Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on ‘Confirming the international role of Community research’ (1998-2002)

INCO-MED

(2001/C 367/14)

SHARED COST ACTIONS, CONCERTED ACTIONS, THEMATIC NETWORKS

Call identifier: ICFP502A3PR03

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002 (1) (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of 25 January 1999, adopting the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on ‘Confirming the international role of Community research’ (2) (hereinafter referred to as the specific programme), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programme, a work programme (3), specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation, was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programme. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of indirect actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to proposals, specified under point 4 of this call, called by a fixed deadline, following which evaluation will take place, and following which no other proposal will be considered under this call notice.

Proposals are submitted in one step.

3. The specific programme is implemented notably through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV of the fifth framework programme and in Annex III of the specific programme.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme manual of proposal evaluation procedures (4), along with its annex on the specific programmes, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination (6), provide further details.

Information on these rules and on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the guide for proposers, which can be obtained, along with the work programme and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

European Commission
DG RTD — Unit 06
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: inco@cec.eu.int
Web: http://www.cordis.lu/fp5

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programme, according to the rules for participation and dissemination, are hereby invited to submit proposals that address the following parts of the work programme.

INCO A3 — MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES
(Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey)

SHARED COST ACTIONS, CONCERTED ACTIONS, THEMATIC NETWORKS

Deadline: 5 April 2002

Budget: EUR 15,5 million

Call identifier: ICFP502A3PR03

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(2) OJ L 64, 12.3.1999.
(4) OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.
Objectives and approach

The objectives are those of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and target long-range sustainable development around the Mediterranean Sea in the context of transboundary economic, environmental and socio-political problems. The approach is to concentrate on a set of five strategic areas: socioeconomic modernisation, managing scarce regional water resources, preserving and using cultural heritage, promoting healthy societies and regional environmental sustainability. These areas of specific relevance to the region are not addressed under the thematic programmes of the fifth framework programme or under the research for development part of this programme and were selected through an extensive process of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. Synergy and complementarity between this programme, the thematic programmes and MEDA cooperation activities will be ensured.

Priorities

(b) Managing scarce regional water resources

(shared cost, concerted actions and thematic networks)

This theme targets comprehensive cross-sectoral policies and integrated approaches in the planning and management of water resources which are environmentally sound and implemented in a participatory mode. Special emphasis is laid on the transboundary character of water resources that needs addressing under a regional perspective. Two priorities have been identified:

(i) Comprehensive water policy and integrated planning

Improvement of water supply, planning and management with consideration of local environmental and socioeconomic (including pricing) as well as institutional and cultural conditions, of intersectoral competition and of the potential to treat and reuse wastewater; methodologies for the analysis and management of transboundary water resources to support regional cooperation in its development and use; promotion of water treatment and reuse, including desalination, with emphasis on the use of renewable energies.

Specific objectives are:

Developing policy and planning scenarios for socially and economically sound water use and reuse strategies that help explore pathways of effective implementation of existing legislation and regulatory frameworks for water for agricultural and human consumption use on the one hand and their upgrading towards the European Water Framework Directive.

(ii) Efficiency in water use

In the agricultural sector, through the development of sustainable irrigation technologies and water-saving approaches, reuse of drainage water, better knowledge of plant physiology in order to reduce water requirements; in the urban/industrial context (including tourism) through the development of water treatment and reuse approaches and technologies that take into account the diversity of industrial, runoff and domestic effluents. Efficiency in water use should be researched under prevailing socioeconomic and institutional arrangements in Mediterranean partner countries.

Specific objectives are:

— Compare technologies, ‘modern’ and/or ‘traditional,’ and approaches to water savings and sustainable irrigation and water use and reuse for overall reduction of water consumption and for different types of stakeholders (small-holders, agro-industrial estates etc.); the quality should be such as to meet the standards of the European Water Framework Directive under the institutional and economic conditions prevailing in Mediterranean partner countries; improve those technologies and management approaches which could meet the European Water Framework Directive at affordable prices for the Mediterranean partner countries concerned.

— Novel approaches to improve water use efficiency of rain-fed crops, involving integrated applications of plant physiology knowledge for management and breeding.

— Development or improvement of cost-effective and efficient technologies and strategies for water treatment and reuse in urban/industrial contexts, including desalination, which do not impinge on adjacent socioeconomic activities.

(c) Preserving and using cultural heritage

(shared cost, concerted actions and thematic networks)

New and traditional technologies as well as management systems for use in the restoration, conservation, valorisation and display of historical and archaeological value objects, monuments, and sites.

Research proposals should take into account cost effectiveness, enhanced accessibility to the general public and potential use, in the context of the specific sociological, economical and cultural aspects of the area addressed and their implications to regional development. The proposals should focus on the following issues:
— Identification, recovery, and improvement of ancient and traditional manufacturing technologies for material construction processes used in the production of historical as well as archaeological value objects. Attention should be paid to the cost and applicability options.

— Technologies and management approaches for restoration, conservation, valorisation and display of historical and archaeological value objects, monuments and sites, using old or new processes and materials (included comparative analysis of existing technological approaches and methodologies in order to identify the most appropriate cost/efficiency ones for a specific application).

— Technologies based on historical and archaeological remains to illustrate how human societies co-existed with the environment, modified the landscape and adapted to environmental changes. This with the aim of learning and, maybe, reviving past practices potentially useful for application today. Research would focus on integrating archaeological, historical and environmental information as constituents in the construction of viable socioeconomic landscapes of each region.

(d) Promoting healthy societies

(shared cost, concerted actions and thematic networks)

In the context of their socioeconomic situation and the rapid changes in lifestyle, health and health-related technologies, the Mediterranean countries face the growing new epidemiological reality of predominant and emerging diseases that can lead to a crisis situation. In order to avoid this, the challenge lies in being prepared to prevent and to control these diseases.

Research will target strategies to alleviate the burden of disease on society and to support economic activity. In order to achieve this, these important public health issues need the improvement and/or establishment of common public health policies for the Mediterranean region, as well as the improved access of also the vulnerable groups to health services in reformed and reforming health systems in the region.

The activities will focus on epidemiological reality with special reference to:

— research and networking in support of the risk assessment, prevention, control and surveillance of diseases of public health importance with emphasis on zoonoses,

— research on improvement on health policies in relation to the above diseases.

When submitting a proposal for an RTD project or a concerted action, proposers may include an application for a ‘Bursary for young researcher from developing countries’. Further information on this scheme is given in the guide for proposers.

5. Proposers are encouraged to prepare proposals with a software tool (the Proposal Preparation Tool — ProTool) which is available from the Commission via the Internet (http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/protool), by electronic mail or on CD-ROM. It will help them prepare the administrative and technical information required.

Proposals may be sent in one of two ways:

— Made with ProTool and sent electronically, by use of a sealing mechanism, including encryption and server uploading or electronic mail.

The coordinator must request a digital certificate from the Commission’s certification authority for electronic signature of the proposal file. When the proposal has been finalised, it is then ‘sealed’ and a short validation file (‘fingerprint’) is created.

The validation file, which identifies the proposal file uniquely, must be sent (electronically or by fax) not later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on the applicable closing date (see point 4). The unmodified proposal file must be received electronically not later than 48 hours after expiry of the deadline.

— Prepared on the paper forms distributed with the information package or made with ProTool and then printed out by the coordinator.

To be receivable, proposals submitted on paper must be received by the Commission not later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on the applicable closing date (1) (see point 4) at the following address:

European Commission
ORBN 8
INCO 2
Call identifier: ICFP502A3PR03
Square Frère Orban/Frère Orbanplein 8
B-1040 Brussels.

Important: The above constitutes a change with respect to previous calls where deadlines applied to submission. Deadlines now apply to receipt by the Commission.

(1) Users of courier services that ask for the recipient’s telephone number should give the following: (32-2) 296 02 45.
Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above, by which to submit proposals, and to submit only one version of any given proposal. In the case of an eligible proposal being received in both paper and electronic formats, only the electronic version will be considered.

6. In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal) please make sure to quote the relevant call identifier.

In submitting a proposal, either on paper or electronically, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

According to the rules for participation and dissemination and the European Commission regulation for implementing them, Member States and associated States may have access, on presentation of a reasoned request, to useful knowledge which is relevant to policy-making. This knowledge must have been generated by those RTD actions supported as a result of this call and which addressed a part of the work programme specified as eligible for such access.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.

__Operation of scheduled air services__

**Invitation to tender issued by the United Kingdom under Article 4(1)(d) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 in respect of the operation of scheduled air services between the Orkney Mainland (Kirkwall) and the Islands of Papa Westray, North Ronaldsay, Westray, Sanday, Stronsay and Eday**

(2001/C 367/15)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. **Introduction:** In pursuance of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23.7.1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes, the United Kingdom has imposed public service obligations (PSOs) in respect of scheduled air services operated between the Orkney Mainland (Kirkwall) to Papa Westray, North Ronaldsay, Westray, Sanday, Stronsay and Eday. The standards required by the PSOs for Papa Westray and North Ronaldsay were published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' C 394/4 of 30.12.1997, as modified in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' C 369/2 of 22.12.2000 and C 363 of 19.12.2001. The standards required by the PSOs for Westray, Sanday, Stronsay and Eday were published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' C 363 of 19.12.2001.


In so far as by 1.3.2002 no air carrier has commenced or is about to commence scheduled air services between the Orkney Mainland (Kirkwall) and the islands of Papa Westray, North Ronaldsay, Westray, Sanday, Stronsay and Eday in accordance with the PSOs imposed and without requesting financial compensation, the United Kingdom has decided, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4(1)(d) of the above-mentioned Regulation, to limit access to these routes to a single air carrier and to offer the right to operate such services from 1.4.2002 by public tender.

The contract shall be awarded by Orkney Islands Council; hereinafter referred to as the ‘awarding authority’.

3. **Participation:** Participation is open to all air carriers holding a valid operating licence issued by a Member State in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 2407/92 of 23.7.1992 on licensing of air carriers. The services will operate under the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulatory regime.