

EU Water Initiative Research Component



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International Dimension of FP6

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative/index_en.html



The evolving context of international scientific co-operation

Globalization of markets, flows of products and services have brought great wealth, but also cut increasingly into the very foundations of natural resource systems of all societies.

- One and two billion respectively out of currently 6.1 billion people on the planet do not have access to safe water and basic sanitation.
- Most ecological and many social indicators are showing downward trends over the last 2 decades in stark contrast to economic indicators, which seemed to point upward until recently.
- Civilizations as long ago as the high Sumerian and later the New World Mayan cultures have faltered because of unsustainable use of natural resources leading to decreasing food supplies, unrest and ultimately their downfall.
- Scientific research, knowledge and technologies have enabled unprecedented progress, however, greater and new types of effort will be required to cope with the growing complexity and scale of interconnected problems societies around the globe are facing.

Strategic objectives

- ◆ Make the European Research Area more attractive to the best scientists and make it a world class reference.
- ◆ Enable European researchers and industrialists to access knowledge and technology available elsewhere in the world.
- ◆ Develop scientific and technological activities useful to the implementation of EU foreign and development aid policy.
- ◆ Enlist the S&T resources of the European Union and of third countries in initiatives that provide a response to significant world problems of concern to the Community.

Communication of the Commission, The international dimension of the European Research Area
COM(2001), 346 fin. 25.6.01

Three major routes for international scientific co-operation in FP6

- ◆ Opening of “Focusing and Integrating Community Research” to third country organizations (with substantial funding – new!)
- ◆ Specific measures in support of international co-operation
- ◆ International mobility of researchers

Over and above these three major routes, the international dimension is a cross-cutting issue which concerns the whole Framework Programme.



International Cooperation in FP6

INTEGRATING EUROPEAN RESEARCH 13.345 M EUROS

PRIORITY THEMATIC AREAS (11285)							SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES (1300)	
Life sciences Genomics and biotechnology for health 2255	Information society technologies 3625	Nanotechnologies, ... 1300	Aeronautics and space 1075	Food quality and safety 685	Sustainable development and global change 2120 (700 Global Change)	Citizens and governance in the knowledge society 225	Supporting Policy Anticipating needs 340	Emerging needs 215
							Horizontal activities involving SME's 430	
							Specific measures in support to international co-operation 315	
							JRC ACTIVITIES 760	

STRUCTURING THE ERA 2605 M EUROS

Research and innovation 290	Human resources & mobility 1580	Research infrastructures 665	Science and society 80
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STRENGTHENING ERA 320 M.EUROS

Support for coordination activities 270	Support for dev of Policies 50
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Opening of “Focusing and Integrating Community Research” to third country organizations (1)

Participation of researchers, teams and institutions from third countries in projects within the 7 Thematic Priority Areas of Research

- ◆ Budget of 285 million Euro for third country participation (not for MS or associated countries to the FP)
- ◆ Overall focus - Community interest

Opening of “Focusing and Integrating Community Research” to third country organizations (2)

- ◆ Examples for international challenges for all countries:
 - Health;
 - Sustainable development (e.g. biodiversity, desertification, integrated water resources management, global change, forest management).
- ◆ Who can be funded from the 285 million Euro?
 - INCO target countries (Developing countries, Mediterranean partner countries, Western Balkan countries, Russia and the other NIS): within limit of budget (285 million Euros embedded in the respective budget of priorities);
 - Other third countries: if provision is made in work programme or if their participation is necessary to carry out the research.

Specific measures in support of international co-operation (1)

- ◆ Dedicated international cooperation activities which are specific to some groups of countries or regions with own calls for proposals
- ◆ Budget: 315 million Euro
- ◆ Strategic objective
To lend support, in the scientific and technological field, to the implementation of the Community's foreign policy, development aid policy etc.
- ◆ Overall focus - mutual interest



Specific international co-operation – INCO (2)

- ◆ These activities will be carried out:
 - To complement the activities in the seven thematic priorities
 - Through specific targeted research projects of a limited scale, actions to coordinate national efforts & specific support actions
- ◆ The nature of activities:
 - Problem-oriented approach on a regional basis, policy dialogue and prioritization
 - Research priorities are defined on the basis of
 - ☑ the interests and objectives of the Community's political partnership with the different groups of countries;
 - ☑ the particular economic, environmental and social needs of countries and regions concerned.



INCO 2004 priorities (1)

A. Developing Countries

1.2 Health care systems, policy and management to address inequities in health and health care with special attention to hygiene and basic sanitation; health economics; support to policy); - STREPS/CAs

2. Rational use of natural resources in humid, arid and coastal ecosystems which are relevant to EU-Water Initiative – SSA only



INCO 2004 priorities (2)

B. Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)

1. Environment

- 1.1 Comprehensive water policy and integrated planning
- 1.2 Improving water consumption efficiency and effectiveness by users and uses
- 1.3 Advanced water treatment, re-use and energy implications
- 1.4 Environmental risks (only CA and SSA): Seismic risks and water related risks and environmental security
- 1.5 Renewable energies for Mediterranean specific needs (cost-effective renewable energies for rural areas and villages; for regional or national energy supply and infrastructure; and for tourist resorts and commercial centers)

INCO 2004 priorities (4)

C. Western Balkan Countries (only Specific Support Actions - SSA) with next deadline: 8 September 2004

1. Environment (management systems, prevention and remediation)
2. Health (medical and public health interventions in post conflict)

D. Russia and the other NIS

1. Environmental protection
2. Adjusting the system of industrial production and communication
3. Health protection

 **NB:** other cooperation activities with Russia and the CIS will be carried out in particular through the INTAS structure set up jointly by the Community and the Member States (www.intas.be/).



International Scientific Co-operation Partnership requirements

◆ Specific Targeted Research Projects (STREP)

- min. 6 participants from 3 different partner and 3 European or associated countries (2 different partner countries for MPC)

◆ Co-ordination Actions (CA)

- min. 6 participants from 3 different partner and 3 European or associated countries (2 for MPC)

◆ Specific Support Actions (SSA)

- no specific requirements



International mobility of researchers

- ◆ A coherent set of actions to support international mobility of researchers in the framework of the specific programme “Structuring the ERA”.
- ◆ With a view to further reinforcing the human potential for European research, these actions aim to
 - attract top researchers from third countries with a view to developing mutually-beneficial research co-operation (with a return ticket)
 - promote the training of European researchers abroad
- Two main types of grants:
 - in-coming fellowships with possibility for a “return ticket”
 - out-going fellowships



International Scientific Co-operation Evaluation (1)

- One stage evaluation in two steps (STREPs and CAs):
 - Scientific evaluation by scientists from around the world focusing on scientific and technical quality (only proposals meeting thresholds move on to second step);
 - Regional evaluation by senior research managers from respective region focusing on relevance to the specific problems of target countries and balance in partnership.

Attention: Part B1 for STREPS must be anonymous!

- Specific Support Measures get assessed in a one-stage, single step evaluation. Anonymity is not required.



International Scientific Co-operation Evaluation (2) - IMPACT

‘Plausible impact’ and testable impact hypothesis newly requested in the proposal.

Resulting greater need for specificity may require rethinking on how impact is realistically achievable:

1. How to build trust with stakeholders early on so that impact chances are high?
2. How to formulate research questions in a relevant way for stakeholders?
3. How to communicate (listen and ‘talk’ to) with stakeholders throughout project duration in order to be perceived as capable to help them solve societal problems?



International Scientific Co-operation Evaluation (3) – Additional issues

STREP/CA proposals meeting thresholds, must also address the following issues:

- Are **gender** issues associated with the subject of the proposal?
- If so, have they been adequately addressed?
- Have potential **ethical and/or safety** aspects been identified?
- Have they been adequately taken into account?
- To what extent does the proposal demonstrate a **readiness to engage with actors beyond the research community** and the public as a whole?
- Have synergies with **education** at all levels been clearly set out?

Next Steps...

- ◆ Broadcast research results from a large number of recent or still on-going international S&T cooperation projects of direct societal relevance to contribute to empowering social actors to make better informed decisions.
- ◆ Develop the Initiative's website to facilitate access to otherwise scattered information on projects (first version goes live later this week) – <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative>.
- ◆ Strengthen outreach by linking science results, local culture, the arts and development efforts.

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