COMMISSION

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

Activity: Support for the coherent development of policies

Call identifier: FP6-2004-KNOW-REG-2

(2004/C 325/02)


2. The present call for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as ‘the call’) comprise 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 (3) (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 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 (4).

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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 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 via the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
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 co-ordinator may request permission from the Commission to submit on paper in advance of the call deadline. This should be done by writing to one of the following addresses:

European Commission
Directorate General RTD, unit M3
SDME 04/47
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

or email address: rtd-knowreg2@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.

6. Proposals for indirect RTD actions have to reach the Commission at the latest on the closure date and 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 the call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal for an indirect RTD action), proposers are invited to cite the relevant call identifier.

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2) All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).
3) The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.
4) Proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted in PDF (‘portable document format’, compatible with Adobe Version 3 or higher with embedded fonts). Compressed (zipped) files will be excluded.
5) This does not include proposals for indirect RTD actions that have been submitted on-line.
ANNEX

Regions of Knowledge 2

1. **Specific programme:** Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area.

2. **Thematic priority/domain:** Support for the coherent development of policies.

3. **Call title:** Regions of Knowledge 2.

4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-KNOW-REG-2.

5. **Date of publication:** 31.12.2004.

6. **Closure date:** 19.5.2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).

7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 8,95 million.

8. **Areas and instruments:**

Proposals are invited to address the following objective:

12.3.2.1: To promote increased and better regional investment in research through mutual learning, coordination and collaboration between regional policies and initiatives, by applying the following: foresight, benchmarking, networking and coordination activities and exchange of personnel. (See point 10 below for restriction to participation for Co-ordination Actions.)

The objective is open for actions using co-ordination actions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Instrument(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.3.2.1</td>
<td>Co-ordination Actions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Minimum number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.3.2.1</td>
<td>For Co-ordination Actions: Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC.</td>
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10. **Restriction to participation:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Restriction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.3.2.1</td>
<td>Each consortium shall include at least one partner from a New Member State or from an Objective 1 region (†) in order to allow an exchange of know-how between regions with well developed R&amp;D policies and infrastructure and those in need for expertise in this field. In cases where the coordinating entity comes from the private sector, it has to prove that it is acting on behalf of a public body promoting regional development, e.g. a regional development authority or a regional council. Participants in projects selected in this call will be required to be part of the Innovating Regions in Europe (IRE network) (†)</td>
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(‡) IRE Network Website: http://www.innovating-regions.org

(†) 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.
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 section 12.5 of the Work Programme for Support for the coherent development of policies (1).

14. **Indicative evaluation and selection delays:**
    Evaluation results are estimated to be available within four months after the closure date.

(1) Cf. Support for the coherent development of policies on http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/sp1_wp.htm