

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

Thematic priority area: 'Specific activities covering a wider field of research'

Call identifiers: FP6-2003-NEST-B, FP6-2003-NEST-Path

(2003/C 307/09)

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' (2002-2006) ⁽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 'call') comprises the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the Annex. This 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.

3. Natural or legal persons fulfilling the conditions stated in the rules for participation and not falling under any of the exclusion cases in the rules for participation or in Article 114(2) of 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 proposers' fulfilment of the conditions for participation will be verified in the course of the negotiations on the proposal for an indirect RTD action. Proposers must previously have signed a declaration on their honour that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation. They must also have sent 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 either to submit proposals for indirect RTD actions or to 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 the call, can be obtained from the Commission via the following address:

European Commission
The NEST Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail address: rtd-nest@cec.eu.int
Internet address: www.cordis.lu/nest

⁽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 last modified by C(2003) 4609, 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.

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are prepared and submitted preferably via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS).

In that case they may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. If they have been prepared off-line, they may alternatively be submitted on CD-ROM or diskette, in which case they are sent together with a paper copy of the indirect RTD action.

Access to the above 'on-line' and 'off-line' system is via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may also be prepared and submitted using the form 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:

'FP6 — Research Proposal'
(Call identifiers: FP6-2003-NEST-B or FP6-2003-NEST-Path)
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

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

'FP6 — Research Proposals'
(Call identifiers: FP6-2003-NEST-B or FP6-2003-NEST-Path)
European Commission
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 has not been supplied in the same envelope.

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

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on paper and 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 which do not fulfil the conditions regarding the minimum number of participants laid down in the call will be excluded.

The same applies to any other eligibility criterion mentioned 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.

In the case 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 in electronic format.

9. 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 relevant call identifier.

⁽⁷⁾ If courier services ask for the telephone number of the recipient, please give the number (32-2) 296 85 71 (Ms I. de Froidmont).

⁽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 I

FP6-2003-NEST-B

Call information (Adventure, Insight, Nest Support)

1. **Specific Programme:** 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'.
2. **Activity:** 'Anticipating scientific and technological needs'.
3. **Call title:** New and Emerging Science and Technology — Open call.
4. **Call reference number/identifier:** FP6-2003-NEST-B.

Call Sub-identifier	Instrument	Closure date
FP6-2003-NEST-B-1	STREPs	April 14, 2004
FP6-2003-NEST-B-2	SSAs, CAs	April 14, 2004
FP6-2003-NEST-B-3	STREPs	September 15, 2004
FP6-2003-NEST-B-4	SSAs, CAs	September 15, 2004

5. **Date of publication:** 17 December 2003.
6. **Date from which proposals are receivable:** from call date; pre-registration of proposals, no later than 3 weeks before the respective closure date, is strongly recommended.
7. **Call closure dates:** 14 April 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time); 15 September 2004 at 17.00 (call deadline) (Brussels local time).
8. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 30 million (all instruments, both deadlines).

<i>Indicative breakdown (EUR millions)</i>			
Instrument	1st Closure date	2nd Closure date	Total
STREP	14	14	28
CA and SSA	1	1	2

9. Areas called and Instruments (¹)

Area	Instruments (*)
Insight	STREPs, CAs
Adventure	STREPs, CAs
Nest Support	SSAs, CAs

(*) STREP = specific targeted research project; CA = coordination action; SSA = specific support action.

⁽¹⁾ Proposals should specify only one activity code (either Insight, Adventure, or Nest Support), to ensure allocation to the correct evaluation stream. In ambiguous cases, the Commission will allocate proposals to the activity it considers the most appropriate.

10. Minimum number of participants ⁽²⁾

Instrument	Minimum number
STREPs and CAs	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC
Specific support actions	1 legal entity from 1 MS or AS

11. Restriction on participation: none.

12. Consortia agreements: It is not mandatory that participants in RTD actions resulting from this call conclude a consortium agreement although it is strongly recommended that participants consider carefully the possible benefits of such an agreement and implement one if appropriate.

13. Evaluation procedure

- The evaluation is carried out through a combination of experts working remotely and a panel of experts.
- Proposals for STREPs will be evaluated in two stages:
 - First an outline proposal, consisting of the required administrative information plus a scientific/technical description of maximum 5 pages is submitted describing the key objectives, methodology and motivation for the proposed work. The scientific/technical part (part B) of Outline proposals are evaluated anonymously, against a reduced set of evaluation criteria.
 - If the outline proposal is successful, the proposers are invited to submit a full proposal ⁽³⁾. Full proposals are evaluated non-anonymously, against the full set of criteria.
- Proposals for CAs and SSAs will be submitted in a single stage. They have to be submitted as complete proposals. They are evaluated non-anonymously.
- Feedback to proposers will be by means of the Evaluation Summary Report, which will faithfully reflect the assessments by the individual experts and the expert panel.
- Closure dates for the submission of the proposals: 14 April 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time); 15 September 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).

14. Evaluation criteria

- For STREPs, see the criteria and thresholds for the Insight and Adventure activities in section 8.2.7 of this work programme.
- SSAs will be evaluated according to the criteria in Annex B of the work programme.
- CAs will be evaluated according to the criteria in Annex B of the work programme.

15. Indicative evaluation and selection delays

- Evaluation results: 3 months from the relevant closure date/deadline;
- Contract signature: estimated seven months after the relevant closure date/deadline for submission of full STREP proposals or CA/SSA proposals respectively.

⁽²⁾ MS = Member States of the EU; AS (incl. ACC) = Associated States; ACC = Associated candidate countries.

⁽³⁾ The deadline for the submission of the full proposal will be indicated by the Commission in the letter inviting submission of a full STREP proposal. As an indicative figure, the Commission would envisage giving proposers 2-3 months' notice of the applicable deadline.

ANNEX II

FP6-2003-NEST-Path

Call information (Pathfinder)

1. **Specific Programme:** 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'.
2. **Activity:** 'Anticipating scientific and technological needs'.
3. **Call title:** New and Emerging Science and Technology — Pathfinder.
4. **Call reference number/identifier:** FP6-2003-NEST-Path.
5. **Date of publication:** 17 December 2003.
6. **Date from which proposals are receivable:** from call date; pre-proposal check service is available. Submission of pre-proposals, no later than 3 weeks before the deadline, is strongly recommended.
7. **Call deadline:** 14 April 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
8. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 35 million.

Instrument	EUR (millions)
STREP	30
CAs	5

9. **Topics called and Instruments** ⁽¹⁾: Proposals are invited in the following topics, which are described using short titles only. For the full titles and definition of the topics, applicants must refer to the technical content of this Work Programme. The evaluation of proposals will be based on the full definition of topics as described in the Work Programme. For each topic the instrument to be used is indicated.

Topic Ref.	Short titles of topics	Instruments (*)
NEST-2003-Path-1	Complex Systems	STREPs, CAs
NEST-2003-Path-2	Synthetic biology	STREPs, CAs
NEST-2003-Path-3	What it means to be human	STREPs, CAs

(*) STREP = specific targeted research project; CA = coordination action.

10. **Minimum number of participants** ⁽²⁾

Instrument	Minimum number
STREPs and CAs	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC

11. **Restriction on participation:** none.
12. **Consortia agreements:** It is not mandatory that participants in RTD actions resulting from this call conclude a consortium agreement although it is strongly recommended that participants consider carefully the possible benefits of such an agreement, and implement one if appropriate.
13. **Evaluation procedure**
 - The evaluation is carried out through a combination of referees (remote evaluation) and groups of experts that convene in Brussels.
 - Proposals have to be submitted as full proposals. Full proposals are evaluated non-anonymously.

⁽¹⁾ Proposals should specify only one activity code (Path 1, Path 2, Path 3), to ensure allocation to the correct evaluation stream. In ambiguous cases, the Commission will allocate proposals to the activity it considers the most appropriate.

⁽²⁾ MS = Member States of the EU; AS (incl. ACC) = Associated States; ACC: Associated candidate countries.

14. **Evaluation criteria:** Proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria in Annex B of the work programme.

15. **Indicative evaluation and selection delays**

- Evaluation results for proposals: 3 months from the deadline.
- Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force seven months after the deadline for submission of proposals.

Calls 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 307/10)

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 (2002-2006) ⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as 'the specific programme').

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2. The present calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions (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 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.

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 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 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 calls which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. These guides, as well as the work

⁽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, C(2003) 1952, C(2003) 3543, C(2003) 3555, and C(2003) 4609, all decisions 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.