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A New Approach to International S&T Cooperation in the EU's 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013)



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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2007

ISBN 92-79-04547-4

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Printed in Belgium

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**A new approach to international scientific and
technological co-operation in the
7th Research Framework Programme (2007-2013)
and 7th Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)
(2007-2011)**

Bussels, 12.1.2007
SEC(2007)47

1. AIMS OF A NEW INTEGRATED APPROACH

The launch of the 7th EU RTD Framework Programme (FP7)¹, 2007-2013, places new emphasis on international research cooperation which is increasingly seen as being at the centre of Community policies.

Science and technological development has always been an international endeavour, but increasing global challenges such as intensified economic globalisation, the rise of new global players and the provision of global public goods, reinforce the case for a new approach to international cooperation in science and technology from a European perspective.

The need for critical mass and large-scale infrastructure for advancing research in many areas increasingly call for strong international partnerships. European research institutes seek to learn and benefit from good practice in research and innovation links elsewhere in the world.

European industry is rapidly investing in emerging economies, such as in China and in India, as well as in industrialised economies. Researchers and students, both in Europe and the rest of the World are looking beyond training opportunities in European countries and the USA, seeking world-class centres of learning and research. At the same time there are significant opportunities for the EU to put its scientific and technological expertise to the forefront in meeting its political, social, economic and humanitarian commitments in sustainable development fields ranging from global climate change and biodiversity to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals. S&T may also play a role in the implementation of international agreements where the EU is a party, such as on biodiversity and climate change.

The new approach to international cooperation in FP7 aims to rise to these challenges by way of innovative mechanisms for promoting international research collaboration. It aims to address three interdependent objectives:

supporting European scientific and economic development through strategic partnerships with third countries² in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe;

facilitating contacts with partners in third countries with the aim of providing better access to research carried out elsewhere in the World;

addressing specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character (e.g. by contributing towards Millennium Development Goals, addressing global climate change, combating biodiversity loss, water and energy scarcity).

This document outlines how the new approach to international cooperation is intended to work in FP7, with particular focus to the first two years of the programme's implementation.

1 This document is a broad guide to the international dimension of FP7. Key documents relating to FP7 can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home_en.html

2 "Third countries" means a state other than an EU Member State and other than Associated Countries to the Framework Programme

2. IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL S&T COOPERATION: FROM FP6 TO FP7

The approach on international cooperation under FP7 is significantly different than under FP6. It aims at integrating international research collaboration throughout the Framework Programme and includes both geographical and thematic targeting.

Three basic principles have been adopted in order to expand the international collaboration:

Programming: unlike previous RTD framework programmes, FP7 includes both a broad opening ('mainstreaming') of international research collaboration in both programmes and in research themes across the whole Framework Programme and a programming of specific priorities for third countries and regions in different calls for proposals across the thematic work programmes;

Targeting: by defining specific actions for collaboration with third countries and regions in each of the thematic programmes, FP7 ensures that budgets for international cooperation are built in at the level of each of the relevant calls for proposals;

Partnership and dialogue: the principle of partnership will be a particular focus of the specific international cooperation actions for third countries and regions under FP7. The Specific International Cooperation Actions will aim at a fair level of participation for third countries in the collaboration with their European partners³.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

To maximise impact, the international activities across all programmes will be complementary and synergistic. The Cooperation Programme enables research cooperation to take place between different global research partners in collaboration with European researchers. The Capacities Programme will support a range of activities to strengthen research capacity in the European scientific community and other regions of the world. The People Programme meets the need to foster both incoming and outgoing international mobility of researchers. The Ideas Programme supports excellence in frontier research and enables individual top international researchers to participate in Europe-led teams.

Actions taken to simplify procedures (unique registration facility, reduced evaluation criteria, simplified forms, etc.) for FP7 will be particularly important to potential participants from third countries that are likely to be less familiar with the Framework Programme.

Implementation in the Co-operation Programme

The Cooperation Programme covers ten themes corresponding to major fields in the progress of knowledge and technology ranging from health to security⁴. All ten themes have an

3 Requirements vary according to the thematic programme and specific action. These should be consulted. See also the Rules for Participation in the key FP7 documents, at http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home_en.html

4 Health; Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology; Information and Communication Technologies; Nano-sciences, Nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies; Energy; Environment (including climate change); Transport (including aeronautics); Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities; Space; Security

important international dimension (with particular considerations in the security theme owing to confidentiality requirements), and most of the FP7 funding for international cooperation will be available under this Programme.

International collaborative research in the Cooperation Programme is supported in two ways to ensure a balanced thematic and geographic participation by third countries and regions:

(i) The opening of the thematic areas to all third countries. This includes, in addition, new dedicated actions and calls for third countries (mainly industrialised and emerging economies).

The general opening of FP7 to international partners will enable participation in the programme by the global scientific community alongside European partners. This opening differs from previous Framework Programmes by placing more emphasis on attracting collaboration with third country partners. The calls for proposals to be published in 2007-08, include some regional targeting of the industrialised countries and emerging economies by including specific priorities where their participation is particularly encouraged. Where appropriate the use of coordinated calls with third countries will also be encouraged.

The expectation is that international expertise can be attracted to Europe which can contribute to projects in the interest of European and global research advancement.

(ii) Specific International Cooperation Actions in each thematic area dedicated to third countries where there is mutual interest on the basis of both the S&T level and the needs of the countries concerned.

These actions are a novelty in FP7 and are geared towards the research and development needs of third countries. They are aimed at reinforcing research capacity in non-associated candidate and neighbourhood countries and at addressing the particular needs of developing and emerging economies by means of dedicated cooperative activities.

The actions apply to the International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC, see Annex II). Amongst other aims they should also ensure participation by countries or regions that might otherwise have difficulty in participating in the general opening of FP7 for reasons of capacity.

A range of specific actions are built into the majority of the thematic programmes (e.g. in the Environment theme: health impacts of drought and desertification in the Mediterranean partner countries; in the Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnologies theme: conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources outside EU waters; in the Health theme: HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis research with India; in the Socio-Economic theme: Europe's role in global economic governance).⁵ These specific actions will be dedicated regionally and thematically in the different specific programmes of the Cooperation Programme.

More detailed examples of specific actions are given in Annex 1.

⁵ For more examples, please refer to Annex I of this Staff Paper

Implementation in the Capacities Programme

The Capacities programme includes seven activities⁶, one of which is fully dedicated to international cooperation.

International cooperation activity of the Capacities Programme:

This activity will foster international cooperation through support measures for third countries and regions on the ICPC list. It will support dialogues (an example of an existing dialogue is the West Balkans Countries Platform, which brings together different stakeholders such as universities, industry, government, civil society and donors) and information exchange activities with third countries and regions on the ICPC list. The objective of these activities is to enable the EU, third countries and regions to discuss current and future research priorities, to facilitate debate between the different stakeholders. The outcomes of these dialogues will provide intelligence for developing research policy, provide input to the respective FP7 specific programmes and inspire research topics for international cooperation, in particular in the Cooperation programme.

The activity also supports 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.

The activities supported will have three major objectives:

i) To strengthen bi-regional and bilateral dialogues in scientific cooperation and assist in joint identification of topics for collaboration under FP7 thematic programmes. Activities will be established by means of INCO-NETs - platforms bringing together policy makers and stakeholders of an individual target region/country. They will support dialogues to identify S&T priorities and include workshops and development of FP7 “Information Points” in third countries. Six pre-identified regions: West Balkan Countries, Mediterranean partner countries, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Asia, ACP and Latin America are targeted. S&T priorities agreed through the dialogues will provide an input to the relevant FP7 specific programmes in view of defining calls for proposals.

ii) To network different stakeholders (such as universities, industry, government, civil society and donors) in order to strengthen research capacity. This activity will target countries which have an S&T cooperation agreement with the European Community or are in the process of negotiating one. Examples include the development of information facilities in third countries to assist in identifying and building research partnerships between different types of research actors.

6 These activities are: Research Infrastructures; Research for the benefit of SMEs; Regions of Knowledge; Research Potential; Science in Society; Coherent Development of Policies; Activities of International Cooperation

iii) To facilitate the development and implementation of a coherent European-level approach towards international S&T cooperation. The use of ERA-NETs⁷ will be particularly useful in reinforcing coordination between EU Member States, and Associated States targeting their S&T cooperation with third countries.

Other activities of the Capacities Programme also address international cooperation as outlined below. The examples selected cover the work programmes only for the period 2007-2008:

Research infrastructures

By attracting users from various countries and through networking, Research Infrastructures contribute to integrating and structuring the scientific community. In many circumstances Europe's interests will be well served by participating in a facility overseas and vice-versa for third countries. The cost and complexity of large installations require international collaborations in order to share the financial burden and technological risks.

As well as encouraging new international collaboration in infrastructures, FP7 will continue its important support to the existing Research Infrastructures in all fields of science and technology, with the objective of maximising their use, access and development, and with a clear opening to international cooperation. For example, the GEANT2 and Grid infrastructures with a consolidated European footprint, also support global collaboration between similar infrastructures around the world, namely in Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. Other examples of infrastructures where third country participation is welcome include the Global Ocean Observing (EURO ARGO); the Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS); and the LIFE WATCH initiative on Biodiversity.

Research potential

Under this activity, support can be provided to promote closer S&T cooperation between Europe and other regions in the world by improving research capacity in those other regions. One example is the cooperation between Europe and the Western Balkan countries which includes, amongst others, actions to support trans-national two-way exchanges of research staff in order to progressively include the West Balkan countries in the European Research Area

Science in Society

International dialogue will be supported on issues which relate to topics in the Science in Society programme with a strong international remit. One example is the global dialogue on ethics involving Africa, Latin America, Asia and Central Asia, aimed at helping developing countries to build up their own best practices in the field of ethics and science and also to ensure that European research conducted in developing countries will comply with fundamental ethical principles.

⁷ <http://cordis.europa.eu/coordination/era-net.htm>

Implementation in the People Programme

The international dimension of the People Programme reinforces international cooperation in FP7 by supporting researcher mobility and their career development. It is directed at increasing the quality of European research, both by supporting European researchers to undertake research abroad and by attracting research talent from outside Europe and fostering research collaborations. It includes two main action lines:

i) Career development/life-long training for EU researchers

International outgoing fellowships at postdoctoral level and beyond (with an in-built mandatory return phase): enable European researchers to be trained and acquire new knowledge within high-level third country research organisations. Promising European researchers will gain research training experience outside Europe and add different or complementary research competences at an advanced level to their experiences.

International re-integration grants: encourage European researchers, who have carried out research outside Europe for at least 3 years, to return to a Member State or Associated country in order to contribute to European research and to transfer the knowledge they have acquired in a third country.

ii) International cooperation for and with researchers from third countries

International incoming fellowships for experienced researchers: for knowledge transfer with Europe, and enrichment of research collaboration. Researchers from third countries will be offered support to undertake research projects in Europe with a view to enhancing the possibility of future collaborative research links with Europe.

Marie Curie host driven actions: as a general rule (e.g. the Research Training Networks targeting doctoral candidates) all are open to third country nationals.

A partnership scheme: these grants focus on staff exchanges between several European research organisations and organisations from countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, and countries with which the Community has S&T Agreements with the EU.

Support to scientific diasporas: a new action to support the expansion of the successful pilot exercise to network European researchers abroad by means of European Researchers Abroad networks - the ERA-Link initiative.⁸ These activities will establish links between Europe and expatriate European researchers, promote collaborations with the European research community, as well as support networking activities of third country researchers in Europe.

8 <http://cordis.europa.eu/eralink/>

Implementation in the Ideas Programme

The Ideas Programme aims to reinforce European activities in leading edge or ‘frontier’ research, providing support for individual teams rather than for multinational consortia. Individual international researchers will be encouraged to join with Europe-led teams, where they will bring specific expertise from outside Europe to enrich the research being undertaken. Full recognition is given to the need to associate top scientists from elsewhere in the world in reinforcing excellence, dynamism and creativity in European research.

Implementation in Euratom (2007-2011)

International cooperation in the area of research in fission and radiation protection is an important element of the Euratom Programme. High-level agreements between Euratom and certain third countries facilitate the cooperation, moreover participation of third countries in projects is possible on an ad hoc basis. Dedicated research topics, (e.g. nuclear plant lifetime management with Russia) should ensure greater international cooperation. The growing importance of global initiatives, such as the Generation-IV International Forum that coordinates research on the next generation nuclear reactors, enhances the potential for future international cooperation under Euratom.

In fusion research, international collaboration is supported by bilateral or multilateral fusion agreements⁹. An important example is the ITER Project which provides a major step towards the creation of prototype reactors for fusion power stations. This project is implemented by an international organisation established by Euratom, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The ITER Project is a potential model for future international large-scale research projects.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECT ACTIONS THROUGH THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

The Joint Research Centre (JRC)¹⁰ provides scientific and technical support for EU policies. International cooperation is essential to carry out its mission. Under FP7, the JRC aims to develop international collaborations in areas of strategic importance, e.g. global warming; sustainable development; external security; metrology; nuclear safety and safeguards (in the context of the Euratom Programmes); food security and global resources. It will also promote research cooperation with third country partners to ensure harmonized approaches to reference measurements, safety testing (e.g. for hydrogen storage), and detection (e.g. for GMOs in food and feed, in support of EU legislation and international agreements).

An example of international collaboration is a dedicated activity with EU Candidate and potential Candidate Countries and the European Neighbourhood Policy Partner Countries (Southern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe), which will include specific instruments directed at promoting networking, knowledge transfer and training on complex EU policies.

⁹ The legal basis of international agreements is Art. 101 of the Euratom Treaty.

¹⁰ The mission of the JRC is to provide customer-driven S&T support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies. It is also a reference centre for the EU.

5. COORDINATION

Coordination is essential and will take place at different levels.

Coordination within FP7: Coordination of international cooperation in FP7 will be essential to ensure coherence of approach and to enable the cross-fertilization of outputs from the Capacities Programme to the other FP7 specific programmes and vice-versa. Full interaction and exchanges of information between the Capacities, Cooperation, People and Ideas Programmes will therefore be ensured internally and via the appropriate Programme Committees.

Coordination with other Community policies: In addition to intra-FP7 coordination, coordination will also be ensured with Community external policies, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy, development cooperation or trade, as well as policies with an external dimension such as environment (including climate change), energy (where, in particular, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan will facilitate concrete research and development initiatives with international partners), fisheries or transport. A further example is the current co-ordination between research and co-operation programmes leading to the successful extension of GEANT2 to Latin America (@LIS), the Mediterranean (EUMEDIS) and Asia (TEIN). Co-ordination actions will include liaison and consultation with the European Commission's Delegations in third countries.

Coordination of international cooperation with Member States and Associated Countries: The Capacities Programme will support activities to develop a European-level approach to international cooperation. Coordination will ensure that the different FP7 specific programmes receive information from Member States' activities in international research cooperation, including outputs from the open method of coordination process where some Member States have indicated their readiness to consider co-ordinating some of their international activities. Moreover, the use of ERA-NET activities (e.g. in the Energy theme), will contribute to a better coherence between the international cooperation initiatives of the EU and its Member States.

Implementation of international cooperation will be monitored by the Commission services and regular feedback on progress will be provided to Member States, third countries, and stakeholders.

ANNEX I

Examples of dedicated international cooperation activities for 2007-2008, in the COOPERATION Specific Programme of FP7¹¹.

THEME 1: HEALTH

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: “Addressing knowledge gaps in pregnancy malaria”. The aim is the design of new, or the revision of existing therapeutic and/or preventive interventions.

ICPC: “Health and economic cost of antimicrobial resistance”. The objective is to undertake studies attempting to assess the increase in health and economic costs due to infections by drug resistant micro-organisms.

Specific international cooperation actions (SICAs)

CHINA: “Traditional Chinese Medicine in post-genomic era”. The aim is to promote and support networking and coordination of research activities applying functional genomics in the context of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

INDIA: “Highly innovative research in HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis between Indian and European partners”. Projects should explore new concepts and ideas in the area of poverty-related diseases research.

Budget for Specific International Cooperation Actions (2007/2008): € 64 million

THEME 2: FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

INDIA: “Trade and agricultural policies”. The aim is to evaluate the impact that domestic structural changes and trade agreements may have on the EU and Indian agricultural sectors as well as on world markets.

WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES: “Enlargement network”. Agro-economic policy analysis of the accession and the candidate states and the Western Balkan countries.

Budget for actions with an important international dimension (besides SICAs): € 37 million (two calls).

11 The list of examples is non-exhaustive

Specific international cooperation actions (SICAs)

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES: “Methodologies and tools to support the prevention of obesity in Mediterranean Partner Countries”.

RUSSIA: “Animal By-Products”. Novel methods of treatment of animal by-products for the production of substances with biologically valuable functional properties.

LATIN AMERICA/ACP:

“Bagasses”. Improved chemical and enzymatic treatments of bagasses from energy crops, for increased bio-fuels production yields.

“Valorisation of Andean microbial biodiversity for agro-industry of basic crops, for environmental protection and as a source of novel bioactive compounds” (only **LATIN AMERICA**).

Research networks supporting research on fisheries management and aquaculture outside EU waters.

Budget for Specific International Cooperation Actions: € 22 million (two calls).

THEME 3: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

Identification and promotion of cooperation opportunities, support to policy dialogues: Coordination and Support Actions for the promotion of the EU ICT programme and identification of co-operation opportunities in fields of mutual interest: Providing information in relevant countries and regions, increasing visibility of mutual RTD potential and networking relevant stakeholders.

INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES, CHINA, RUSSIA, INDIA, LATIN AMERICA:

Coordination and Support Actions to improve cooperation in the development of standards and interoperable solutions and in technology roadmapping. Examples include the areas of future networks, security, networked media, nanoelectronics, photonics, control systems, ICT for co-operative transport systems, healthcare information systems, inclusion and ICT for independent living.

Collaborative projects involving third countries on specific topics addressed in the objectives on Embedded Systems design, Future and Emerging Technologies (FET).

International cooperation and coordination with industrialised countries in the protection of critical information infrastructures. Joint Call with the Security Theme (Nr 10).

RTD cooperation in the Intelligent Manufacturing Systems scheme (see Theme 4, footnote 12, the IMS activities are carried out jointly between Themes 3 and 4).

ASIA, ACP, MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES AND LATIN AMERICA:

Development-related ICT research exploitation and cooperation roadmaps: Coordination and Support Actions aimed at establishing development-related ICT research “cooperation roadmaps” and network relevant research communities.

Language and speech technologies with particular focus on Arabic-speaking regions / countries (including **Mediterranean Partner Countries and ACP countries**).

Open Source Software with particular focus on **Asia, ACP and Latin America**.

Accessible and inclusive ICT with particular focus on **Latin America and ACP**.

Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs)

Collaborative projects establishing collaboration between EU constituency and their Latin America counterparts in the area of patient safety.

Collaborative projects addressing ICT for environmental disaster reduction and management. ICT for assessment of natural hazards and communities vulnerability. Development and interoperability of rapidly deployable ICT-based solutions for public warnings and emergency management.

Budget for Specific International Cooperation Actions up to € 20 million.

THEME 4: NANOSCIENCES, NANOTECHNOLOGIES, MATERIALS AND NEW PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

EMERGING ECONOMIES (CHINA, INDIA AND RUSSIA)/DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: Initiatives will consist of technical workshops and similar events, in particular in the fields of materials sciences and nanomaterials.

MEMBER REGIONS OF THE IMS AGREEMENT¹²: RTD cooperation in the Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) scheme.

THEME 5: ENERGY

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

EU NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES: “Simulation and state estimation of smart electricity transmission networks”. Development and validation of tools for steady state and transient simulation and state estimation of transnational grids including with neighbouring countries which are physically connected to the European grid.

Specific international cooperation actions (SICAs)

12 The agreement for S&T technical cooperation in the domains of IMS is between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea, and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland.

CHINA: Poly-generation concepts for coal fired power plants: within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and the People's Republic of China on Zero Emission Coal.

LATIN AMERICA: Mapping of Latin America (LA) biofuels sector and its research capacities, and assessment of the related opportunities and RTD needs.

EMERGING ECONOMIES: Extending the value chain for greenhouse gas emissions other than carbon dioxide associated with coal production and use: Recovery and utilisation of methane in support of technology transfer to less developed countries.

Budget for Specific International Cooperation Actions (2007): € 4 million.

THEME 6: ENVIRONMENT (INCL. CLIMATE CHANGE)

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES:

“Temporary water bodies management”. Research on temporary water bodies, their spatial extent and their temporal dynamics in semi-arid (Mediterranean) and arid climatic/hydrologic conditions.

Specific international cooperation actions (SICAs)

AFRICA: “Georesource information system for Africa. To set-up the preparatory phase for the building of an information system containing and making available African Geological resources including groundwater, energy, raw material and mineral resources.

LATIN AMERICA: “Integrated resource management”. Development and testing of innovative concepts for integrated water/agriculture/energy management in developing countries.

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES: “Health impacts of drought and desertification including related socio-economic aspects”. The aim is to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) approaches to identify populations with potential exposure to environmental hazards.

Budget for Specific International Cooperation Actions: € 24 million.

THEME 7: TRANSPORT (incl. AERONAUTICS)

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA/RUSSIA: “Explosives detection techniques”. Advanced concepts and technologies for developing blast-resistant cabin structures and bomb-proof cargo containers.

CHINA: “Alternative fuels and engine noise reduction”. The aim is to ensure environmentally friendly air transport focussing on the greening of the aircraft performance; e.g. advanced light-weight engine architectures and components.

SOUTH-ASIAN COUNTRIES: e.g. to develop technology for clean ship dismantling and minimum human exposure to toxic substances.

THEME 8: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

The following examples of topics have been identified as particularly suitable for international cooperation:

- Globalisation and its effects on the European economy
- Migration
- Conflicts and Peace
- Europe seen from outside
- Multilateralism and the new external relations of the European Union

Budget for Specific International Cooperation Actions (2007-2008): € 10 million.

THEME 9: SPACE

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

The outlook for future calls foresees international cooperation in GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security).

ALL COUNTRIES: Priority will be given to the proposals to study the potential for current and foreseen GMES services to provide the building blocks for the EU contribution to GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems).

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: Support to activities to disseminate and implement outside the European Union products and services derived or customised from current GMES development activities. Proposals addressing Early Warning Systems linked to natural disasters, food security or disease prevention are also encouraged.

THEME 10: SECURITY

General opening of the thematic areas to all non-associated third countries

a) SECURITY-Call:

ALL COUNTRIES: provide enhanced security related technologies and systems.

Budget for international cooperation (no SICAs) SECURITY-Call: € 5 million.

b) Joint SECURITY-ICT-Call

ALL COUNTRIES:

Critical Infrastructure Protection

Improving security systems integration, interconnectivity and interoperability

Budget for international cooperation (no SICAs) Joint SECURITY-ICT-Call: € 1 million.

ANNEX II: List of International Co-operation Partner Countries (ICPC)

ACP*

-AFRICAN

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina-Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo (Republic)
- Congo (Democratic Rep. of)
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa¹
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

- CARIBBEAN

- Barbados
- Belize
- Cuba

- Dominica
- Dominican Rep.
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

- PACIFIC

- Cook Islands
- Timor Leste
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia, Federal States of
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Samoa

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Burma/Myanmar
- Cambodia
- China^{1**}
- India^{1**}
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Yemen

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECA)

- Armenia²
- Azerbaijan²
- Belarus²
- Georgia²
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Moldova²
- Russia^{1**}
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine^{1,2}
- Uzbekistan

LATIN AMERICA

- Argentina¹
- Bolivia
- Brazil^{1**}
- Chile¹
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico¹
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES (MPC)²

- Algeria
- Egypt¹
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco¹
- Palestinian-administered areas
- Syrian Arab Rep.
- Tunisia¹

WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES (WBC)

- Albania
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)^{***}

- Montenegro
- Serbia³

*In the 'Specific international cooperation actions', Africa can also be considered as a region on its own, while the Caribbean countries can also participate with Latin American and the Pacific countries with Asia.

**For participation in the 'Specific international cooperation actions' each of Brazil, China, India and Russia may be considered individually as a region on its own. Thus, the required two or more partners can be located in these countries. However, in this case, at least two different partners from different provinces, oblasts, republics or states within Brazil, China, India or Russia are necessary.

*** On 16/12/2005 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) became a Candidate Country. FYROM is not an associated country to FP7 and thus remains a target country for International Cooperation Specific Actions.

(1) Signed an agreement with the EC covering Science & Technology

(2) These countries are also part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

(3) Including Kosovo as defined by UNSC resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999

European Commission

EUR 22582 — A New Approach to International S&T Cooperation in the EU's 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013)

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2007 — 20 pp. — 21.0 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-79-04547-4

The launch of the 7th EU RTD Framework Programme (FP7), 2007-2013, places new emphasis on international research cooperation which is increasingly seen as being at the centre of Community policies. This publication outlines how the new approach to international cooperation is intended to work in FP7, with particular focus to the first two years of the programme's implementation.

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