

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.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within some 4 months after the closure date.
- Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force before the end of 2004.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR INDIRECT RTD ACTIONS UNDER THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION: 'INTEGRATING AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA'

(2003/C 243/08)

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' (2002-2006)⁽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') has 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 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 the 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 being fulfilled.

⁽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 modified by C(2003) 577, C(2003) 955, C(2003) 1952, and C(2003) 3543, all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

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 the 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.

4. The Commission makes available to proposers guides for proposers relating to the call which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. These guides, as well as the work programme and other information relating to this call, can be obtained from the Commission via 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 submitted preferably in electronic format, via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS).

Within this context, proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Those prepared with the EPSS off-line version could, as an alternative, be submitted either on CD-ROM or diskette (a paper copy of the proposal for an indirect RTD action must in either case be attached).

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 also be prepared and submitted using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as 'on paper').

6. Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on CD-ROM, diskette, or paper by post must be received by the Commission at the following address, and labelled as follows:

'FP6 — Research Proposals'
Call identifier: FP6-2003-SSP-3
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels.

For deliveries by hand or by representatives (including by private courier services ⁽⁷⁾), the delivery should be to the following address, and labelled as follows:

'FP6 — Research Proposals'
Call identifier: FP6-2003-SSP-3
European Commission
Rue de Genève 1
B-1140 Brussels.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be submitted on-line via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted either on CD-ROM or on diskette which are incomplete ⁽⁸⁾, illegible ⁽⁹⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded if a complete corresponding paper version, in the same envelope, has not been supplied.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete ⁽¹⁰⁾, illegible ⁽¹¹⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on paper and which are incomplete ⁽¹²⁾ will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted by email ⁽¹³⁾ or by fax will be excluded.

⁽⁷⁾ Users of courier services that ask for the recipient's telephone number should give the following number: (32-2) 295 58 75 (Mr. J.-C. Debouvère).

⁽⁸⁾ All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).

⁽⁹⁾ Proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted in PDF ('portable document format', version 3 or higher with embedded fonts) or RTF ('rich text format').

⁽¹⁰⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹¹⁾ See footnote 9.

⁽¹²⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹³⁾ This does not include proposals for indirect RTD actions that have been submitted on-line.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

7. 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. 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 will be excluded.

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

8. 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.

Where the same proposal for an indirect RTD action is submitted on paper and in electronic format (CD-ROM, diskette, on-line), the Commission will only examine the text submitted under the electronic formats.

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

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

ANNEX

Information on the call for proposals

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:** FP6-2003-SSP-3
5. **Date of publication:** 10 October 2003
6. **Closure date(s):** 13 January 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time)
7. **Total indicative budget**

Instrument ⁽¹⁾	EUR (millions)
STREP, CA and SSA	83,1

(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 EC contribution (EUR millions)
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, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19	STREP	10
	8, 13, 14, 15	SSA	
8.1.B.1.2 Tools and assessment methods for sustainable agriculture and forestry management	1, 2, 4	SSA	3
	3, 5	STREP	
8.1.B.1.3 Modernisation and sustainability of fisheries, including aquaculture-based production systems	1, 2, 3, 6, 8	STREP	11,1
	4, 5, 7	CA	
	9	SSA	

Areas under priority 'Sustainable management of Europe's natural resources'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative EC contribution (EUR millions)
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	CA	3
	2, 3, 4	STREP	
	5	SSA	
8.1.B.1.5 Environmental assessment (soil, water, air, noise, including the effects of chemical substances)	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	STREP	10,9
	2	STREP or CA	
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, 3	STREP	2,4
Areas under priority 'Providing health, security and opportunity to the people of Europe'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative EC contribution (EUR millions)
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)	1, 4, 5	STREP	7
	2, 3	CA	
	6	SSA	
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	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	STREP	12
	5, 6	CA	
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	CA	2,3
	2, 3	STREP	
	4	SSA or STREP	
8.1.B.2.4 Quality of life issues relating to handicapped/disabled people (including equal access facilities)	1	STREP or CA	5
	2	STREP	
	3	SSA	
	4	CA	
8.1.B.2.5 Comparative research of factors underlying migration and refugee flows, including illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings	Closed	Closed	Closed
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	Closed	Closed	Closed
8.1.B.2.7 Issues related to civil protection (including biosecurity and protection against risks arising from terrorist attacks), and crisis management	1	CA	2,3
	2	STREP	
Areas under priority 'Underpinning the economic potential and cohesion of a larger and more integrated European Union'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative EC contribution (EUR millions)
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 EC contribution (EUR millions)
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)	2, 4 3, 5, 1	CA SSA	4
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 2 3, 4	STREP CA Preferably SSA	3
8.1.B.3.4 Forecasting and developing innovative policies for sustainability in the medium and long term	1, 2, 3, 4	STREP	1,8
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, CA or SSA	1,8
8.1.B.3.6 The protection of cultural heritage and associated conservation strategies	1, 2, 3 4	STREP SSA	3,5
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	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC
SSA	1 legal entity from a MS or AS

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

11. **Consortium agreement:** participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are 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.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable

Evaluation Results: Considering the wide scope of policy-oriented research 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 2004.

Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call could come into force in autumn 2004.

⁽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.