



This newsletter supports the activities of the ICT Theme's National Contact Points. We provide you each month with key news and information on the current activities of the ICT Theme. The information contained here is not confidential and may be further disseminated. If you have any information which would be of interest to your ICT-NCP colleagues in next month's newsletter, email it [here](#).

ICT Call 2

Our second call closed on schedule on 9th October. Some 906 proposals were received directly for the call. A small number of additional proposals could be added - either transferred from other calls where they have been submitted by mistake, or cases of proposals with submission difficulties which are later admitted following the legal advice of our Eligibility committee.

At the present time we are in mid-evaluation; the two main evaluation weeks are 5th November and 12th November. IP and NoE proposals are handled in the first of those weeks, and for high-ranking IP and NoE proposals hearings are arranged for later this month. All being well, we expect to be able to send out the Evaluation Summary Reports to all proposers during the week of 10th December.

Call 1 Redress procedure

The Redress committee, which examined the 63 requests for redress which arose from ICT Call 1 (3% of the 1836 proposals in the call) completed its work in September, and the results were communicated to the proposers by the Directors concerned in October. None of the complaints were upheld. The Redress procedure is a mechanism for correcting a mistake which the Commission may have made in managing an evaluation. But for a management mistake to happen, and then remain undetected, is *rarissime*.

In almost all of these cases the complaint was that the proposer disagreed with the opinions of the experts. We well understand that the proposer who gets a poor mark thinks that the experts are wrong, but if we find that the evaluators concerned were properly qualified, and the evaluation procedure was properly followed, then we stick by the opinions of our experts.

ICT Call 3

We are on track to launch ICT Call 3 on 4th December. The call – already fully described in the [Workprogramme](#) of course - will involve eight objectives, and is funded at €265m. The call will close on 8th April 2008.

Three of these objectives re-open areas which were already included in ICT Call 1. These are:

- Cognitive systems. interaction, robotics

- Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning
- Intelligent contents and semantics

Proposers who were unsuccessful in these areas in the first call are of course very likely to be now considering a re-submission. Evidently, those most likely to be successful are those who scored highly last time, reaching the reserve list but not quite the funding list. Given that the funded proposals are now taken out of the competition, they should stand a better chance this time. But proposers who scored poorly cannot just cross their fingers and hope for better luck; the evaluation is not a lottery or a matter of luck, it is based on a detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of a proposal by skilled and experienced experts.

Proposers should look for faults which lost them points last time which can now be fixed. Defects in the project management plan, inadequate plans for dissemination, re-balancing of the effort between workpackages etc. are all things which can be corrected in a re-submission. But if the failing was in the scientific and technical quality of the basic project idea, then there is little chance of success. Such a proposal, which scored low last time and which is simple re-submitted, perhaps with some cosmetic alterations, is sure to score low this time too.

Cairo networking event

The National Contact Point in Egypt will hold on 14-15th November an [international networking event](#) for RTD cooperation with Europe. The event's focus is on ICT Call 3, with a special emphasis on the Challenge 4 Digital libraries and content which is included in that call. It will also promote Natural Language Processing as a local priority in the Arab Mediterranean region and its relation with Challenge 4 of the ICT thematic priority.

The event will be held in the [Smart Village, Cairo](#). It will bring together EU researchers in areas relevant to ICT call 3 with potential ICT research partners from Egypt and the EUROMED countries, and will disseminate information about the call and promote networking and consortium creation. The event is the first of its kind to be held in Egypt. For those who can't make it to the meeting, the event will also be broadcast on-line through video streaming from the [NCP's website](#).

NIS-NEST Eastern European Partner database

The NIS-NEST project funded under the FP6 NEST activity and coordinated by the Greek National Documentation Centre (EKT) has as a main aim the development of cooperation between the EU and researchers in Russia and other Eastern European countries.

The project has developed a [new database](#) on research bodies, universities, institutes, businesses and individual researchers involved in science and cutting edge technologies in this region. Visitors to the database can search for partners based on the field of science, the country or the language they are interested in. The search results include information profiling the institutions, their fields of activity and prior experience in European and international research programmes. The database is constantly updated with new data directly fed into it by researchers and organisations from Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and other Eastern European Countries. A search guide and FAQ are available online on the database website.

As part of the European Research Area, the countries concerned are all on the list of International Cooperation Partner Countries. Organisations from these countries taking part in FP7 projects are funded on the same basis as organisations from the EU.

IP in FP7

The [Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\) Helpdesk](#) will hold a seminar on IP in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) in Brussels, on 28th November. The event will address the IPR rules in FP7, consortium agreements, IP and small and medium-sized enterprises, exploitation issues, prior art searches and IP issues in practices. The day will close with an open debate on IPR.

Intelligent car

On 18th September, DG INFSO launched the [new "intelligent Car" website](#) (iCar), promoting current and future technologies, European research to make road transport safer and what the Commission is doing in this field. Play the iCar Quiz to assess your knowledge – you could win an advanced driving course in Luxembourg.

Telecom reform

On 13th November the Commission adopted new proposals for a [reform of the EU telecoms rules](#). With the reform, the Commission wants to enable citizens, wherever they live and travel in the EU, to benefit from better and cheaper communication services. The Commission proposes strengthening consumer rights; giving consumers more choice by reinforcing competition between telecoms operators; promoting investment into new communication infrastructures, in particular by freeing radio spectrum for wireless broadband services ("the digital dividend"); and making communication networks more reliable and secure.

A proposed new European Telecom Market Authority will support the Commission and national telecoms regulators in ensuring that market rules and consumer regulation are applied consistently, independently and without protectionism throughout the EU. To become law, the Commission's proposals now have to be approved by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Ulf Dahlsten; Bernard Libertalis

Ulf Dahlsten, presently Director of INFSO Directorate F "Emerging Technologies and infrastructures", is to take leave from the European Commission from 1st January 2008, during which he will amongst other things take up a position as Commissioner with the UK's postal regulator PostComm. Before joining the Commission Ulf served as chief executive of Sweden Post, as well as Chairman of the holding company of TNT Express Worldwide at a time when the market in Sweden was being opened to competition.

And after many years of service with the Commission our colleague Bernard Libertalis, Director of Directorate R "Resources", embarks on a well-deserved retirement. Christian Dubs, Head of Unit R1 "Human resources" will take on the role of acting Director for the time being.

Temporary EPSS shutdown

Our Electronic Proposal Submission Service will be closed down temporarily in December to allow the equipment and staff to move from their present location in DG Research's offices to our new evaluation building in central Brussels. Details will be kept up-to-date on the [EPSS website](#).

As well as briefly interrupting submissions to the FET Open scheme, by bad luck the closure also coincides with the launch of ICT Call 3. However we do not plan to use you, our NCPs, as an official channel for the distribution of proposal Part B templates as we did in call 1; the closure this time is relatively brief and the service will most likely be back in action by the end of the Christmas holidays.

And for the record.....

ICT Calls currently open

The ICT [FET Open](#) call was launched on 22nd December 2006. This is open continuously for the duration of the current Workprogramme. It involves only STREP and CA proposals. STREP proposals have to be submitted in two stages, with an initial five-page short proposal followed, if successful in the evaluation, by the full proposal at a later deadline.

DG INFOS launched on 3rd August a first [joint call with the Security Theme](#). Of the four "focuses" involved, our interest lies in focus 1, Technology building blocks for creating, monitoring and managing secure, resilient and always-available information infrastructures. The call is funded at €40m (€20m in the ICT focus) and closes on 29th November 2007 at 17h00.

Note: The FP7 Electronic Proposal Submission System will close down briefly in December 2007 in order to move staff and equipment to a new location. Fuller information is available on the [EPSS website](#)

Useful information

ICT	
INFOS organigramme	Association agreements with FP7
INFOS who's who	FP7 news
Our Commissioner's website	FP7 Library service
The current ICT Workprogramme	The Commission staff directory
ICT on Cordis	Information Society A-Z
ICT on Europa	Application as an expert in evaluations
Information Society factsheets	NEWS
Read our other newsletters	Cordis Guidance introductory page
HELP	Cordis News
The ICT Information desk	Cordis Express weekly briefing
The FP7 Enquiry service	Cordis Wire open forum
Questions on Intellectual Property Rights	Cordis National R&D and Innovation pages
The informal association of RTD contact points	Cordis Technology marketplace
Other support services	
	
IST project management support	
The IST Results service	

General support projects

CISTRANA	Coordination of national ICT programmes with each other and with European RTD programmes in the ICT sector
CEEC IST NET	Establish a sustainable network of researchers and entrepreneurs active within the field of ICT in Central and Eastern European countries
ERA-CAN and IST-EC2	Increase research cooperation with Canada
EURO-INDIA	Increase research cooperation with India
EUROPEAN IST	Enhancing participation of research organizations from New Member States and Associated Candidate Countries, networking the ICT research community across Europe
FINANCE NMS	Portal and helpdesk for the latest ICT-related financial information aimed at organisations from the New Member States.
GET IN	Increasing participation of candidate countries SMEs in ICT projects by providing training, tools and support services
HAGRID	To exploit the potential synergies between EU funded support actions for the benefit of European and ICPC organisations interested in participating in ICT. To provide added value services tailored to the needs of interested organisations. HAGRID services will help to assimilate the know-how, assess the competitive advantages and clarify the strategic research objectives of interested organisations
IDEALIST	Ideal-ist a sophisticated worldwide ICT Partner Search Network - an easy to use, efficient and fast web-based system. Ideal-ist collaborates through a broad geographical network of 50 representatives with more than 10 years of experience. The quality of Partner Searches is assured by a quality team.
IS2WEB	Assist research organisations in the Western Balkan countries to get informed about and actively participate in EU-funded research in the field of ICT
IST MENTOR	Develops a networked group of proficient ICT multipliers, whose task will be to enhance building awareness of the ICT Theme and to assist potential proposers in submitting high quality proposals.
IST WORLD	Set up and populate an information portal with innovative functionalities that helps to promote RTD competencies in ICT in the New Member States and Associate Candidate Countries
IST4BALT	Promote the ICT Theme to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by implementing fast dissemination and awareness actions
SEE INNOVATION	A Specific Support Action tasked with assisting South Eastern European ICT SMEs to actively participate in EU-funded ICT research through a combination of surveying, mentoring, know-how transfer, and coaching and networking services and activities
STAR-NET	Coordination of support actions in New Member States and Candidate countries

ICT-NCPs

National Contact Points (Please send any corrections or updates here)
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