programmes and topics to be included in the first calls for proposals.

It must be emphasised that this exercise is neither a pre-assessment of the scientific and technological quality of any subsequent proposal nor a pre-selection process for any consortium. Accordingly there will be no feedback on individual EoI.

All information relevant to the EoI exercise will be put at the following web address:

www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-instruments

While not included in this invitation, it should be noted that other instruments evolved from those used in FP5, including *specific targeted research projects* and *co-ordination actions*, will also be available to implement the priority themes. These will be addressed, when needed, in other consultation actions.

2. Invitation to Submit EoI

Following the Common Position adopted by the Council concerning the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 2002 to 2006¹, the political agreement on the corresponding Euratom programme and following the amended Commission proposal for the Specific Programmes implementing the Sixth Framework Programme², the European Commission invites the submission of EoI to participate in research actions for topics throughout the seven thematic priorities 1.1.1 to 1.1.7 of the Specific Programme Proposal – Integrating and Strengthening the ERA and thematic priorities 2.2 and 2.3 of the Specific Programme Proposal – Nuclear Energy. This invitation does not apply to the other types of activities.

The European Commission is inviting those interested in submitting proposals for “Integrated Projects” or “Networks of Excellence” (both are new instruments for FP6)

¹ Common Position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 (2002-2006) [ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/fp6_council_0102.pdf](http://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/fp6_council_0102.pdf)

² Amended proposal for a Council Decision concerning the specific programmes implementing the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities. (COM(2002) 43 final) [ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/fp6sp_amended_0102.pdf](http://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/rtd2002/docs/fp6sp_amended_0102.pdf)

to submit EoI to participate in research actions for topics that could be the subject of proposals for these two instruments on the Themes covered in *Annex 1*.

Information relating to Networks of Excellence and Integrated Projects can be found at *Annex 2*.

3. Information to be Provided and Analysis Procedure

The Commission will analyse the EoIs, assisted where necessary by experts, in order to identify the research actions ready for proposed Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence which show high relevance for Specific Programme topics and which may be used as a possible basis for the preparation of the Work Programmes and first calls. The first calls are expected to be launched in Autumn 2002. Where appropriate the Commission may modify, merge or subdivide the topics submitted.

Only research actions considered ready for implementation and of the highest relevance are likely to be included in the first calls. By this means calls can be focused and so help to avoid the high levels of over-subscription characteristic of earlier Framework Programmes.

Submitters of EoI should provide the form given in Annex 3 duly completed and a short document (in no more than 5 pages) containing the rationale for proposing the research action, the objectives, the general approach foreseen to achieve the objectives and, depending on the type of instrument chosen, addressing the following points:

Networks of Excellence:

- **NEED & RELEVANCE:** *How the proposed research activities contribute to realising the objectives of a priority thematic area and why it requires a European mobilisation of activities and resources through the means of a Network of Excellence*
- **EXCELLENCE:** *The feasibility of putting together the critical mass of resources and expertise needed to achieve the network's objectives and to be a world force on the research activities proposed*
Information required: readiness and availability of the scientific and technological excellence, multidisciplinary skills and critical mass in Europe needed to achieve the network's objectives; a list of the leading academic and industrial European research centres, and other major envisaged participants, together with a very short description of their competencies and potential role in any Network of Excellence.
- **INTEGRATION AND STRUCTURING EFFECT:** *The means by which the Network of Excellence will have a structuring and integrating effect on European research and assist in spreading European scientific excellence*
Description of the pan-European co-operation in the field and the benefits to be gained by increasing that co-operation through the use of a Network of Excellence; description of the level of contribution to the creation of the

European Research Area by showing how scientific and technological excellence can be strengthened and developed by the integration of research capacities currently existing or emerging at national or regional level.

Integrated Projects:

- **NEED & RELEVANCE:** *How the proposed research activities contribute to realising the objectives of a priority thematic area and why it requires a European mobilisation of activities and resources through the means of an Integrated Project*
- **SCALE OF AMBITION & CRITICAL MASS:** *Suitably ambitious objectives, particularly in terms of their strategic impact on reinforcing competitiveness or on solving societal problems*
Description of the strategic importance to Europe of the research activities proposed, including a justification of the timeliness of the research activities for the implementation of the Integrated Project and the critical mass in Europe needed to achieve it; demonstration of how the Integrated Project would enhance European excellence in terms of major scientific and technological advances and new knowledge.
- **INTEGRATION:** *An adequate description of the necessary integration activities (research and, as appropriate, technological development, demonstration, and training) as well as of resources needed to achieve the objectives*
Description of all activities needed to achieve the objectives (research and technological development, innovation related activities, including demonstration, training and any other actions needed) plus readiness and availability of the scientific and technological excellence, multidisciplinary skills; a list of the leading industrial and academic European research centres and other major envisaged participants, together with a very short description of their potential role.

4. Submitting EoI

Submissions of EoI are invited from those organisations or groups of organisations from the Member States, associated candidate countries and other associated states intending to form consortia (which may also include entities from third countries and international organisations) to respond to later calls for proposals with an Integrated Project or Network of Excellence.

EoI containing the information set out in Section 3 above together with the information given in **Annex 3 must be sent by e-mail** to arrive no later than 17.00-hrs Brussels time on 7 June 2002 to fp6-eoi2002@cec.eu.int. An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by e-mail.

Those wishing to submit a cross-cutting EoI which addresses topics from two or more of the Priority Thematic Areas in *Annex 1* should ensure that the Area to which the major part is addressed is clearly indicated.

In all correspondence relating to this invitation (e.g. when requesting information or submitting EoI) please make sure that you cite the relevant identifier: EOI.FP6.2002

There will also be **Help and Information Desks** (*Annex 4*).

Those organisations submitting EoIs accept the procedures and conditions as described in this invitation to submit EoIs and in the documents to which it refers

5. Publication of the Analysis of the EoI Exercise

The Commission (unless the submitter is not in agreement) will place information on submitted EoI **at the web address given in Section 1**. This will include the Title of the EoI, an abstract of each EoI together with the contact information. Submitters shall of course remain owners of the information of their EoI published on the web. An analysis of the EoI exercise will also be published at the web address given in Section 1 by September 2002. Please note that feedback on individual EoIs will not be published or sent to the submitters.

It is strongly emphasised that the submission of an EoI gives **no preference** to any proposal in subsequent calls for proposals. All proposals in response to future calls will be evaluated against published criteria that will take no account of whether or not they had been the subject of an EoI.

5. Indicative Timetable for the FP6-EoI 2002 Exercise

March	Launch Invitation to Submit an EoI and open EoI Web Site
7 June	Close of EoI Submissions at 17.00 hrs Brussels time.
June - July	Assessment of EoI
September	Publish analysis of EoI exercise