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’

Thematic priority area: ‘Support for the coherent development of policies’

Call identifier: FP6-2005-RTD-OMC-NET

(2005/C 215/06)


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 dates of closure for the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions, an indicative date for the completion of the evaluations, the indicative budget, the instrument and the area 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.

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). This guide and these guidelines, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the calls, can be obtained from the Commission via the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
Email address: rtd-omc-net@cec.eu.int
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 M2
SDME 09/84
B-1049 Brussels
Email address: rtd-omc-net@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.

All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B). Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Part B of proposals for indirect RTD actions can only be submitted in PDF (‘portable document format’, compatible with Adobe Version 3 or higher with embedded fonts). Compressed (‘zipped’) files will be excluded.

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 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 email or by fax will be excluded.

Any proposal for indirect RTD actions that has been allowed to be submitted on paper and which is incomplete will be excluded.

Further details on the various proposal submission procedures are given in Annex J of the Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures.

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. 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.

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(2) The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.
1. **Specific Programme:** ‘Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area’
2. **Thematic priority/Domain:** 12. Support for the coherent development of policies
3. **Call title:** Support to mutual learning and coordination in research policy making
4. **Call reference number/identifier:** FP6-2005-RTD-OMC-NET
5. **Date of publication:** 2 September 2005
6. **Call closure date:** 3 February 2006 at 17.00 (Brussels local time)
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 8.7 million
8. **Areas called and Instruments:**

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3.2</td>
<td>RTD-OMC-NET</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coordination Actions</td>
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9. **Minimum number of participants:**

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<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Minimum number of participants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination Actions</td>
<td>There must be a minimum of five independent legal entities (1) from five different Member States or Associated States, of which at least three shall be Member States or Associated Candidate Countries</td>
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(1) A ‘participant’ means a legal entity contributing to the project and having rights and obligations with regard to the Community under the terms of the contract. Legal entities participating in this coordination action will be primarily national and regional public administrations.

10. **Restriction on participation:** The minimum number of participants must include only public bodies as defined in Article 2.31 of the Rules for participation that are involved in the formulation of research related policies at national or regional level. The coordinator must be chosen among them.
11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants to consortia 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 to the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
14. **Indicative evaluation and selection delays:** Evaluation results are estimated to be available within four months after the closure date.