

WORK PROGRAMME 2010

CAPACITIES

PART 7

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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7. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The international competitiveness of modern economies is linked increasingly to their ability to generate, adapt and use new knowledge. Science and technology (S&T) are considered to be key factors contributing to achieving sustainable development, prosperity and economic growth. S&T has also proved to be instrumental to enhancing and enriching many other policy areas with an impact on external relations: trade, development, environment, energy, telecommunications, etc.

A new approach is followed in the 7th Framework Programme to support the activities of international cooperation:

- The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the Cooperation programme;
- The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the People programme;
- Activities of the Capacities Programme are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme as well as provide access opportunities in research programmes managed by third countries.

The latter foster international cooperation through support measures for third countries and regions. They support dialogues and information exchange activities with third countries and regions in order to enable the EU and the targeted countries and regions to discuss with different current and future research priorities. The outcomes of these dialogues provide intelligence for developing research policy, offer input to the respective FP7 Specific Programmes, and inspire research topics for international cooperation, in particular in the Cooperation Programme. The activities of international cooperation in the Capacities Programme also support actions to increase coherence in international research activities with and amongst the Member States that contribute to a better Europe-level coordination on aspects of international S&T cooperation, as well as to improve knowledge on the cooperation opportunities offered by third countries' research programmes.

The activities defined in the Specific Programme are:

- Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies;
- Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships;
- Supporting the coordination of national and regional policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T cooperation.

I CONTEXT

Objective

To become more competitive and play a leading role at world level, the European Community needs a strong and coherent international science and technology policy. This international policy has three objectives:

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe.
- To enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with their partners in third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale.
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Policy context

The actions for international cooperation in the Capacities Programme will facilitate research and innovation policy projects in FP7. They will be carried out by consortia with participants from different countries and will aim at developing, adapting and using new knowledge. Such collaboration will also support the wider remit of European research policy as well as trade and industry-related policies. The production and use of scientific knowledge will also be a vital element for the establishment and reinforcement of the Union's relations with third countries, on a bilateral, bi-regional or global scale. Close cooperation will be sought with instruments of the Member States and other Community budget lines and instruments such as those that are designed with a defined geographical coverage to implement particular policies (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI), the Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (ICI), Asia and Latin America (ALA), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Development Fund (EDF)).

Approach for 2010

The work programme 2010 will complete the activities initiated in the previous two work programmes (2007-2008 and 2009) in the respect of the 3 lines of activities defined in the Specific Programme, with a specific emphasis on the reinforcement of the cooperation at regional and bilateral level.

It will also help reinforce the external dimension of the European Research Area (ERA) and in particular contribute to the implementation of the communication on the strategic

framework for international S&T cooperation¹ and of the conclusions of the Council of 2 December 2008².

To achieve these objectives, the following approach will be used in this work programme:

- Ongoing S&T dialogues³ and networks will be further enhanced at regional level in order to identify priority areas for international cooperation. These networks will promote regional integration and will also be used for strengthening the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities carried out by means of other Community policy instruments,
- Partnerships with third countries will be reinforced, in particular in the frame of S&T cooperation agreements,
- the coordination of national and regional policies and programmes of Member States and Associated Countries in the area of S&T cooperation with strategic partner countries will be encouraged,
- The cooperation capacities of the most promising research centres located in the ENP countries, which are not associated to FP7 will be strengthened.

¹ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com_2008_588_en.pdf

² Council conclusions concerning a European partnership for international scientific and technological cooperation, 16017/08 of 2 December 2008

³ A S&T dialogue (in line with EC policies) means in this context the dialogue between the Member States, the EC and the third countries concerned where common issues are identified.

II CONTENT OF CALLS

Activity 7.1 Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies (FP7-INCO-2010-1, INCO-NET)

This INCO-NET call provides an opportunity for the INCO-NET projects, which were selected in the call FP7-INCO-2007-1 to expand their geographical coverage and/or deepen their coordination and structuring activities¹.

Technical content/ scope

The INCO-NET projects aim at supporting bi-regional dialogues that will:

- Promote and structure the participation of third countries in the activities of FP7.
- Promote regional integration (in the sense of major regions outside Europe e.g. Africa, or South East Asia) and will lead to the identification and the prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Facilitate the uptake and use of common identified research areas and the monitoring of performance and impacts of international S&T cooperation across the Specific Programmes of FP7.

Priorities identified in these dialogues on the one hand and priorities of the themes of the Cooperation Programme on the other hand will be brought together to identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit for the work programmes of the corresponding thematic areas. The INCO-NET projects will ensure establishing balanced partnerships, regrouping multiple international stakeholders (partners from research, industry, government and civil society) for research actions. They will also be used for monitoring the implementation of the S&T priorities. These partnerships will require multidisciplinary approaches to tackle diverse needs at a global, regional and/or country level.

INCO-NET actions can only deal with horizontal issues and as such must not be limited to a single or restricted number of thematic areas. Proposals addressing only one research area will be declared ineligible.

Proposed activities

The new activities should add value to existing coordination efforts of the targeted INCO-NET projects by either:

¹ The INCO-NET projects targeted by the call are: CAAST-NET (project No 212625) for Sub-Saharan Africa, MIRA (project No 211359) for Mediterranean Partner Countries, WBC-INCO.NET (project No 212029) for Western Balkan Countries and SEA-EU-NET (project No 212334) for South East Asian Countries. The projects covering Latin America (acronym: EULARINET, project No 212189) and Eastern Europe & Central Asia (acronym: INCONET EECA, project No 212226) are not targeted by this activity since the cooperation with these regions had already been reinforced by the call FP7-INCO-2009-1 through the future launch of INCO-NET projects covering Central America and South Caucasus and Central Asia.

- Increasing the participation of the key stakeholders in Europe and/or fostering the participation of political decision makers inside and outside Europe;
- Bridging gaps between regional, national and multinational S&T, aid and development programmes and policies,
- Deepening ownership and partnership in the existing consortia,
- Promoting synergies between regional, national and multinational S&T cooperation and international relations policies of the EU member states outside Europe.
- Strengthening the inter-sectoral dialogue between higher education, research and innovation actors.
- Assuring the quality of the existing and new deliverables by e.g. integrating external scientists in the development of recommendations and/ or external peer review of deliverables.

The new activities should be in line with the objectives of the description of work of an INCO-NET project. It is expected that due to both the involvement of new project partners and the introduction of complementary activities the quality and quantity of the expected output should increase. Duplication with existing actions under the different themes of the Cooperation Programme must be avoided, in particular, the ICT work programme 2009-2010.

Beside the activities described above and which apply to all targeted INCO-NET projects, specific activities have also been identified for the following projects:

CAAST-NET:

- Increase the European and African participation in the project consortium;
- Involve the Sub-Saharan African regional economic communities recognised by the African Union (SADC, COMESA, EAC; ECCAS, ECOWAS) in particular in the promotion of the FP7 activities;
- Support the interaction between the national and international programmes relevant to the topics covered by the Specific International Cooperation Activity (SICA) projects, which will be supported by the work programme 2010 of the Cooperation Programme and which will target specifically Africa in the frame of the implementation of the 8th Africa-EU Partnership. The networking between the selected SICA projects should also be developed.

MIRA:

- Secure the participation of the remaining Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) in the consortium;
- Increase the participation of Member States and Associated Countries in the consortium;
- Support the building of the Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) in order to foster innovation in the MPC in strong collaboration with the European countries;

- Establish a network of Research Centres, Public Institutions and other Stakeholders aimed at supporting the implementation of the Horizon 2020 Programme¹.
- Support the creation of working groups covering the S&T aspects of the cooperation priorities identified in the Paris Summit of the Union for the Mediterranean in July 2008.

WBC-INCO.NET:

- Develop coordination and cooperation between regional research and innovation stakeholders, in order to build common research and innovation strategies, which could lead eventually to joint activities. The activities, which could be supported, should help bridge the relevant university-industry and aid policies and programmes on national, regional and European level. Additionally, the proposed strategies on joint research and innovation funding activities should provide clear roadmaps with a view to strengthen the market position of SMEs.
- Carry out a systematic analysis of the regional innovation needs; exchange of information and best practices on innovation policies and activities.

SEA-EU-NET:

- Secure the participation of the remaining South East Asian countries in the consortium and involve regional research organisations where appropriate;
- Increase the participation of Member States and Associated Countries in the consortium;
- Reinforce the interaction between the NCP networks and the FP7 Contact Points in the region as well as between the European and South East Asian researchers through dedicated brokerage events.

Funding scheme:

The funding scheme that applies is the Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action).

For proposals which concern the integration of one or more new participants in the consortium, the changes needed in the grant agreement to integrate the new participant(s) from a successful proposal will be implemented through an amendment of the INCO-NET project. The duration of the project will not be changed.

For proposals which include additional activities, the changes needed in the grant agreement to integrate the new activities from a successful proposal will be implemented through an amendment of the INCO-NET project. The duration of the project may be increased in that case. The new activities should be in line with the funding scheme of the project to be extended.

¹ Additional information available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/med/horizon_2020_en.htm

Proposals should be submitted by the coordinator of the INCO-NET project, acting on behalf of all the existing participants in the project, together with the new participant(s) if applicable.

Participants

New participants should come from the Member States, Associated Countries and/or the third countries targeted by the INCO-NET project. Additional countries can also participate from another region (e.g. a neighbouring region) if there is a clear added value to the project and to the regional activities. Consortium composition and responsibilities should remain balanced between European and third country participants. The funding of participants from industrialised or high-income third countries would be allowed for this Activity if it is considered essential for the success of the projects. Preference should be given to project partners that are national or regional authorities or have the necessary mandate to act on behalf of them.

The consortia should also ensure equitable representation and promote gender equality.

Expected impact

The INCO-NET actions will support structured fora for dialogue between Europe and the targeted groups of third countries. These should lead to the setting of priorities for S&T cooperation based on mutual interest and benefit and thus achieving more targeted use of available resources. These coordination actions will lead to an enhanced participation of these countries and regions in the FP7 and to an effective implementation of the joint activities. The expected impact will be higher when there is a large coverage of the region, involving the participation of a significant number of third countries.

Activity 7.2 Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships (FP7-INCO-2010-2, BILAT)

BILAT calls target countries, which have recently requested an S&T cooperation agreement with the EC and are in the process of negotiating such an agreement. In this call, only Algeria would be targeted by the call.

Technical content/ scope

The development of S&T Partnerships will be based on bi-lateral dialogues and coordination of policy initiatives in jointly defined priority areas. Within the framework of the S&T promotion platforms, priority will be given to the elaboration of collaboration schemes and the identification of new activities.

Proposed activities

The proposals should cover most if not all thematic areas of the Framework Programme so as to benefit to the largest scientific community in the targeted country. Proposals addressing only one thematic area will be declared ineligible.

The proposals should focus on:

- Improving the process of providing information on programs and funding designed to promote cooperation of third countries in the Framework Programme;
- Better identifying and demonstrating mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and specific third countries and
- Sharing best practices via joint fora such as workshops and presenting the state of the art and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.

These actions will comprise information and awareness activities, the establishment and reinforcement of information services such as a liaison/promotion structure, a comprehensive website and a mailing database, specialised thematic workshops or special high-level events both at the scientific level in specific third countries and in Europe as well as at the political and policy-making level.

The following specific issues may be addressed by the actions:

- Development of information facilities which may consist of a centre, a website and a number of information services on European–third country collaboration providing a range of services including:
- Information and links on existing collaboration (including a 'living' inventory of collaboration) and Community Programmes,
- Assistance in forming research partnerships and a referral service to relevant experts for specialist advice;
- Assistance in identifying suitable research partners in the country.

- Events aimed at identifying priorities for collaboration and enhancing the quality, quantity and visibility of future actions.
- Actions to exchange information and experience with the information platforms in other third countries and with information services in the Member States.

Area open to this call

Algeria is the only one country targeted by this call (Area INCO.2010-2.1). Only the highest ranked proposal targeting Algeria will be considered for funding provided that it has passed all thresholds of the evaluation criteria and subject to the availability of the budget. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals.

Funding scheme

The funding scheme that applies is the Coordination and Support Action (supporting action). The actions will aim specifically at *support activities* which will be implemented to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of organisations from third countries in the priority thematic areas of the 7th Framework Programme. This will be done through information and awareness activities in those areas in which special efforts are needed.

Community contribution for the project is expected to be about EUR 0.5 million. The typical duration of the project should not exceed 3 years.

Participants

In order to be eligible, the proposals must target the country covered by the Activity 7.2 (i.e. Algeria). The consortium must include participants from the country that is aimed at in the proposal. In that context, the participation of the third country authorities responsible for the follow-up of the S&T cooperation agreement or any organisation, which has received the necessary mandate from the national authorities, is considered essential for the project and will be reflected in the evaluation. Evidence of such mandate should be provided in the proposal description.

The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.

The consortia should also ensure equitable representation and promote gender equality.

Algeria:

The EU's proximity policy towards the Mediterranean region is governed by the global and comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched at the 1995 Barcelona Conference, between the European Union and its Mediterranean Partners (hence called the Barcelona

Process¹), which has been reaffirmed by the Head of States conference in Paris on 13 July 2008 launching the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean initiative². The current agenda of EU-Algeria relations is spelled out in the Association Agreement³ and its corresponding Strategy Paper 2007-2013⁴ under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The Strategy Paper stresses the need to develop higher education and scientific research, which are essential to the building of a knowledge society, to promote joint university-business research projects and increase the participation of researchers and universities in European research and innovation programmes and projects under the 7th R&D Framework Programme.

Algeria has asked to have an S&T Cooperation agreement with the EC. Community preparations for a Council decision authorising the Commission to negotiate such an agreement are underway and the Council decision should be adopted in the first half of 2009. The purpose of this agreement is to reinforce the cooperation between Europe and Algeria in the field of Science and Technology mainly through the participation to the Framework Programmes.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Support the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres (incl. thematic contact points),
- Develop an S&T observatory on EU-Algeria cooperation,
- Help Algerian researchers foster partnerships with EU researchers in view of preparing FP7 proposals,
- Increase the participation of Algeria in the People Programme,
- Train research administrators in the management of international contracts in the research area.

Expected impact

The overall aim of these actions is to improve S&T cooperation between Europe and targeted third countries by providing access to information and by identifying priorities and the best partners for research. It is expected that this translates into a measurable increase of effective collaborations as well as less readily measurable improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and partner countries with the S&T agreements.

¹ Additional information available at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index.htm

² Additional information available at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/docs/com08_319_en.pdf

³ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/algeria/agreement/index_en.htm

⁴ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_csp_nip_algeria_en.pdf

Activity 7.3 Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States in the field of international S&T cooperation (FP7-INCO-2010-3, ERA-NET)

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to step up the cooperation and coordination of research programmes at national or regional level in the Member or Associated States through the networking of research programmes. This is ultimately aimed at their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities.

In order to promote/encourage effective international scientific EU cooperation strategy at European level, a coordination of national and regional policies and programmes of Member States and Associated States is essential to fulfil the commitments made in the S&T bi-regional and bi-lateral dialogues. ERA-NET activities should help implement the recent communications on the strategic framework for international S&T cooperation as well as on joint programming. The activities will contribute to the success of the European Research Area by improving the coherence and coordination of international S&T cooperation programmes across Europe.

Proposed coordination activities

ERA-NET actions can network four types of activities:

- (1) Information exchange amongst Member States, Associated Countries and Community on S&T international cooperation, thus promoting an effective and efficient international scientific cooperation strategy at EU level;
- (2) Definition and preparation of joint activities;
- (3) Implementation of commonly agreed objectives and joint activities by facilitating innovative programmatic approaches;
- (4) Funding of joint trans-national research actions.

ERA-NETs launched under FP6 wishing to submit a follow-up proposal under FP7 have to propose a strong coordination action focusing directly on steps three and four. As such, these proposals should aim to broaden partnerships by integrating new partners and/or strengthening the coordination between the relevant national and regional programmes in the field concerned. In particular, a global approach including non-European research programmes from the third countries mentioned above should be envisaged.

New ERA-NETs, which address new topics and have no experience of FP6, should address at least the first three steps, but should aim at the 'four step approach', as described above.

The participation of organisations from legal entities located in the targeted third countries or regions would be considered an asset that would reinforce the impact of the action in question.

Eligibility criteria

'Research programmes carried out at national or regional level' should be understood as entire research programmes, or parts of such programmes, or similar initiatives. Such programmes should have all of the following characteristics:

- a) Be strategically planned (i.e. be composed of a number of research projects focused on a defined subject area or set of problems, that are scheduled to run for a set period of time and that have a co-ordinated management); and
- b) Be carried out at national or regional level; and
- c) Either be financed or managed directly by national or regional public bodies, or by structures (e.g. agencies) closely related to or mandated by public authorities.

For ERA-NET consortia, the minimum number of participants has been set at three independent legal entities which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes that must be established in a different Member State or Associated country. Eligible partners for ERA-NET actions:

- Programme owners, typically national/regional ministries/governments responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- Programme 'managers' (such as research councils or funding agencies) or other national or regional organisations that manage research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners.
- Programme owners (typically national ministries/regional authorities) which do not have a running or fully fledged research programme at the moment of submitting an ERA-NET proposal, but which are planning or have committed to setting up such a programme, are also eligible if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination. As such, countries or regions which have fewer research programmes and whose programmes are less diverse (in particular new Member States and candidate associated countries) will find their involvement in the ERA-NET scheme greatly facilitated.
- In addition, other private legal entities (e.g. charities), international or non governmental organisations which manage research programmes may participate if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination.

Please note that research organisations or universities which are not programme owners or managers are not eligible partners for ERA-NET actions.

Sole participants (as referred to in Article 10 of the Rules for Participation) may be eligible if the specific criteria for eligible ERA-NET partners listed above are respected. A sole participant shall explicitly indicate which of his 'members' constituting a sole legal entity is either a programme owner or programme manager in the proposed action and indicate for these members which respective national/regional programmes are at the disposal of the proposed ERA-NET action.

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action). The financial support from the Community will be limited to the costs of the additional activities undertaken to implement the ERA-NET. No support will be provided for the research programmes themselves, for which the members of the ERA-NET will be expected to use their own resources.

Community funding for a project in ERA-NET is expected to be about EUR 2 million. The duration of the project should be typically of 2 years and should not exceed 3 years.

Areas open to this call

The objective of this call for proposals is to increase the cooperation and coordination of research programmes carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and Associated Countries that target third countries. Each proposal should target only one of the following Areas:

- Area INCO.2010-3.1: Africa;
- Area INCO.2010-3.2¹: Brazil; Canada; China; Japan, United States of America.

Africa:

The proposals should help implement the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and its first Action Plan adopted at the Lisbon Summit in December 2007, as well as the College to College Joint Declaration signed by the European Commission (EC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) in Brussels in October 2008.²

The proposals, which will target the coordination of existing or new European national and regional programmes with programmes in the countries and regions in Africa could tackle global challenges such as health, climate change, energy, water and food security.

The joint activities, which will be implemented in the proposals should be embedded in a coherent and co-ordinated long term vision and sustainable strategy by e.g. involving the African Diaspora, the Regional Economic Communities of Africa, and/or federating all key stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society in order to avoid fragmentation of initiatives. Additionally, priority setting recommendations identified in CAAST-NET³ could be taken into consideration by a future ERA-NET project.

The joint activities should cover collaborative research, networking, training and/or mobility activities, and should aim at increasing the research capacity of African centres of excellence so as to improve career opportunities for African researchers.

¹ Proposals in Area INCO.2010.3-2 should only cover one of the target countries.

² The European Commission (EC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) agreed on an EU / Africa Strategic Partnership during the EU/ AU Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. 8 thematic partnerships were identified, the 8th of these being the partnership for Science, Information Society and Space.

³ CAAST-NET is the INCO-NET project for Sub-Saharan Africa (project No 212625) - <http://www.caast-net.org>

Successful projects will contribute to the implementation of the EU-AU Partnership for Science, Information Society and Space.

This would be facilitated by the inclusion of the main stakeholders at national and regional level in Europe and in Africa e.g. funding agencies, ministries, and other key organisations that run already established national and regional S&T or plan new programmes, development and/or aid programmes. International organisations such as the African Union or the United Nations could also be included as equal partners in the consortia. Bridging gaps between national and multinational S&T, aid and development programmes and policies should be encouraged.

Eligible programmes should run an open, merit based competition, and be founded on international peer review.

Joint activities should be based on a joint strategy and might enable the project partners to implement joint funding activities for focused challenges or specific topics.

The details of new, joint funding activities should be prepared during the first phase of the project, which should not take longer than 12 months. A general vision including the specific focus of future joint funding activities should be set out in the description of work.

As a result of this first phase, a project should deliver a strategy and/or recommendations for future joint activities. The strategy should prepare the way for joint programming and needs to be backed up by a traceable roadmap describing:

- The implementation steps for joint funding activities e.g. joint calls for project proposals, and/or the top-down funding of single projects or programmes or the development and implementation of schemes for the mutual opening of laboratories and other scientific facilities;
- A clear plan describing how programmes will be initiated, trans-national mobility realised and the working conditions of the final beneficiaries enhanced;
- Budgetary aspects of the contributions of each participating project partner;
- Monitoring and evaluation plans on project and programme level, e.g. a short description of transparent multinational evaluation procedures (peer review, etc.)

The proposers are encouraged to include internationally recognised scientists in the decision-making process on future joint funding activities.

The consortium should ensure equitable representation and promote gender equality.

Brazil, Canada, China, Japan and USA:

The ERA NET proposals, which will target one of these five countries should focus either on the coordination of research, innovation and/or mobility programmes of Member States and Associated Countries.

Each proposal should share the common intention of strengthening collaboration between existing and new programmes, aim to create the best possible framework conditions for research and/or innovation, identify good practices, promote the use of e.g. programmes both in the private and the public sector, and establish a favourable legal and regulatory policy environment that will promote and protect research findings.

Each proposal should clearly outline which areas will be covered.

The programmes, which will be covered by the proposals, should run an open, merit based competition, and be founded on international peer review.

The mobility programmes, which could be covered by the proposals, should be in line with the principles set out in the European Charter for researchers and the Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers.¹ Proposals targeting coordination of mobility programmes should emphasise the funding of post-doctoral researchers' mobility and exclude the mobility of Doctoral or PhD students. Since Member States and/or Associated Countries manage several bilateral mobility programmes with the target countries, their coordination should be included in the proposals. Proposals could even focus solely the coordination of the existing mobility programmes.

Joint activities should be based on a joint strategy and might enable the project partners to implement joint funding activities for focused challenges or specific topics.

The details of new, joint funding activities should be prepared during the first phase of the project, which should not take longer than 12 months. A general vision including the specific focus of future joint funding activities should be set out in the description of work.

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- The implementation steps for joint funding activities e.g. joint calls for project proposals, and/or the top-down funding of single projects or programmes or the development and implementation of schemes for the mutual opening of laboratories and other scientific facilities;
- A clear plan describing how programmes will be initiated, trans-national mobility realised and the working conditions of the final beneficiaries enhanced;
- Budgetary aspects of the contributions of each participating project partner;
- Monitoring and evaluation plans on project and programme level, e.g. a short description of transparent multinational evaluation procedures (peer review, etc.).

The proposers are encouraged to include internationally recognised scientists in the decision-making process on future joint funding activities.

The consortium should ensure equitable representation and promote gender equality.

Expected impact:

This coordination will enhance synergies and will reinforce the impact of the ongoing bilateral S&T cooperation between Member States and third countries. It will also enhance complementarities between the Community and Member States and broaden the institutional cooperation.

The ERA-NET scheme aims to reduce the fragmentation of the European Research Area by increasing coordination between national research programmes across the EU Member States and countries associated to the Framework Programme.

¹ Commission recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, C(2005) 576 of 11.3.2005.

ERA-NET actions allow Member States and Associated Countries to avoid overlap between their programmes and to develop expertise from mutual learning.

In general, ERA-NET actions should not cover very limited research areas. They should not overlap with other ongoing ERA-NET actions or create further fragmentation. Complementarities to or coordination with FP7 activities should be ensured where possible. Because of their geographical coverage, the International Cooperation ERA-NET actions could also help increase the international dimension of projects, which coordinate national thematic programmes in Europe successfully.

ERA-NET actions will result in concrete co-operation between research programmes, such as their networking, their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint programmes and activities.

The scheme will also enable national or regional systems to collectively take on tasks that they would not have been able to tackle independently.

ERA-NET actions are expected to have a lasting impact. The co-operation developed should provide reliable indications that it could continue beyond the Community funding.

Furthermore, it would be an advantage if the lessons learnt and knowledge gathered are disseminated in the European Research Area with a particular focus on new Member States.

In addition to the general impact described above, more specific expected benefits of ERA-NET actions include:

- Achieving critical mass, to ensure the better use of scarce resources;
- Joining forces to provide common answers to common research problems;
- Addressing global issues, common to many EU Member States or countries associated to the Framework Programme;
- Addressing specific geographical issues common to a number of EU Member States or countries associated to the Framework Programme;
- Developing common governance principles (e.g. with respect to ethics, good practices);
- Bring together national programmes which deal with cooperation with third countries, and enable them to speak with a 'single voice';
- Adopt a global approach, including non-European research programmes, to the activities covered by ERA-NET actions.

Activity 7.4 Supporting trans-national cooperation among NCPs (INCO-NCP)

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.5 Supporting EU access to third country programmes (ACCESS4EU)

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.6 Integrating Europe's neighbours into the ERA (FP7-INCO-2010-6, ERA-WIDE)

The reinforcement of the cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the European Research Area (ERA) is an important part of the EC communication on the Strategic Framework for international S&T cooperation¹. In order to promote closer scientific cooperation with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries and to prepare their possible future association to the Framework Programmes, dedicated activities aimed at improving the cooperation capacity of these countries should be carried out under the Specific international cooperation activities of FP7. This should complement the Research and Innovation activities described in the National Indicative Programmes and covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instruments (ENPI).

Technical content/scope

The objective of this action is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of research centres located in the ENP countries, which are not associated to FP7². The call will give these countries the possibility to improve the research activities of their highest quality and/or promising centres in the thematic priorities of FP7.

Proposed activities

The activities covered by the call are:

- Networking with research centres in Member States or Associated Countries in view of disseminating scientific information, identifying partners and setting up joint experiments;
- Developing training modules to build competency and facilitate the participation in FP7 of the centres located in the targeted third countries;
- Developing the research centres' strategy in order to increase their scope in particular their regional coverage and to improve their responses to the socio-economic needs of their countries and of the region.

The joint development of training modules to build competency and facilitate the participation of these centres in FP7 should build on already existing expertise or successful collaboration experience.

In the development of the research centres' strategies the involvement of internally well-established, independent researchers is recommended, and external peer review activities of strategies should be foreseen. In some cases, the involvement of well-recognised international S&T policy experts might be of help.

¹ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com_2008_588_en.pdf

² The countries targeted by the call are: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian-administered Areas, Lebanon, Syria, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan

The activities proposed should form a coherent plan for improving the centre's capacities in a given research area and therefore they should be described in detail and justified. Preference should be given to activities with a regional impact.

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the Coordination and Support Action (supporting action). Community contribution for each project is expected to be about EUR 0.5 million. The typical duration of the project would be between 2 to 3 years.

Participants

This call is addressed to research centres of proven high level S&T capacities, which are located in an ENP country not associated to FP7. The research centre is defined here as an existing working unit, 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.

In order to be eligible, the proposal must target only one such centre, the consortium should however include additional participants, in particular from the Member States and/or Associated Countries so as to fulfil the objectives of the Activity.

The consortium must include the research centre that is targeted in the proposal.

The research centre targeted by the proposal should be the coordinator of the proposal.

The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.

The consortia should also ensure equitable representation and promote gender equality.

Areas open to this call:

The call will be open to the fields of science addressed by the thematic priorities of FP7 and will target centres located in the following regions:

- Area INCO.2010-6.1: Eastern Europe and South Caucasus: Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan,
- Area INCO.2010-6.2: Mediterranean Partner Countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian-administered Areas, Lebanon, Syria

It is important to have as many countries covered under the call. For this reason, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied:

At least one project per country covered by the areas of the Activity 7.6 of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, the highest ranked proposal for a given target country will be considered for

funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects in each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.

Expected impact

The outcomes of the Activity should be:

- Contribution to RTD capacity building in the target country,
- Enhanced participation of the country in the 7th Framework Programme,
- Increased scope (regional coverage, subjects, activities) of the centres with increased linkage with economic and social environment,
- Networking with other research centres in Member States or Associated Countries (mobilising the human and material resources existing in a given field, disseminating scientific information as well as the results of research, facilitating communication between the centres having similar scientific interest),
- Increased job opportunities in the country for young scientists (measures to avoid 'brain drain' phenomena: better career opportunities, better work conditions, access to research infrastructures).

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

1. Call title: Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies – Activity INCO-NET

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2010-1
- Date of publication¹: 30/07/2009
- Deadline²: 19/01/2010, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 4.00 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-1 Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies		
INCO.2010-1.1 Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 4.00 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no two of which are established in the same MS or AC.

The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

- Proposals addressing only one research area will be declared ineligible.

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

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 4.00 million is given to this call budget from the 2010 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

- Proposals should be submitted by the coordinators of the INCO-NET projects listed in the work programme, acting on behalf of all the existing participants in the project.
- Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in annex 2 of the work programme.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2010. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2010.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

2. Call title: Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships – Activity BILAT

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2010-2
- Date of publication¹: 30/07/2009
- Deadline²: 19/01/2010, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 0.50 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-2 Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships		
INCO.2010-2.1 Algeria	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	At least 1 independent legal entity

The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

- The consortium must include participants from the country that is aimed at in the call (i.e. Algeria).
- Proposals addressing only one thematic area will be declared ineligible.
- Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

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

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 0.50 million is given to this call budget from the 2010 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The participation of the third country authorities responsible for the follow-up of the S&T cooperation agreement or any organisation, which has received the necessary mandate from the national authorities, is considered essential for the project and will be reflected in the evaluation.
- The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2010. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiations for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2010.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

3. Call title: Supporting the coordination of national and regional policies and activities of Member States and Associated countries in the field of international cooperation – Activity ERA-NET

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2010-3
- Date of publication¹: 30/07/2009
- Deadline²: 19/01/2010, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 6.00 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-3 Supporting the coordination of national and regional policies and activities of Member States and Associated countries in the field of international cooperation		
INCO.2010-3.1 Africa	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2010-3.2 Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, USA	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 4.00 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (coordinating)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no two of which are established in the same MS or AC.

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

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 6.00 million is given to this call budget from the 2010 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

- All budgetary figures given in this call are indicative. The repartition of the sub-budgets awarded within this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

Specific Eligibility Criteria:

The aim of ERA-NET actions is to network research programmes carried out at national or regional level, with a view to their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities. Such programmes shall have all of the following characteristics:

- Be strategically planned (i.e. be composed of a number of research projects focused on a defined subject area or set of problems, that are scheduled to run for a set period of time and that have a co-ordinated management).
- Be carried out at national or regional level.
- Be either financed or managed directly by national or regional public bodies, or by structures (e.g. agencies) closely related to, or mandated by, public authorities.

The minimum number of participants in an ERA-NET consortium is **3 independent legal entities** which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes. **Each of these must be established in a different Member State or Associated Country.**

Partners for ERA-NET actions eligible to satisfy the above condition are:

- Programme owners: typically national ministries/regional authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- Programme 'managers' (such as research councils or funding agencies) or other national or regional organisations that *implement* research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners.
- Programme owners (typically national ministries/regional authorities) which do not have a running or fully fledged research programme at the moment of submitting an ERA-NET proposal, but which are planning, and have committed, to set up such a programme, are also eligible if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination. As such, countries or regions which have less diverse research programmes (in particular new Member States and candidate Associated Countries) will find their involvement in the ERA-NET scheme greatly facilitated.

Please note that research organisations or universities which are not programme owners or managers are not eligible partners for ERA-NET actions.

In addition, other private legal entities (e.g. charities) which manage research programmes may enter the consortium if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination.

Sole participants (as referred to in Article 10 of the Rules for Participation) may be eligible if the above-mentioned specific criteria for eligible ERA-NET partners are respected. A sole participant shall explicitly indicate which of its 'members' forming a sole legal entity is either a programme owner or programme manager in the proposed action and indicate for these members, the respective national/regional programmes which are at the disposal of the proposed ERA-NET action.

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month February 2010. It is expected that the contract negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2010.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the ERA-NET actions.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

4. Call title: Integrating Europe's neighbours into the ERA – Activity ERA-WIDE

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2010-6
- Date of publication¹: 30/07/2009
- Deadline²: 19/01/2010, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 7.50 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-6 Integrating Europe's neighbours into the ERA		
INCO.2010-6.1 Eastern Europe and South Caucasus: Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 3.00 million
INCO.2010-6.2 Mediterranean Partner Countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian-administered Areas, Lebanon, Syria	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 4.50 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	At least 1 independent legal entity

The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

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

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 7.50 million is given to this call budget from the 2010 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.
- All budgetary figures given in this call are indicative. The repartition of the sub-budgets awarded within this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

- The proposal must target only one research centre of proven high level S&T capacities, which is located in an ENP country not associated to FP7. The research centre is defined here as an existing working unit, 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.
- The consortium must include the research centre that is targeted in the proposal.
- Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme. Additionally, the highest ranked proposal for a given target country should be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects in each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2010. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2010.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

Impact of the cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement

The objective is to perform an analysis of the impact of cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement, which are up for renewal. The country targeted in 2010 will be Argentina. This activity will involve one study for each targeted country, implemented through expert contracts to be launched in the 1st quarter 2010.

The evaluation should comprise an in-depth desk research on the achievements and scope of the S&T agreements as well as on-site visit in the targeted country.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts¹, indicative budget EUR 0.050 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched by the middle of 2010

Impact of the International Cooperation activities in the Capacities Programme

The objective is to perform an analysis of the international cooperation activities of the Capacities Programme, which will feed into the overall interim evaluation of FP7. The impact of these activities in the International Dimension of the Framework Programme will also be analysed.

The evaluation should comprise an in-depth desk research on the achievements of the projects selected since the launch of FP7 as well as meetings with the coordinators and main participants of these projects. A preliminary analysis of the joint activities carried out under the International Cooperation ERA-NET projects should also be covered by the evaluation.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts², indicative budget EUR 0.16 million

A support structure for the International Learning Network (ILN)

The International Learning Network (ILN) is intended to further structure the existing information exchange between all ongoing projects supported by the international cooperation activities of the Capacities Programme. There are four major objectives for the ILN:

- 1.) To provide a forum for project coordinators and/or work package leaders where experience of various methodological aspects of the coordination process can be shared (mutual learning) and standardisation can be supported,
- 2) To provide an important opportunity for the Commission to learn about the experiences of the different types of projects,

¹ In accordance with Article 14(c), 17 and 27(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

² In accordance with Article 14(c), 17 and 27(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

- 3) To support existing information exchange on horizontal issues such as regional aspects or on outstanding initiatives of other DGs, NGOs etc
- 4) To identify synergies between the ongoing projects.

The objective of this action is to:

- Provide a logistical and analytical support to the ILN;
- Develop a web-platform, which will act as a repository of all project deliverables,
- Develop and publish an international ILN newsletter.

Funding scheme: call for tender¹ (service contract), indicative budget EUR 0.3 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched in the second half of 2010

Development of future policy options for international cooperation

The objective is to organise a conference to present the achievements and reflect on the future actions of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC).

Funding scheme: call for tender² (service contract), indicative budget EUR 0.1 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched in the first half of 2010

¹ In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

² In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

Indicative budget for the Activities of International Cooperation of the 2010 Work Programme¹

	Total (EUR million)
<i>Call FP7-INCO-2010-1 (INCO-NET)</i>	<i>4.00</i>
<i>Call FP7-INCO-2010-2 (BILAT)</i>	<i>0.50</i>
<i>Call FP7-INCO-2010-3 (ERA-NET)</i>	<i>6.00</i>
<i>Call FP7-INCO-2010-6 (ERA-WIDE)</i>	<i>7.50</i>
<i>Other actions</i>	<i>0.61</i>
<i>Evaluation, monitoring and reviewers</i>	<i>0.10</i>
<i>Estimated total budget allocation</i>	<i>18.71</i>

Budget Figures in This Work Programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Following the evaluation of proposals, the final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary:

- by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call, and
- any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20% of the indicated budgets for these actions. The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the indicated budget for these actions.

¹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

V INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS

While the work programme 2010 will deepen the activities initiated in the work programmes 2007-2008 and 2009, the work programme 2011 will continue to help reinforce the external dimension of the ERA and in particular contribute to the implementation of the communication on the strategic framework for international S&T cooperation through specific measures targeting strategic partners.