



New Approaches and Tools for Incubated Biotech SMEs.

We help to develop your idea within the FP6 instruments.

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The purpose of this section is to give a brief overview of the basic features of the **Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6)**. It gives some elements to consider if you are interested in submitting a research proposal.

1/ **The strategic objectives**

Based on the Treaty establishing the European Union, the Framework Programme has to serve two main strategic objectives: Strengthening the scientific and technological bases of industry and encourage its international competitiveness while promoting research activities in support of other EU policies. These two objectives are setting the general scene for choosing priorities and instruments.

2/ **Who could consider participation?**

-A research group at university or at a research institute

Research institutions are one of the main target groups of FP6. They find possibilities in virtually all actions of FP6, from participation in research projects to becoming hosts for mobility and training actions.

-A company intending to innovate. Companies are one of the main target groups of FP6, in particular SMEs, for which 15% of the budget of the thematic priorities is reserved. Companies can take part in all research activities. They can also become hosts for mobility and training actions.

-A Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)

SMEs are encouraged to take part in all thematic areas. 15% of the budget is reserved for them. In addition, for SMEs intending to innovate without having their own research capacity, the "co-operative research" instrument is appropriate. Consortia involving a minimum of three SMEs from two different countries can entrust research and development

tasks to scientific institutions. The SMEs will own the results.

A SMEs Association or grouping

To boost innovation of whole groups of SMEs or of sectors dominated by SMEs, the instrument "collective research" is foreseen. Business associations (consortia of at least two national associations from two different countries or one international association) may receive funding to entrust research activities to research institutions.

-Public administrations

If the organisation is dealing with research policy or management of public research programmes, the ERA-NET scheme might be of interest. The scheme gives support to transnational coordination and co-operation of research activities carried out at national or regional level. Otherwise, public administrations can be valuable partners of consortia in areas where they play a role in the use of research results (e.g. in health, environment, transport, legislation etc...)

-Undergraduate students

In general, activities funded under FP6 do not seek to target undergraduates directly, with the exception of some actions to promote science among young people.

-Early stage researchers (post-graduate)

Special mobility and training schemes are foreseen in FP6 for early-stage researchers, enabling them to further their research career by working in an institution in a country different from their country of origin or residence. Furthermore, these researchers can get support for participation in international conferences and training courses.

-Experienced researchers

Special mobility actions are foreseen in FP6 for experienced researchers (having a PhD or 4 years research experience). Their aim is to provide advanced training or to support the transfer of knowledge to institutions intending to develop new areas of activities or to institutions in less favoured regions.

-Acknowledge world-class

There are Excellence Grants to enable a promising researcher to create a team engaged in leading edge or multi-disciplinary research, and Chairs for making top-level teaching appointments, in particular to attract world-class researchers and encourage them to resume their careers in Europe.

-Institutions running research facility of transnational interest

The infrastructure actions are of interest to institutions hosting an important research facility. They offer support for transnational access for guest researchers from Europe or other countries. Moreover, support will also be given for design studies and development of new infrastructures and for communication networks.

-Organisations and persons from third country

International co-operation (=co-operation with third countries not being a member state or an associated state) is an integral part of FP6, with the following three complementary routes for participating and funding:

1. The opening of the bulk of research activities to third country organizations
2. Specific measures in support of international co-operation
3. International mobility of researchers (fellowships to and from third countries)

-Others

The list of potential participants is just exemplary, not exhaustive. Other entities like European Economic Interest Groups (EEIGs), European interest organisations, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, end-users, specialist service providers (management, dissemination etc) and many others may also participate.

3/ The European and international dimension

Following the principle of subsidiarity, projects have to be transnational: only consortia of partners from different member and associated countries can apply. For mobility and training actions the fellows have to go to a country different from their country of origin or residence. Activities that can better be carried out at national or regional level, i.e. without co-operation across borders will in general not be eligible under the Framework Programme.

Focus and concentration

FP6 does not cover all areas of science and technology (with the exception of some special actions). A limited number of thematic priorities have been identified. Detailed descriptions of these areas and specific topics will be given in the calls for proposals. Potential participants have to check carefully if their ideas for projects fit within the scope of these priorities and topics. Multidisciplinary proposals addressing several topics may be submitted.

:: The submission process

Submission of proposals is only possible in response to calls for proposals, which are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. Calls have strict deadlines which are enforced to the minute.

Special information packages are issued for each call comprising documents, explanations and forms which are needed for the preparation of a proposal.

:: The electronic submission

An electronic proposal submission system (EPSS) is offered and proposers are strongly encouraged to use electronic submission.

:: The selection process

Proposals are evaluated and selected for funding by the European Commission with the help of independent external experts (peer review). Evaluation criteria and a detailed description of the process of evaluation are published in advance. For successful proposals, the European Commission enters into (financial and scientific-technical) contract negotiation leading, eventually, to the signature of a contract.

Activity Areas

These are the research areas and research activities that are eligible for funding under FP6.

Thematic Areas

Covers those areas where the EU in the medium term intends to become the most competitive and dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health:

To exploit breakthroughs achieved in decoding the genomes of living organisms, for the benefit of public health and to increase the competitiveness of the European biotechnology industry. Also to bring basic knowledge through to the application stage to enable real progress at European level in medicine and improve the quality of life.

Information society technologies:

Intended to stimulate the development in Europe of both hardware and software technologies and applications at the heart of the creation of the information society in order to increase the competitiveness of European industry and allow European citizens the

possibility of benefiting fully from the development of the knowledge-based society

Nanotechnologies and nano-sciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices:

Intended to help Europe achieve a critical mass of capacities needed to develop and exploit, especially for greater eco-efficiency and reduction of discharges of hazardous substances to the environment, leading-edge technologies for the knowledge-based products, services and manufacturing processes of the years to come.

Aeronautics and space

To strengthen, by integrating its research efforts, the scientific and technological bases of the European aeronautics and space industry and encouraging it to become more competitive at international level; and to help exploit the potential of European research in this sector with a view to improving safety and environmental protection.

Food quality and safety

Intended to help establish the integrated scientific and technological bases needed to develop an environmentally friendly production and distribution chain of safer and varied food. To control food-related risks, relying on biotechnology tools taking into account post-genomic research, as well as to control health risks associated with environmental changes.

Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems

Intended to strengthen the scientific and technological capacities needed for Europe to be able to implement sustainable development, and integrating its environmental, economic and social objectives with particular regard to renewable energy, transport, and sustainable management of Europe's land and marine resources.

Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

Intended to mobilise in a coherent effort, in all their wealth and diversity, European research capacities in economic, political, social sciences and humanities necessary to develop an understanding of the emergence of the knowledge-based society and new forms of relationships between its citizens, on the one hand and between its citizens and institutions, on the other.

Cross-cutting research activities

Activities under this heading will complement research within the 7 thematic areas.

Research for policy support

Intended to respond to the scientific and technological needs of the policies of the Community, underpinning the formulation and implementation of Community policies, bearing in mind also the interests of future members of the Community and associated countries. They may include pre-normative research, measurement and testing.

New and emerging science and technology (NEST)

Intended to respond flexibly and rapidly to major unforeseeable developments, emerging scientific and technological problems and opportunities, as well as needs appearing at the frontiers of knowledge, more specifically in multi-thematic and interdisciplinary areas

Specific SME activities

Carried out in support of European competitiveness and enterprise and innovation policy, these specific activities are intended to help European SMEs in traditional or new areas to boost their technological capacities and develop their ability to operate on a European and international scale.

International co-operation activities

In support of the external relations, including the development policy of the Community, specific measures aimed at encouraging international research cooperation will be undertaken. Apart from these specific measures, third country participation will be possible within the 7 thematic priorities.

JRC activities

In accordance with its mission of providing scientific and technical support for Community policies, the JRC will provide independent, customer-driven support for the formulation and

implementation of Community policies, including the monitoring of the implementation of such policies, within the areas of its specific competence.

Strengthening the foundations of ERA

To stimulate the coherent development of research and technology policy in Europe by supporting programme co-ordination and joint actions conducted at national and regional level as well as among European organisations. Activities may be implemented in any scientific and technological area.

Co-ordination of research activities

Develop synergies between existing national activities; enhance the complementarity between Community actions and those of other European scientific co-operation organisations in all fields of science (examples: health, biotechnology, environment, energy)

Development of research/innovation policies

Encourage coherent development of research and innovation policies in Europe by early identification of challenges and areas of common interest and by providing policy makers with knowledge and decision-aiding tools.

Structuring the ERA

The main aim is to fight structural weaknesses of European research. By their nature and means of implementation, the activities carried out within this programme are applicable to all fields of research and technology.

Research and innovation

To stimulate technological innovation, utilisation of research results, transfer of knowledge and technologies and the setting up of technology businesses in the Community and in all its regions, not least in the less developed areas. Innovation is also one of the most important elements throughout this programme.

Marie Curie Actions - Human resources and mobility

To support the development of abundant world-class human resources in all regions of the EU by promoting transnational mobility for training purposes, the development of expertise or the transfer of knowledge, in particular between different sectors. To support the development of excellence and help to make Europe more attractive to third country researchers.

Research infrastructures

To help establish a fabric of research infrastructures of the highest level in Europe and to promote their optimum use on a European scale.

Science and society

To encourage the development of harmonious relations between science and society and the opening-up of innovation in Europe, as well as contributing to scientists' critical thinking and responsiveness to societal concerns, as a result of the establishment of new relations and an informed dialogue between researchers, industrialists, political decision-makers and citizens.

Nuclear energy

Aims at intensifying and deepening the already well established co-operation at European level in the field of nuclear research.

Controlled thermonuclear fusion

Controlled thermonuclear fusion could contribute to long-term energy supply and, therefore,

to the requirements of sustainable development for a reliable centralised supply of baseload electricity.

Management of radioactive waste

The exploitation of nuclear fission energy for energy production requires progress to be made in the problem of waste, and more particularly the industrial implementation of technical solutions for the management of long-lived waste.

Radiation protection

Vigilance is still required to ensure a continuation of the EU outstanding safety record. EU enlargement introduces new challenges. Improvement of radiation protection continues to be a priority area. Activities will be carried out in several areas including "risk and emergency management", "radio-ecology", "protection of workplace and environment", ...

Other activities in the field of nuclear technologies and safety

To respond to the scientific and technical needs of the policies of the Community in the fields of health, energy and the environment, to ensure that the European capability is maintained at a high level in relevant fields not covered by priority thematic areas, and to contribute towards the creation of the European Research Area.

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Instruments

FP6 will be implemented by the means of six main instruments, each of which have their own set of aims and objectives conditions for participation.

Three "new" instruments

The new instruments introduced for FP6 are driven by the concepts of the European Research Area (ERA) and are also characterised by the structuring and integrating effects that they will have on European research.

:: Integrated projects

Multipartner projects to support objective-driven research, where the primary deliverable is knowledge for new products, processes, services etc. They should bring together a critical mass of resources to reach ambitious goals aimed either at increasing Europe's competitiveness or at addressing major societal needs.

:: Networks of excellence

Multipartner projects aimed at strengthening excellence on a research topic by networking the critical mass of resources and expertise. This expertise will be networked around a joint programme of activities aimed primarily at creating a progressive and lasting integration of the research activities of the network partners while, at the same time advancing knowledge on the topic.

:: Article 169 (for the joint implementation of national programmes)

This instrument requires co-operation at the level of national governments. It aims at integrating whole national or regional programmes on a particular topic by their joint implementation, e.g. through harmonised work programmes and common, joint or co-ordinated calls for proposals.

Traditional instruments

These instruments are similar to those in FP5.

:: **Specific targeted research projects**

Multipartner research, demonstration or innovation projects. Their purpose is to support research, technological development and demonstration or innovation activities of a more limited scope and ambition, particularly for smaller research actors and participants from candidate countries.

:: **Coordination actions**

To promote and support the networking and coordination of research and innovation activities. They will cover the definition, organisation and management of joint or common initiatives as well organisation of conferences, meetings, the performance of studies, exchanges of personnel, the exchange and dissemination of good practices, setting up common information systems and expert groups.

:: **Specific support actions**

Single or multipartner activities. Intended to complement the implementation of FP6 and may be used to help in preparations for future Community research policy activities. Within the priority themes, they will support, conferences, seminars, studies and analyses, working groups and expert groups, operational support and dissemination, information and communication activities, or a combination of these.

:: **Specific projects for SMEs**

Divided into Co-operative research projects (CRAFT) and Collective research projects. CRAFT are undertaken for the benefit of a number of SMEs from different countries on common specific problems. Collective research projects are carried out on behalf of industrial associations or industry groupings in sectors where SMEs are prominent.

:: **Specific actions to promote research infrastructures**

To support the integrated provision of infrastructure related services to the research community at European level, inducing a long-term integrating effect on the way research infrastructures operate, evolve and interact with each other and with their users, thus contributing to develop the European Research Area.

:: **Marie Curie actions on mobility, training and excellence recognition**

These actions provide a variety of possibilities for individual researchers in different stages of their career as well as for institutions acting as a host for fellows.

Host-driven actions: Global grants are given to research organisations and enterprises for the provision of schemes for transnational training and mobility of individuals.

Individual-driven actions: Support to individual researchers with a view to encouraging transnational mobility and to complementing individual competencies, including also return and reintegration mechanisms for researchers from EU and associated countries.

Excellence recognition: Focus on the promotion and recognition of excellence in European research, thereby increasing its visibility and attractiveness.

Return and Reintegration Mechanisms: Will be directed at researchers who have just completed an EU funded mobility scheme (RRG) or to European researchers who have carried out research outside Europe for at least 5 years (IRG).

More information www.cordis.lu