

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'

(2004/C 158/06)

1. In accordance with Decision No 1513/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 June 2002, concerning the sixth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002 to 2006) ⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as the specific programme).

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (referred to as the Commission) has adopted on 9 December 2002 a work programme ⁽³⁾ (referred to as the work programme) setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities of the specific programme, and the timetable for implementation.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 16 December 2002, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in, and for the dissemination of research results for, the implementation of the European Community Sixth Framework Programme (2002 to 2006) ⁽⁴⁾ (referred to as the rules for participation), proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted under the terms of calls for proposals.

2. The present call for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as the call) comprise(s) the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the Annex. The Annex indicates in particular, the date of closure for the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions, an indicative date for the completion of the evaluations, the indicative budget, the instruments and the areas concerned, the evaluation criteria for the evaluation of proposals for indirect RTD actions, the minimum number of participants, and any applicable restrictions.

3. Natural or legal persons fulfilling the conditions stated in the rules for participation and that do not fall under any of the exclusion cases in the rules for participation or in Article 114(2) of the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾ (referred to as the proposers) are invited to submit to the Commission propo-

sals for indirect RTD actions subject to the conditions in the rules for participation and in the call concerned being fulfilled.

The conditions of participation of the proposers will be verified within the framework of the negotiation of the indirect RTD action. Before that however, proposers will have signed a declaration stating that they do not fall under any of the cases given by Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation. They will also have given the Commission the information listed in Article 173(2) of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, of 23 December 2002, laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁶⁾.

The European Community has adopted an equal opportunities policy and, on this basis, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals for indirect RTD actions or participate in the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions.

4. The Commission makes available to proposers guides for proposers relating to the call which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. The Commission also makes available Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures ⁽⁷⁾. These guides and guidelines, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the call, can be obtained from the Commission via the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
Internet address: www.cordis.lu/fp6

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be submitted in accordance with the following procedures:

- as an electronic proposal via the web-based Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) ⁽⁸⁾; or
- on paper forms.

All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Part B of proposals for indirect RTD actions can only be submitted in pdf (portable document format, compatible with Adobe Version 3 or higher with embedded fonts). Compressed (zipped) files will be excluded.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002)4789, as modified by C(2003)577, C(2003)955, C(2003)1952, C(2003)3543, C(2003)3555, C(2003)4609, C(2003)5183, C(2004)433, and C(2004)2002., all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ C(2003)883 of 27 March 2003, as last modified by C(2004)1855 of 18 May 2004.

⁽⁸⁾ The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.

The EPSS software tool (for off-line or on-line usage) is available via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete, illegible or contain viruses will be excluded.

Versions of proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on a removable electronic storage medium (e.g., CD-ROM, diskette), by email or by fax will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may also be prepared and submitted using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as on paper), or using the off-line version of the EPSS.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on paper and which are incomplete will be excluded.

Further details on the various proposal submission procedures are given in Annex J of the Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures.

6. Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on paper by post must be received by the Commission at the following address, and labelled as follows:

FP6 - Research Proposals
(Call identifier: FP6-2004-ACC-SSA-2)
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

For deliveries by hand or by representatives (including by private courier services⁽¹⁾), the delivery should be to the following address, and labelled as follows:

FP6 - Research Proposals
(Call identifier: FP6-2004-ACC-SSA-2)
European Commission
Rue de Genève/Genèvestraat, 1
B-1140 Brussels

7. Proposals for indirect RTD actions have to reach the Commission at the latest on the closure date and at the time specified in the call concerned. Proposals for indirect RTD actions arriving after this date and time will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions not satisfying the conditions relating to the minimum number of participants indicated in the call concerned will be excluded.

This also applies regarding any additional eligibility criteria given in the work programme.

8. In the case of successive submissions of the same proposal for an indirect RTD action, the Commission will examine the last version received before the closure date and time specified in the call concerned.

Where the same proposal for an indirect RTD action is submitted on paper and in electronic format (i.e., on-line), the Commission will only examine the text submitted under the electronic format.

9. If foreseen in the relevant call, proposals for indirect RTD actions could be evaluated in the framework of a future evaluation.

10. In all correspondence relating to a call (e.g., when requesting information, or submitting a proposal for an indirect RTD action), proposers are invited to cite the relevant call identifier.

⁽¹⁾ Users of courier services that ask for the recipient's telephone number should give the following number: (32-2) 29 96206 (Ms Virginia Enache).

ANNEX

1. **Specific programme:** Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area.
2. **Thematic priority/domain:** All thematic priority areas.
3. **Call title:** Specific Support Actions (SSA) for Associated Candidate Countries.
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-ACC-SSA-2
5. **Date of publication:** 15 June 2004
6. **Closure date:** 14 October 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 19 800 000.
8. **Area and instruments:**

Area	Instruments
See Annex D of the work programme	Specific support action

9. **Minimum number of participants:**

Instrument	Minimum number
Specific support action	One legal entity from one ACC ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ ACC: Associated candidate countries – Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.

10. **Restriction to participation:** none
11. **Consortium agreement:** Participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are not required to conclude a consortium agreement.
12. **Evaluation procedure:**
 - the evaluation shall follow a single stage procedure,
 - proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
13. **Evaluation criteria:** see Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
14. **Indicative evaluation and selection timetable:**
 - evaluation results: two months after the relevant closure date mentioned in point 6,
 - contract signature: six months after the relevant closure date mentioned in point 6.