

ICT National Contact Point News Oct.-Dec. 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 Call 5 evaluation

We are now working our way through an intensive four weeks of evaluations of the proposals received in ICT Call 5.

From the 1434 proposals originally submitted, five were withdrawn by the proposal coordinator, one was a duplicate and three were test submissions, leaving us with 1425 proposals to evaluate. This first stage of the evaluation runs up to the last full week before Christmas, so by which time all of the hearing invitations to high-scoring IP and NoE proposals will go out. The hearings themselves will take place starting from Monday 11th January and we plan to get the ESRs out to all proposal coordinators by the end of the month.

Non-EU participation in ICT Call 5

The 1425 proposals involve some 11,957 participations¹, of which 9,718 are from the old Member states and 911 from the new, so 88.9% of participations from organisations in the EU.

Of the remainder, the FP7 associated countries account for 1,030 participations:

Albania	1	Montenegro	7
Croatia	27	Norway	179
FYROM	4	Serbia	47
Iceland	8	Switzerland	473
Israel	209	Turkey	72
Liechtenstein	3	TOTAL	1030

There are 77 participations from elsewhere in the European Research Area, 65 from the Russian Federation, five from Bosnia and Herzegovina, three from Belarus, and two each from Georgia and the Ukraine.

¹ A single organisation may participate in more than one proposal

However we recognise that we work in a world-wide business, not just a European one, so we encourage collaborative research activities with organisations overseas by funding the participation in our projects of organisations from International Cooperation Partner Countries, i.e. the developing countries overseas.

From our neighbours in the Middle East we have 12 participations, five from Egypt, four from Jordan, two from the Lebanon and one from the Palestinian territories.

The ACP countries present 19 participations; 15 from South Africa and one each from Botswana, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia.

Organisations in Latin America account for 31 participations; 22 from Brazil, six from Mexico and one each from Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala.

There are 96 participants from Asia;

China (PRC)	30	Philippines	1
Hong Kong	1	Singapore	2
India	18	Taiwan	8
Japan	16	Thailand	1
Korea (RoK)	14	Uzbekistan	1
Malaysia	2	Vietnam	1
Pakistan	1	TOTAL	96

And that just leaves North America and Australasia, where we have 63 participations; 35 from the USA, 13 from Canada, 14 from Australia and one from New Zealand.

ICT Call 6

[ICT Call 6](#) was launched on 24th November and includes a new objective in each of four Challenges. These objectives are Cognitive systems and robotics; Digital libraries and digital preservation; Virtual Physiological Human; and ICT for Mobility of the future.

Two topics are open in FET Proactive; Self-awareness in autonomic systems and Towards zero-power ICT, as well as more coordination and support actions of the type we have asked for in previous calls.

We have an action to supplement the funding of existing ICT projects in order to support their cooperation with similar projects overseas. This is aimed at ICT projects in two objectives; Next-generation nanoelectronics components and electronics integration; and ICT for intelligent vehicles and mobility services.

Finally we include one objective to support the uptake of European ICT research results in developing economies. This will be funded as a **Specific International Cooperation Action (SICA)**, which is simply a research action similar to a STREP except that the minimum consortium eligibility requirement is not the usual three Member states or Associated countries, but two MS or AC plus two other countries in the overseas region which is targeted by the project.

Our experience of "last calls" in a Workprogramme is usually one of severe oversubscription as worried proposers take what they think is their final chance, often by sending in not-very-relevant proposals. ICT Call 6 is very clearly defined on the objectives described above. And proposers can be reassured that our staff and Management committee are already hard at work on the next ICT Workprogramme 2011-2012, which will re-visit all of our seven Challenges with advanced and innovative objectives.

ICT Call 6 closes at 17h00 on 13th April 2010.

Future trends in ICT

A new [study](#) "Trends in connectivity technologies and their socioeconomic impacts: Policy Options for the Ubiquitous Internet Society," carried out by RAND Europe for DG INFSO has just been published.

The "[i2010](#)" strategy adopted by the Commission in 2005 comes to a close this year. The RAND study forecasts the economic, societal and business model impact of expected technology trends which underpin the emerging "Ubiquitous Connected Society". Based on this assessment it suggests policy issues and considerations for our post i2010 strategy.

The study finds that openness and connectivity are lined with each other and with the emergence of a strong knowledge society. However, to ensure the hoped-for benefits, policy should focus on keeping the internet open to competition, innovation and user choice. The study finds that four main trends in technology are likely to underpin the emergence and growth of such a connected society:

- Communications infrastructures are likely to converge towards a common (if complex) platform freeing Internet access from dependence on specific locations, devices, software, etc.
- Computing, storage, etc. will become ubiquitously available public utilities like water, power, gas etc.
- Human-computer convergence (including new interface technologies and Web 2.0 tools for harnessing the emergent capabilities of connected citizens) will greatly improve the two-way partnership between societal and technological systems.
- Internet itself will become an intelligent actor by means of web 3.0 (semantic web) technologies.

EU 2020 strategy

The shape of ICT to come is of course only part of a broader picture for Europe. On 1st December the Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on broad policy considerations for a future EU 2020 strategy.

The Commission intends that the end of the current crisis will mark the beginning of a new sustainable social market economy and a smarter, greener economy in which European prosperity will rely on innovation and the more efficient use of resources. This will focus on knowledge as a key input. The Commission will present a formal proposal for the EU 2020 strategy early next year, with a view to the EU's heads of state and government adopting the strategy at a spring 2010 meeting.

Third generation GÉANT

The new generation of GÉANT, the super fast pan-European research internet which has long been supported by our colleagues in Unit F3 through the Capacities specific programme, was [officially launched](#) at the beginning of December.

40 million researchers and students across Europe who already use GÉANT will be able to better tackle the new science challenges thanks to networking innovation and advanced user services. From 2012 researchers from all over the world will enjoy connection speeds of up to 100 Gigabits per second, ten times higher than those of today

New Commissioner

In the new Commission proposed by President Barroso, information society activities become "the Digital Agenda" and go to the Dutch Commissioner [Neelie Kroes](#), who presently handles the Competition portfolio.

This new Digital Agenda will include both DG INFSO and also the European Network and Information Security Agency ([ENISA](#)). The [MEDIA Programme](#), which is presently in DG INFSO, moves to the [Directorate General for Education and Culture](#) (EAC).

Our current Commissioner Viviane Reding goes to DG Justice, Liberty and Security.

President Barroso is already nominated by all 27 member states. Now the rest of the new Commission must be approved. The Commissioners-designate will appear in individual hearings before the relevant Parliamentary committees from 11th -19th January. The Parliamentary vote is then made *en bloc* for the whole group, a measure designed to prevent a conservative Parliament from picking off socialist Commissioners or vice versa. This vote is foreseen to take place on 26th January. On the basis of the Parliament's vote of consent, the new Commission is then appointed by the European Council.

Retirements

This month we lose two of our Directors.

João da Silva retires from Directorate D *Converged Networks and Services*. João is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal and holds a PhD from Carleton University, Ottawa. He started his career at the Canadian Ministry of Communications, then moved to the ITU in Geneva before joining the Commission in 1991, initially in the RACE and ACTS programmes. **Luis Rodríguez-Roselló** will be Acting Director until the post is filled.

Horst Forster leaves us from our Luxembourg-based Directorate E *Digital Content & Cognitive System*. Horst is a graduate in Physics from the Universities of Frankfurt and Darmstadt, and worked with AEG and Telefunken before moving to scientific administrative posts in the German federal government. Horst joined the Commission in 1984. **Patricia Manson** will be Acting Director for Directorate E.

We are also losing one of our veteran Heads of Unit. **Gérard Comyn** will be taking a well-earned retirement from his post as head of Unit H1 *ICT for health*. Gérard holds a Master's Degree in Applied Mathematics and a PhD in Computer Science. Before joining the European Commission, he was managing director of the European Computer Industry Research Centre in Munich, and was also a Professor at the University of Lille.

We wish them all a very happy retirement.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from your friends at ICT Operations



And for the record.....

ICT CALLS CURRENTLY OPEN


[ICT Call 6](#) was launched on 24th November and includes a new objective in each of four of our Challenges, as well as research and support in FET Proactive and activities in International Cooperation. The call closes at 17h00 on 13 April 2010.

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.