

ICT National Contact Point News October –December 2011



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](#).

Public Private Partnership calls 2012

Our three PPP calls closed successfully in the EPSS on Thursday 1st December 2011. These covered Factories of the Future, Energy efficient Buildings and Green Cars.

Proposals were submitted as follows

Factories of the Future	30 Integrated projects, 26 STREP, Total 56 proposals
Energy efficient Buildings	31 STREPs (only STREPs were called for)
Green Cars	23 STREPs, 2 CAs, 1 SA, Total 26 proposals

(For Factories of the Future and Energy efficient Buildings, which are joint calls with other Directorates General, we refer only to the proposals in the ICT part of the call).

Following remote individual reading which will take place over Christmas, the evaluation discussions for all three calls will take place in Brussels in the week of 23rd January. Hearings for IP proposals in the Factories of the Future call will take place in the week beginning 6th February.

The Evaluation Summary Reports for Energy efficient Buildings and Green Cars will be out by the middle of February; those for Factories of the Future have to await the outcome of their hearings, but will be available before the end of that month.

Participant Portal Submission Service

The proposals for the ICT part of Energy efficient Buildings call were submitted using for the first time the new FP7 **Participant Portal Submission Service** (internally we call this the SEP – Submission and Evaluation of Proposals - system). As indicated above, 31 proposals were submitted successfully with this system and no major issues were reported with the use of the new service.

The new system will now be gradually extended to further calls. Our next implementation will be for ICT Call 9, to be launched on 18th January 2012.

Call SME-Digital Content and Languages

The second stage of the SME-DCL call closed on 28th September 2011 and was evaluated during October.

65 of the originally-submitted 343 proposals passed the thresholds of stage 1. All 65 consortia successful in the first stage submitted a proposal to the second stage. Following evaluation by the external experts, 26 proposals achieved scores on all criteria above thresholds, from which we have been able to select **20** proposals for grant agreement negotiations within the **35 M€** budget for the call.

	Submitted	Above threshold	Retained	Grant (K€)
a) Bootstrapping a data economy	38	13	10	17,870.00
b) Community building and best practices	6	2	2	2,453.00
c) Sharing language resources	19	10	7	12,763.00
d) Building consensus and common services	2	1	1	1,914.00
TOTAL	65	26	20	35,000.00

The retained proposals involve 119 participations¹. Some 58 (49%) of the organisations participating are from SMEs, with an estimated 44% of the funding. This is double our usual rate of participation of SMEs, reflecting a specific goal in this call.

Some 110 (92%) of the organisations in the proposals retained for negotiations are from the EU Member States, of which 95 from the EU-15 and 15 from the EU-12.

EU	Participations	EU	Participations
Austria	4	Latvia	1
Belgium	5	Lithuania	1
Bulgaria	3	Luxembourg	0
Cyprus	1	Malta	1
Czech Republic	3	Netherlands	8
Denmark	0	Poland	1
Estonia	0	Portugal	2
Finland	0	Romania	0
France	7	Slovak Republic	1
Germany	19	Slovenia	0
Greece	9	Spain	16
Hungary	3	Sweden	0
Ireland	3	United Kingdom	10
Italy	12	TOTAL	110

The remaining nine (8%) organisations are located in FP7 Associated countries.

Assoc. countries	Participations	Assoc. countries	Participations
Iceland	2	Serbia	1
Norway	1	Switzerland	5
		TOTAL	9

¹ With some double-counting, the same organisation may be involved in more than one successful proposal

Moldova association agreement

On 11th October 2011 the President of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova signed an association agreement for his country in the Seventh Framework Programme. Moldova is formally associated to FP7 from 1st January 2012. This means that Moldovan organisations, as well as being funded on the same basis as EU Member states, can now also contribute to the minimum number of EU Member states or FP7 Associated countries required in a proposal.



Our new NCP colleague will be [Elena Zamsa](#) at the Information Society Development Institute in Chisinau.

ERC Advanced Investigator Grants

Our colleagues in the [European Research Council](#) have announced a new call for [Advanced Investigators Grants](#).

These grants are intended to promote substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines. By awarding grants on a competitive basis solely on the criterion of excellence the ERC will establish clear benchmarks for quality which will help to raise the level of all European research. In these ways the grants will complement and add value to existing funding schemes such as ICT.

The Advanced Investigator call closes on 11th April 2012.

First Innovation Union Convention

Forty-five of Europe's best ICT research projects were on exhibition the EU's first [Innovation Union Convention](#) held in Brussels on 5th – 6th December 2011. Among them:

- The [V-City](#) project integrates 3D modelling and virtual reality to reconstruct whole cities in 3D format using maps, photos and data in just a couple of hours.
- Project [Perform](#) offers remote monitoring of patients suffering from neuro-degenerative diseases and movement disorders, such as Parkinson's disease
- The [CASBLIP](#) research project focuses on cognitive aids for the blind. It aims to develop a wearable device capable of interpreting and managing information from the real world and transforming it into 3D sound maps
- The Brain Computer Interface (BNCI) created by the [Brainable](#) project helps people with [severe disabilities to communicate](#)
- Researchers in the project [Interstress](#) are developing using virtual reality technology to create a new instrument to measure [all forms of stress](#).
- The [Nanopower](#) project develops ways of powering wireless sensors and nano-electronic devices without the need of batteries. Researchers have found a way to harvest energy using nano-technology to transform vibrations and movements into electrical power.
- [Octopus](#) is a soft-bodied robot that can operate under water and perform fluid movements like a living being. The project has developed this [eight-armed robot](#) for use in underwater rescue operations, marine exploration and even surgery.

FET Proactive information day

The colleagues in our Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Proactive unit will stage a public [information day](#) for their objectives in the forthcoming ICT Call 9 in Brussels on 18th January 2012. The FET Proactive objectives in this call are:

- FP7-ICT-2011.9.9: [Quantum ICT \(QICT\) including ERA-NET-Plus](#)
- FP7-ICT-2011.9.10: [Fundamentals of Collective Adaptive Systems \(FOCAS\)](#)
- FP7-ICT-2011.9.11: [Neuro-Bio-Inspired Systems \(NBIS\)](#)
- FP7-ICT-2011.9.12: [Coordinating Communities, Identifying new research topics for FET Proactive initiatives and Fostering Networking of National and Regional Research Programmes](#)

Registration is free of charge but obligatory; places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Horizon 2020

In Brussels on 30th November 2011 the Commission presented a package of measures to boost research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe under [Horizon 2020](#), an €88 billion programme of investment in research and innovation. These measures, successors to the Seventh Framework Programme, will run from 2014 to 2020.

The work to be funded will focus on three strategic goals. Firstly it will support the EU's position as a world leader in science with a dedicated budget of €27.8 billion. Secondly, it will help secure industrial leadership in innovation with a budget of €20.3 billion. Thirdly, €35.9 billion will go towards addressing major concerns shared by all Europeans, across six key themes:

- Health, demographic change and well-being
- Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy; Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Inclusive, innovative and secure societies

The origins of Horizon 2020

A question we are occasionally asked at information days is, how do we develop our workprogrammes? The question is even more relevant for a Framework programme.

First comes a political decision. The [Europe 2020](#) strategy, endorsed by Member States, placed investment in research and innovation at the heart of EU growth. Then when EU heads of state and government discussed innovation at a [meeting](#) in February 2011, they called on the European Commission to bring together all of the EU's research and innovation funding under a single common strategic framework.

At that point, the European Commission launched a wide-ranging consultation involving key stakeholders. We have published a [summary analysis](#) of the consultation, based on written responses and around 1300 online questionnaires which were submitted by interested individuals, companies, research institutes and citizens. We also enquired with key stakeholders, and the [written responses](#) provided by over 750 associations, large organisations and others that provide in-depth views have also been analysed. The Commission also sponsored an [interactive blog](#), where various questions and topics were posted for comment and debate.

Finally, a [Conference](#) on the Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding was staged in Brussels in June this year, to bring together and discuss the outcomes of all these various consultation processes.

Lost Horizon

The Horizon 2020 title for the programme was selected by our colleagues in DG Research as a result of a [competition](#), the winners of which won a trip to the [Innovation Union Convention](#) in Brussels. It's a good name, so good in fact that it is already in use by Directorate General EuropeAid for their [Horizon 2020 initiative](#) to clean up the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution.

Let's hope they don't sue!

New Heads of Unit

Viorel Peca has been appointed Head of Unit for Unit D2 *Networked Media Systems*. Viorel graduated in electronics and communications from the Polytechnic University of Timisoara and subsequently studied at the VUB and KUL in Belgium before joining Alcatel Bell in Antwerp. He has been working with the Commission since 2008.

Ingrid Mariën-Dusak has now joined us as Head of Unit of our own unit C5 *Operations for ICT Research and Innovation*, taking over from Morten Møller who now heads the Directorate General's unit C2 *Strategy for ICT Research and Innovation*.



Ingrid, who comes from Vienna and is a jurist by training, is a Commission veteran of many years, and joins us from her previous position as deputy head of DG INFSO's legal unit. Welcome aboard Ingrid!

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



And for the record.....

ICT CALLS CURRENTLY OPEN

[ICT Call 8](#) was also launched on 20th July 2011 and closes at 17h00 on **17th January 2012**. It covers 13 objectives among six of our Workprogramme 2011-2012 Challenges, four actions in our FET Proactive programme and two specific actions in Science of global systems and Pre-commercial procurement.

The ICT [FET Open](#) call was re-launched for the duration of the 2011-2012 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

THE ICT POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

ICT-PSP Home page

USEFUL INFORMATION

ICT	
INFISO organigramme	Research and innovation Participant Portal
INFISO 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
The ICT Information desk	The FP7 Enquiry service
Information Society A-Z	Questions on Intellectual Property Rights
	The informal association of RTD contact points
	Financial viability check tool
	The SME test

ICT SUPPORT PROJECTS

ACCESS-ICT	As part of the ICT Finance Marketplace initiative, the project acts as a hub between ICT SMEs ready to commercialise the results of their R&D looking for access to investment, and early stage and later stage venture capital investors interesting in accessing deals with strong IP and high growth potential
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
ICT VENTUREGATE	ICT-VentureGate is an FP7 project, part of the ICT Finance Marketplace initiative, that aims to facilitate financing of attractive ICT SMEs, which have participated in FP6 or FP7 and are seeking sources of venture capital to commercialise the results of their R&D activities
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 70 countries with more than 14 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.
YMIR	The YMIR project as part of the ICT Finance Marketplace initiative foresees to coach SMEs in meeting and pitching investors prior to concrete match-making opportunities where they will be able to present their project ideas to Venture Capitalists and other investors