

## **Annex D - Promotion of co-operation with Associated Candidate Countries: “Reinforcement of the Associated Candidate Countries’ Research Capacities”**

### Objectives and approach

The Specific Support Actions will give each Associated Candidate Country (ACCs) the possibility to improve the research capacities of highest quality and/or promising centres, in the thematic priorities’ domains of the FP6, by reinforcing their S&T potential, by supporting and mobilising the human and material resources, by disseminating scientific information as well as the results of research, by facilitating communication between the centres having similar scientific interest and by improving their responses to socio-economic needs of the country.

The objective will be to support approximately 20 excellent research centres in the three ACCs (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey).

### Eligibility criteria:

The research centre is defined here as an existing working unit (a single proposer), either independent or functioning within a locally established research organisation of one of the countries concerned, having preferably distinct organisational and administrative boundaries. The Centre should not be a subsidiary or branch of an organisation established in another country.

### Deliverables

The outcomes of the proposed Specific Support Actions will be:

- contribution to RTD capacity building in the country,
- enhanced participation of the country in the 6th Framework Programme,
- increased scope (regional coverage, subjects, activities) of the Centres with increased linkage with the economic and social environment,
- increased networking between Centres (e.g. mobilising the human and material resources existing in a given field in the associated candidate country, disseminating scientific information as well as the results of research, facilitating communication between centres having similar scientific interests),
- increased job opportunities in the country for young scientists (e.g. measures to avoid “brain drain” phenomena including better carrier opportunities, better work conditions, access to hi-tech infrastructures, etc.).

It is important to note that the call foreseen under this initiative does not replace any calls either on-going or foreseen under other parts of this work programme.

### Priorities for the single call

The call would aim at selecting research entities in the three ACCs.

In each of the seven FP6 thematic priorities of the specific programme, “Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area”, the Commission intends to select the best or the most promising national research centre. These centres will receive funding for activities such as:

- networking with other research centres in Member States (MS) or ACCs: organising exchange of personnel and of results and joint experiments;
- visiting fellows (teachers and/or researchers): hosting scientists from abroad for teaching, training and/or research activities;
- training in MS or ACCs for Ph.D. students and/or post-doctoral researchers: sending scientists from the centre for short stays, to laboratories abroad, either for specialised training or to carry out a specific research experiment;
- workshops, conferences: in order to diffuse and to exploit research results;
- study visits of the researchers from the Centre to other institutions in MS or ACCs in order to prepare cooperative activities and/or joint RTD proposals;
- hiring of new young researchers to reinforce human potential;
- upgrading and/or renewal of S&T equipment.

## CALL INFORMATION

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<sup>1</sup>: 15 June 2004
6. Closure date<sup>2</sup>: 14 October 2004 at 17h00 (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 <sup>3</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

<sup>2</sup> Where the envisaged date of publication is anticipated or delayed (see footnote 1), closure date(s) may be adjusted accordingly in the published call for proposals.

<sup>3</sup>ACC: Associated candidate countries – Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.