

ICT National Contact Point News July-September 2009



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 Grant agreement negotiations

We are now deep in the grant agreement negotiations arising from ICT Call 4, the evaluation of which we completed just before the summer holidays. Following a review of our budgets for the call we were able to modify our original draft Implementation plan by moving one more proposal up from the Reserve list to the Retained list, this giving us **256 proposals** to negotiate. We have also **6 proposals** retained (out of 14 received) in our joint call with the FP7 Energy Theme, which was evaluated at the same time, so our buildings are busy each day now with visiting proposal delegations.

The first grant agreements arising from the calls should be ready for signature by the end of October.

Call 4 Redress committee

The Redress committee is a function established for FP7 within the Commission, at the insistence of Council and Parliament, which for evaluations allows proposers to complain if they think their possible selection in the evaluation was jeopardised by Commission mismanagement. We have **17 complaints** arising from call 4, out of 1267 proposals in the call, so 1.3%.

Most of the complaints revolve not around alleged Commission mismanagement of the evaluation but instead our experts' failure to appreciate the merits of their proposals. All of the complaints are looked at in detail of course, but the committee will not call into question judgements made by qualified expert evaluators, nor will it take into account new information which now arrives from the proposers but which was not included in the original proposal.

Following the deliberations of the committee, the Directors of the Directorates concerned with each case will reply to the complainants directly. This will not be before the end of October.

ICT Call 5 timing

We launched [ICT Call 5](#) on 30 July. The call closes about a week earlier than we originally planned in the earlier drafts of our Workprogramme, at 17h00 on Monday 26th October. We

were obliged to advance the close in order to be able to get through the main stage of the evaluation, with remote reading, before the Christmas break.

Proposers of IP or NoE proposals who are scored above threshold at this stage will get their hearing questions to think about over the holidays, ready to come to Brussels or Luxembourg for their hearings in the week beginning 11th January.

Objective 9.5

A late addition to Call 5 in our Workprogramme, Objective 9.5 *Supplements to strengthen cooperation in ICT R&D in an enlarged European Union*, offers to coordinators of ongoing ICT research projects (IP or STREP) which finish after the 31st March 2011 the opportunity to add one or more new partners to their project to expand its activities in or into the new Member states.

Proposals must come from the coordinator of the existing project, using the normal proposal forms and templates from the Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS), but completing them according to special instructions given in Annex 8 of the Guide for applicants – instructions which of course focus the proposal mainly on the description of the additional work.

This new objective has raised a lot of questions at the ICT Information Desk, so here come the FAQs !

Q. Can partners in the existing project also be involved in the extension?

A. Yes. The new work being added to the project could well involve some of the existing partners who need to cooperate with the new partners. But beware; if 90% of your additional budget is going to the old partners and only 10% to the new, the evaluators may have difficulty believing that your proposal is really strengthening cooperation in the enlarged European Union !

Q. Can we add a partner from outside of the new Member states, for example Russia or Turkey?

A. Yes. You could add a partner from elsewhere, but that must be in addition to a number of new partners from the NMS, and also you must have good reasons for it, which you need to explain in your proposal.

Q. Can a project which finishes just before 31st March 2011 participate?

A. Yes. Annex 8 in the Guide for applicants says that normally the new activities brought about by the entry of the new partners should be completed at the same time as or before the end of the existing project, but that it would be possible to request an extension of the duration of an existing project (by a reasonably short period) to allow for the additional activities.

Q. Can Network of excellence or Coordination action projects add new partners?

A. No. The Workprogramme limits this opportunity to research projects, so it's IPs or STREPs only.

Q. Can proposers from ICT Call 4, presently under negotiation, add more partners and budget?

A. No. The workprogramme says "Additional funding to on-going projects ending after March 31st 2011". So proposals still under negotiation are excluded.

We have placed on the [call page](#) on CORDIS, under "Additional Documents" details of existing ICT projects which are seeking new partners, which we will keep up-to-date. Projects seeking partners, or partners seeking projects, can also use the services of the [Ideal-ist](#) project.

PPP calls

The other late addition to our Workprogramme was three "Private Public Partnership" calls, which we are running in cooperation with other Themes in the Framework programme. As our contribution to overcoming the current recession by promoting research in key industrial areas, these calls target three key areas.

[Factories of the Future](#): In this call the ICT Theme is looking for IP, STREP, CA or SA proposals in the objective "Smart factories; ICT for agile and environmentally friendly manufacturing". In this cross-thematic call our colleagues in the Nanotechnologies Theme are also looking for collaborative research projects in three other objectives related to their own research goals

[Energy-efficient buildings](#): Here we are looking for STREP, CA or SA proposals in the objective "*ICT for energy-efficient buildings and public spaces*". Nanotechnologies, Environment and Energy Themes have also included objectives in this call.

[Green Cars](#): This just involves a single objective, and it is all ours, "*ICT for the fully electrical vehicle*".

These calls all close on 3rd November and we will evaluate our proposals from them on the same timetable as ICT Call 5 (except for the different call close date of course).

As the call pages in these cases are shared with other Themes, we haven't loaded them with the usual supplementary material we put on our own call pages, we only include the **pre-proposal check form** which of course we strongly encourage proposers to use. Proposers in these calls who want to see more general material such as the ICT FAQs, or who wish to download a set of evaluation forms to do a trial evaluation, can do this at the page for [ICT Call 5](#).

There is also another PPP call on a topic related to Green Cars, [FP7-2010-GC-ELECTROCHEMICAL-STORAGE](#), which involves the Energy, Environment, Nanotechnology and Transport Themes on the development of sustainable automotive electrochemical storage. We are not involved in this one.

Digitising books

On 7th September Viviane Reding, our Commissioner for Information Society and Media, and Charlie McCreevy, the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, made a joint statement setting out the important cultural and economic stakes of book digitisation in Europe. The Commissioners stressed the need for fully respecting copyright rules to ensure fair remuneration for authors, but also welcomed public-private partnerships as a means to boost digitisation of books. They highlighted the need to adapt Europe's very fragmented copyright legislation to the digital age, in particular with regard to "orphan" and out-of-print works.

The statement by the two Commissioners came ahead of a series of workshops and meetings between the Commission, cultural institutions, right holders, IT companies and consumer organisations, which started with an information hearing on the US class action settlement on **Google Book Search**. Under this settlement, agreed between Google, authors and publishers in the United States, authors could receive 63% of the online revenue generated by Google with digitised books.

As of today, no equivalent solution is available in the EU. This week's hearings and meetings at the Commission will help develop a European response to the challenges of books digitisation. Both Commissioners believe that the challenge for EU policymakers is to ensure a

regulatory framework which paves the way for a rapid roll-out of services, similar to those made possible in the United States by the recent settlement, to European consumers and to the European library and research communities.

The Commission already supports the digitisation and online accessibility of Europe's cultural heritage through [Europeana](#), the European digital library, through which 4.6 million digitised books, maps, photographs, film clips and newspapers can be accessed. On 9th July, in a [wide-ranging speech](#) Commissioner Reding called for a modern set of rules to encourage the digitisation of books in Europe.

On 28th August, the European Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on this issue, which is open until 15th November.

Ethics Help Desk

An Ethics Help Desk for FP7 projects, providing information on issues and offering consultation regarding the ethical aspects of research funded under the programme has recently been launched by our colleagues in DG Research. The goal of the Help Desk is to support research participants to meet the EU and international ethical standards related to the issues outlined in our standard FP7 [Ethics check list](#).

Using this service, participants can receive advice from the Ethics Review Sector of DG Research and also from experts in the ethics field concerned, in order to reach their research objectives and meet the ethical requirements for their work. Questions should be addressed to the Ethics Help Desk Contact person, [Isidoros Karatzas](#).

The World in 2025

After a year of work, the European Foresight Expert Group 'The World in 2025' presented their [findings](#) at conference in Brussels on 24th September. Meeting the challenges of the near future, they write in a new report, may mean moving towards a new production and consumption model, new rural-urban dynamics, and a new gender and intergenerational balance.

By the year 2025, the group estimates, centres of gravity, wealth and industrial production may shift towards Asia, and the United States and Europe could also lose their scientific and technological edge over Asia. India and China could account for approximately 20% of the world's scientific and technical R&D, i.e. more than double their current share. Increased population may lead to greater scarcity of natural resources and impact the environment, according to the expert group.

From these demographic and resource challenges, the group sees a new 'socio-ecological' production and consumption model arising. New technologies (renewable energy sources, capture and storage of CO₂, nuclear power and hydrogen and fuel cells), as well as changes in social behaviour, supported by economic incentives, will contribute to a reduction in energy consumption (better house insulation, replacement of environment-damaging cars with greener options, and increased use of public transport).

New Deputy Director General

We have in DG INFSO a new Deputy Director General, **Zoran Stančič**.

Zoran graduated in Geodetic Engineering at the University of Ljubljana and subsequently studied or worked at several universities at home in Slovenia, in western Europe and also in the USA. He was State Secretary for Science at the Slovene Ministry of Education, Science and Sport before joining the Commission in 2004 as Deputy Director-General in DG Research.

Zoran will take special responsibility for the Directorates D, E, F, G and H, which implement our ICT projects. Our existing Deputy Director General, Antii Peltomaki, will take care of the other Directorates – dealing with audiovisual, media and regulatory matters and our internal management.

New Director

And we also have a new Director for our own Directorate, Directorate C, **Detlef Eckert**. Detlef replaces Sue Binns, who retired last year.

Detlef is an economist and a Commission veteran of more than twenty years experience. From 2002 to 2006 he took personal leave from the Commission to work for Microsoft as Director responsible for the implementation of the Trustworthy Computing (TWC) initiative in Europe, Middle East and Africa. He joined our Directorate as of 1st September.

An up-to-date [organisation chart](#) for DG INFSO is always available on the Internet

And for the record.....

ICT CALLS CURRENTLY OPEN

[ICT Call 5](#) was launched on 30th July and covers objectives in Challenges 1, 3 and 4 as well as FET proactive and two actions to extend existing ICT projects. This call closes at 17h00 Brussels time on 26th October 2009.


ICT is involved in [three Public-Private Partnership calls](#) which were also launched on 30th July. These are Factories of the Future, Energy-efficient Buildings and Green cars. All three calls close at 17h00 Brussels time on 3rd November 2009

The ICT [FET Open](#) call was re-launched on 19th November 2008 for the duration of the 2009-2010 Workprogramme. It is continuously open and 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.

OUR JOINT UNDERTAKINGS/PROGRAMMES

AAL	Ambient assisted living
ARTEMIS	Embedded systems
ENIAC	Nanotechnology

USEFUL INFORMATION

ICT	
INFISO organigramme	Association agreements with FP7
INFISO 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 to work as an expert in evaluations
Information Society factsheets	Financial viability check tool
Read our other newsletters	NEWS
HELP	CORDIS Guidance introductory page
The ICT Information desk	CORDIS News
The FP7 Enquiry service	CORDIS Express weekly briefing
Questions on Intellectual Property Rights	CORDIS Wire open forum
The informal association of RTD contact points	CORDIS National R&D and Innovation pages
Other support services	CORDIS Technology marketplace

OUR SUPPORT PROJECTS

CEEC IST NET	Establish a sustainable network of researchers and entrepreneurs active within the field of ICT in Central and Eastern European countries
CHINACOOP	Increase research cooperation with China
CISTRANA	Coordination of national ICT programmes with each other and with European RTD programmes in the ICT sector
ERA-CAN and IST-EC2	Increase research cooperation with Canada
EURO-INDIA	Increase research cooperation with India
FEAST	Increase research cooperation with Australia
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 is 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
IST-AFRICA	To promote dissemination and exploitation of European IST research results in Southern Africa in particular through workshops and training seminars.
IST-EC2	Increase research cooperation with Canada
ISTOK.RU	ICT research cooperation with Russia.
MAP-IT	ICT research cooperation with Mediterranean Partner Countries.
MED-IST	ICT research cooperation with Mediterranean Partner Countries.
SCORE	ICT research cooperation with Western Balkan countries.
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
SOLAR ICT	ICT research cooperation with Latin America.
SPICE	ICT research cooperation with China.
STAR-NET	Coordination of support actions in New Member States and Candidate countries
START	ICT research cooperation with Africa.
WINDS-LA	ICT research cooperation with Latin America.



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