

COMMISSION

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

(2003/C 155/10)

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

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

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

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 4789, as modified by C(2003) 577, C(2003) 955, and C(2003) 1952, all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

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

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

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

4. The Commission makes available to proposers guides for proposers relating to the call which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. These guides, as well as the work programme and other information relating to this call, can be obtained from the Commission via the following addresses:

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

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are submitted preferably in electronic format, via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS).

Within this context, proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Those prepared with the EPSS off-line version could, as an alternative, be submitted either on CD-ROM or diskette (a paper copy of the proposal for an indirect RTD action must in either case be attached).

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

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may also be prepared and submitted using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as 'on paper').

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

European Commission
 'FP6 — Research Proposals'
 Call identifier: FP6-2003-SSP-2-SARS
 B-1049 Brussels

For deliveries by hand or by representatives (including by private courier services⁽⁷⁾), the delivery should be to the following address, and labelled as follows:

European Commission
 'FP6 — Research Proposals'
 Call identifier: FP6-2003-SSP-2-SARS
 Rue de Genève, 1
 B-1140 Brussels

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be submitted on-line via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted either on CD-ROM or on diskette which are incomplete⁽⁸⁾, illegible⁽⁹⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded if a

complete corresponding paper version, in the same envelope, has not been supplied.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete⁽¹⁰⁾, illegible⁽¹¹⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on paper and which are incomplete⁽¹²⁾ will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted by e-mail⁽¹³⁾ or by fax will be excluded.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁽⁷⁾ Users of courier services that ask for the recipient's telephone number should give the following number: (32-2) 295 58 75 (Mr. J-C Debouvère).

⁽⁸⁾ All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).

⁽⁹⁾ Proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted in PDF ('portable document format', version 3 or higher with embedded fonts) or RTF ('rich text format').

⁽¹⁰⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹¹⁾ See footnote 9.

⁽¹²⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹³⁾ This does not include proposals for indirect RTD actions that have been submitted on-line.

ANNEX

1. **Specific Programme:** 'Integrating and strengthening the ERA'.
2. **Activity:** Specific activity covering policy-orientated research under 'Policy support and anticipating scientific and technological needs'.
3. **Call title:** Policy-orientated research — Special Call on Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2003-SSP-2-SARS.
5. **Date of publication:** 3 July 2003.
6. **Closure date(s):** 30 September 2003 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 9 million

Instrument ⁽¹⁾	EUR (million)
STREP, CA	9,0 (*)

⁽¹⁾ STREP = Specific targeted research project; and CA = Coordination action.

(*) Further funding may become available once approved by the budgetary authorities.

8. **Areas called and instruments:**

Areas under priority 'Providing health, security and opportunity to the people of Europe'	Tasks	Instruments	Indicative EC contribution (EUR million)
8.1.B.2.2. Public health issues, including epidemiology contributing to disease prevention and responses to emerging rare and communicable diseases, allergies, procedures for secure blood and organ donations, non-animal test methods	9	CA	9,0 (*)
	10, 11, 12, 13	STREP	

(*) Further funding may become available once approved by the budgetary authorities.

9. **Minimum number of participants ⁽¹⁾:**

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
STREP and CA	<u>Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC.</u>

10. **Restriction on participation:** None.
11. **Consortium agreement:** Participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are required to conclude a consortium agreement.
12. **Evaluation procedure:**
 - The evaluation shall follow a single stage procedure.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
13. **Evaluation criteria:** See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
14. **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:**
 - Evaluation Results: Considering the wide scope of policy-oriented research and the need to ensure coherence with thematic priorities of the work programme, evaluations will be carried out at various dates and the results are not expected to become available earlier than November 2003.
 - Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call could come into force early 2004.

⁽¹⁾ MS = Member States of the EU; AS (incl. ACC) = Associated States; ACC = Associated candidate countries. Any legal entity established in a Member State or Associated State and which is made up of the requested number of participant may be the sole participant in an indirect action.