

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

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

(2004/C 227/10)

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: 'Structuring the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'the specific programme').

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission') adopted on 6 December 2002 a work programme ⁽³⁾ (hereinafter 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⁾ (hereinafter 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 calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions (hereinafter referred to as 'the calls') comprise the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the Annexes. The Annexes indicate, in particular, the dates 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.

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⁾ (hereinafter 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 concerned 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 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.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 44.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 4791, as amended by Commission Decisions C(2003) 635, C(2003) 998, C(2003) 1951, C(2003) 2708, C(2003) 4571, C(2004) 48 and C(2004) 3330, all unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

4. The Commission makes available to proposers guides for proposers relating to the call(s) which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. The Commission also makes available Guidelines on proposal evaluation and selection procedures⁽¹⁾. These guides and guidelines, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the call, can be obtained from the Commission at the following addresses:

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

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are invited to be submitted only as an electronic proposal via the web-based electronic proposal submission system (EPSS⁽²⁾). In exceptional cases, however, a coordinator may request permission from the Commission to submit on paper in advance of a call deadline. This should be done by writing to one of the following addresses:

European Commission
The HRM Activity Information Desk
(Call identifier:.....)
Research Directorate-General
B-1049 Brussels
or e-mail: rtd-mariecurie-actions@cec.eu.int

The request must be accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought. Proposers wishing to use paper submission take the responsibility for ensuring that such requests for exemption and the associated procedures are completed in time for them to meet the call deadline.

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

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Part B of proposals for indirect RTD actions can only be submitted in PDF (portable document format, compatible with Adobe Version 3 or higher with embedded fonts). Compressed (zipped) files will be excluded.

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 that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete, illegible or contain viruses will be excluded.

Versions of proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on a removable electronic storage medium (e.g. CD-ROM, diskette), by email or by fax will be excluded.

Any proposal for indirect RTD actions that has been allowed to be submitted on paper and which is incomplete will be excluded.

Further details on the various proposal submission procedures are given in Annex J of the Guidelines on proposal evaluation and selection procedures.

6. 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 concerned. 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 concerned will be excluded.

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

7. 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 concerned.

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

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

⁽¹⁾ C(2003) 883 of 27.3.2003, as last modified by C(2004) 3337 of 1.9.2004.

⁽²⁾ The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.

ANNEX I

CALL INFORMATION FOR MARIE CURIE RESEARCH TRAINING NETWORKS

1. **Specific programme:** Structuring the European Research Area.
 2. **Activity:** Human resources and mobility activities.
 3. **Call title:** Call for proposals for Marie Curie Research Training Networks, 'Interdisciplinarity' and 'Intersectorial'.
 4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-Mobility-1.
 5. **Date of publication:** 2 September 2004.
 6. **Closure date:** 2 December 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
 7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 45 million.
 8. **Instruments:** See section 2.3.1.1 of the work programme.
 9. **Minimum number of participants:** See the conditions specified in sections 2.3.1.1 of the work programme.
 10. **Restrictions to participation** (types of organisation, type of activity, third countries): Limited to networks corresponding to the specific objectives described in the first two bullet points in section 2.3.1.1 under 'Specific objectives of the action'; see also the conditions foreseen in the sections 2.3.1.1 and 2.5 of the work programme.
 11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are not required to conclude a consortium agreement.
 12. **Evaluation procedure:** The evaluation shall follow a two-stage submission. The number of proposals passing to the second stage of submission will be determined as a multiple of the number of proposals expected to be financed for the call as described in the Guidelines for proposal evaluation and selection procedures. The relevant multiple will be 2,5, and proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
 13. **Evaluation criteria:** See Annex Mob-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:**
 - Provisional evaluation results: results from the first stage are estimated to be available in February/March 2005 and results on the second stage are estimated to be available within some four months after the 28 April 2005 closure date for full proposals.
 - Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force after the summer of 2005. OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.
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ANNEX II

CALL INFORMATION FOR MARIE CURIE HOST FELLOWSHIPS FOR EARLY STAGE TRAINING

1. **Specific programme:** Structuring the European Research Area.
 2. **Activity:** Human resources and mobility activities.
 3. **Call title:** Call for proposals for Marie Curie Host Fellowships for Early Stage Training.
 4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-Mobility-2.
 5. **Date of publication:** 2 September 2004.
 6. **Closure date:** 15 December 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
 7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 170 million.
 8. **Instruments:** See section 2.3.1.2 of the work programme.
 9. **Minimum number of participants:** See the conditions specified in sections 2.3.1.2 of the work programme.
 10. **Restrictions to participation** (types of organisation, type of activity, third countries): See the conditions foreseen in the sections 2.3.1.2 and 2.5 of the work programme.
 11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are not required to conclude a consortium agreement.
 12. **Evaluation procedure:** The evaluation shall follow a two-stage submission. The number of proposals passing to the second stage of submission will be determined as a multiple of the number of proposals expected to be financed for the call as described in the Guidelines for Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures. The relevant multiple will be 2,5, and proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
 13. **Evaluation criteria:** See Annex Mob-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:**
 - Provisional evaluation results: for the first stage estimated to be available in March 2005 and results on the second stage are estimated to be available within some four months after the 26 April 2005 closure date for full proposals.
 - Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force after the summer of 2005.
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