

ICT National Contact Point News May-July 2010



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 the next newsletter, email it [here](#).

ICT Call 6 results

Our sixth ICT call, which closed on 13th April 2010, attracted **638** proposals competing for the call's 286 M€ budget. Some **237** proposals (37%) achieved the thresholds associated with the evaluation criteria, and in our draft Implementation plan we have selected **74** of the highest scoring proposals for grant agreement negotiations:

| | Objective | Total proposals | No. of prop. above threshold | No. of prop retained for negotiation |
|------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2.1 | Cognitive Systems and Robotics | 159 | 43 | 22 |
| 4.1 | Digital Libraries and Digital Preservation | 137 | 49 | 15 |
| 5.3 | Virtual Physiological Human | 112 | 50 | 12 |
| 6.2 | ICT for Mobility of the Future | 114 | 46 | 10 |
| 8.7 | Molecular Scale Devices and Systems | 23 | 14 | 4 |
| 8.8 | Brain-inspired ICT | 39 | 14 | 4 |
| 8.9 | Coordinating Communities, etc. in FET Proactive | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 8.10 | Identifying new research topics etc. in FET Proactive | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 9.1 | International Cooperation | 47 | 17 | 3 |
| 9.2 | Supplements to support International Cooperation | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 638 | 237 | 74 |

The figure of 37% of proposals above threshold is unusually low; in our last two calls around 50% of proposals achieved the thresholds. The first two objectives in this call, 2.1 *Cognitive systems and robotics* and 4.1 *Digital libraries and digital preservation*, between them received 296 proposals, not quite half of all the proposals submitted. Consequently their specific results strongly influence the overall success rate.

The Cognitive systems objective has always been a difficult one for proposers, with previous success rates of just 33% (call 4) and 28% (call 3). The success rate this time was 27%.

The success rate in Digital libraries in this call was 36%. Whilst there was a high number of good quality and above-threshold proposals, it was observed that a number of the proposals in this objective were making little attempt (or in some cases, no attempt!) to explicitly relate their objectives to those of the Work Programme, rather they were seeing the call merely as a convenient means to fund the digitisation of their collections.

National results in ICT Call 6

The 74 retained proposals involve 700 participants¹, of whom **630** (90%) are from the European Union:

| EU | Participations | EU | Participations |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Austria | 17 | Latvia | 1 |
| Belgium | 33 | Lithuania | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | Luxembourg | 1 |
| Cyprus | 3 | Malta | 0 |
| Czech Republic | 3 | Netherlands | 48 |
| Denmark | 9 | Poland | 7 |
| Estonia | 1 | Portugal | 16 |
| Finland | 6 | Romania | 2 |
| France | 53 | Slovak Republic | 1 |
| Germany | 127 | Slovenia | 3 |
| Greece | 28 | Spain | 61 |
| Hungary | 5 | Sweden | 30 |
| Ireland | 13 | United Kingdom | 102 |
| Italy | 57 | TOTAL | 630 |

48 participations (7%) are from countries which are associated with the Framework programme:

| Assoc. countries | Participations | Assoc. countries | Participations |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Bosnia | 1 | Serbia | 1 |
| Croatia | 1 | Switzerland | 23 |
| FYROM | 0 | Turkey | 2 |
| Israel | 14 | TOTAL | 48 |
| Norway | 6 | | |

The remaining **22** participations (3%) are from elsewhere.

| Other countries | Participations | Other countries | Participations |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Bolivia | 2 | New Zealand | 1 |
| China (PRC) | 3 | Russian Federation | 1 |
| Colombia | 2 | Senegal | 1 |
| Egypt | 1 | Singapore | 1 |
| Japan | 1 | South Africa | 1 |
| Kenya | 1 | USA | 4 |
| Mali | 1 | Vietnam | 1 |
| Morocco | 1 | TOTAL | 22 |

¹ With some double counting - the same organisation could be a participant in more than one successful proposal

ICT Workprogramme 2011-12

The updated Workprogramme for ICT research in FP7 for 2011 and 2012 is now available for downloading from the ICT homepage on CORDIS:

[ICT Work Programme 2011-12](#)

The above version of the Workprogramme covers **all the activities foreseen to be financed throughout the period 2011 and 2012** and it is approved by the ICT Management Committee.

Please note that on all our call pages, in the *Information Package* sections, we are obliged for legal reasons to offer a document called "ICT Workprogramme 2011". This is an edited version of the full programme, it does not include the calls which are planned to be funded from our 2012 budget because we don't have a 2012 budget yet!

New Public Private Partnership calls

Public-Private Partnership research projects, funded under FP7, form an important part of the Commission's [EU Economic Recovery Plan](#) launched last year. On 20th July we opened a second series of four PPP calls for proposals from the new ICT Workprogramme:

[Factories of the Future](#) involves the ICT Theme with our colleagues in Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP). The ICT part of the call covers Integrated projects, STREPs, Coordination actions and Support actions in three objectives and is funded at 80 M€.

[Energy efficient Buildings](#) involves the NMP, Environment and Energy FP7 Themes as we as ourselves. The ICT part of the call covers STREPs, Coordination actions and Support actions in two objectives and is funded at 20 M€.

In these joint calls with other Themes, proposers should take care to register with the EPSS for the correct (ICT) objective, and to download and use the ICT version of the Guide for applicants. If they register for the wrong objective of course we will transfer their proposal to the right one when we see it, and if they use the wrong guide they will only be slightly confused, but proposing will surely be easier if they get it right from the beginning!

[Green Cars](#) is an ICT-only call, and we look for STREP proposals in a single objective funded at 30 M€.

[Future Internet](#) is the new addition to our family of PPP objectives. ICT-only, this call seeks Integrated Project and Coordination and Support action proposals in four objectives funded at 90 M€.

All of these calls close at 17h00 on 2nd December 2010, and we will be conducting the evaluations through January and February 2011.

FET Flagships Preparatory Actions

Our colleagues in the FET Proactive programme are planning for over the next few years a series of **FET Flagship Initiatives**: visionary, science-driven, goal-oriented, large-scale, multidisciplinary research initiatives based on ICT future and emerging technologies. They are envisioned to be long-term programmes on a scale far beyond our current FET Proactive Initiatives.

In preparation for this major effort, we launched on 20th July a call for [FET Flagships Preparatory Actions](#), investing 10 M€ in Coordination and Support Actions to prepare for these Initiatives. Like our PPP calls, this call also closes at 17h00 on 2nd December 2010 and will be evaluated through January and February 2011.

EU-Russia coordinated call

On 20th July 2010 we launched the call [FP7-ICT-EU-RUSSIA](#), a call which looks for STREP proposals in three advanced computing technologies objectives, which we are coordinating with the [Russian Ministry of Education and Science](#).

Proposals in the FP7 call will describe the work to be done here, by partners funded by the EU, but this work must include cooperation actions carried out with a Russia-based partner-project submitted as a proposal to [a similar call to be launched by the Russian Ministry](#). We have available a total budget of 4 M€; the Russian Ministry will finance its own call with a budget of approximately 2 M€.

The FP7 proposals must be tightly focused, **not exceeding 24 months in duration and 1.5 M€ in requested funding**.

Our call closes at 17h00 on 14th September 2010. The FP7 proposals will be evaluated here in Brussels in September-October under normal FP7 rules by panels which will include Russian experts.

The proposals for the Russian partner-projects are of course submitted to the Russian Ministry and evaluated under their national rules.

The EU will then fund the highest scoring FP7 proposals in each objective whose partner-project is also being funded in Russia.

Proposals with tied scores

In the previous framework programmes, when there were above threshold proposals in a panel with the same overall score, the experts were always required to discuss them all and impose a ranking between them. This could often be very time-consuming, and while it was obviously necessary for high-scoring proposals, the process was plainly of little value for proposals far down the list with no real chance of funding.

With this in mind, at the beginning of FP7 we introduced a more formal rule for sorting groups of proposals all with the same score. First we ask the experts to take into consideration the element of **coverage**; a proposal which is doing something not already covered by any higher-scoring proposal goes to the top of its group

Then the rest of the ranking is based on the proposals' scores on the individual criteria, and here we have introduced a change with our new Workprogramme 2011-12. Previously we used criterion 1 *Scientific and/or technological excellence* as the first decision-maker. However with the new Workprogramme and the strong emphasis from the Commission on supporting Europe's economic recovery, we have decided to switch to criterion 3 *Impact* as the criterion to look at first when sorting proposals with equal overall scores.

If two proposals have the same score on *Impact*, then the experts will look at their *S&T excellence* score to distinguish them. Only if proposals have identical scores on both criterion 3 and criterion 1 will the experts then be required to discuss and impose a ranking based on other considerations which they find relevant to research in the objective².

² Criterion 2 is not taken into consideration. Proposals the same score on criteria 3 and 1 must have the same score on criterion 2, if they have the same total score

This does not mean of course that we will suddenly be funding technically inferior work. Proposals which reach the funding list only do so by achieving high scores on all three criteria, the tie-breaking between them which is made on the basis of the individual criterion scores rarely involves differences of more than half a mark. Also the experts, in their recommendations in the ESRs, always give advice on how to tighten up the technical aspects of the work during the negotiation phase.

What it does mean is that proposers must remember one vital piece of advice which we give at every Proposers' Day; namely that **all three evaluation criteria are important**. We see too many proposals where the scientific and technical elements are well detailed and carefully thought out, but the project management plans are routine and don't take into account the special requirements of complex multinational projects, and the assessment and description of potential impact appear hastily-written and superficial.

Audit certificates

On 1st July the Commission services published an updated version of the [Guidance notes for beneficiaries and auditors on certificates issued by external auditors](#). These notes are intended to guide FP7 project participants and their external auditors in the preparation of Certificates on the Financial Statements and on the methodology for calculating personnel costs/indirect costs under the rules of the Framework Programme.

Ambient Assisted Living

Our Ambient Assisted Living joint programme published its third call for proposals *ICT-based Solutions for Advancement of Older Persons' Independence and Participation in the "Self-Serve Society"* at the end of April. Funded at 54.6 M€ the call closed on 30th July. Funding decisions of successful proposals, which depends on both EU and Member States budgets, will be finalised in October-December this year.

Lists of FP7 experts

Each year we make available the lists of experts who have assisted us in evaluations in the Framework programme; the [lists for 2009](#) have just been released.

The lists are of course generalised over the year, so that an expert's involvement in any particular evaluation or evaluation panel cannot be distinguished. They do however allow us to give public acknowledgment to our experts, whose willingness to sacrifice their own time for long hours and hard work in our evaluation sessions has always allowed us to carry out this vital function with speed and efficiency.

And for the record.....

ICT CALLS CURRENTLY OPEN

On 20th July 2010 we launched the call [FP7-ICT-EU-RUSSIA](#), a call coordinated with a similar call to be launched by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. This call focuses on advanced computing technologies and closes at 17h00 on 14th September 2010

A second series of Public-Private Partnership calls was also launched on 20th July:

[Future Internet](#) (FP7-2011-ICT-FI) calls for Integrated Project and Coordination and Support action proposals in four objectives

[Green Cars](#) (FP7-2011-ICT-GC), calls for STREP proposals in a single objective

[Factories of the Future](#) (FP7-2011-NMP-ICT-FoF), in which the ICT part of the call covers Integrated projects, STREPs, Coordination actions and Support actions in three objectives

[Energy efficient Buildings](#) (FP7-2011-NMP-ENV-ENERGY-ICT-EeB), the ICT part of the call covers STREPs, Coordination actions and Support actions in two objectives. These calls close at 17h00 on 2nd December 2010.


We also launched the first call of the [FET Flagship initiatives](#) (FP7-ICT-2011-FET-F), initially to fund Coordination and Support actions in preparation for this major FET Proactive scheme. This call also closes at 17h00 on 2nd December 2010.

The ICT [FET Open](#) call was re-launched for the duration of the 2010-2011 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 |  |
|---|---|
| INFSO organigramme | Association agreements with FP7 |
| INFSO who's who | FP7 news |
| Our Commissioner's website | FP7 Library service |
| The current ICT Workprogramme | The Commission staff directory |
| ICT on CORDIS ; ICT on Europa | Application to work as an expert in evaluations |
| Information Society factsheets | Financial viability check tool |
| The ICT Information desk | The FP7 Enquiry service |
| Information Society A-Z | Questions on Intellectual Property Rights |
| ICT Event 27-29 September 2010 | The informal association of RTD contact points |

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 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. |