

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

(2003/C 79/08)

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) <sup>(1)</sup>, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Structuring the European Research Area' <sup>(2)</sup> (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 6 December 2002 a work programme <sup>(3)</sup> (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) <sup>(4)</sup> (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 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.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 44.

<sup>(3)</sup> Commission Decision C(2002) 4791, updated by the Commission Decision C(2003) 635, both documents unpublished.

<sup>(4)</sup> 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 <sup>(5)</sup>. (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 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 programme and other information relating to the calls, can be obtained from the Commission via one of the following addresses:

European Commission  
Innovation Information Desk  
Enterprise Directorate General  
L-2920 Luxembourg.  
Email address: [innovation@cec.eu.int](mailto:innovation@cec.eu.int)  
Internet address: [www.cordis.lu/calls/innovation/](http://www.cordis.lu/calls/innovation/)

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are submitted preferably in electronic format, either on CD-ROM or on diskette. In any case, proposals for indirect RTD actions may also be prepared and submitted using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as on paper).

As the software tool within the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS) is now available, proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. The EPSS software tool is available via the Cordis website [www.cordis.lu](http://www.cordis.lu).

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

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 Proposals'  
(Call identifier: FP6-2003-INNOV-2)  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

For deliveries by hand or by representatives (including by private courier) <sup>(6)</sup>, the delivery should be to the following address, and labelled as follows:

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

In both cases, proposals for indirect actions submitted on CD-ROM or on diskette must be accompanied, in the same envelope, by an identical paper version.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted either on CD-ROM or on diskette which are incomplete <sup>(7)</sup>, illegible <sup>(8)</sup> or contain viruses will be excluded if a complete corresponding paper version has not been supplied.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be submitted on-line <sup>(9)</sup> via the Cordis website [www.cordis.lu](http://www.cordis.lu).

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

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

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted by email <sup>(13)</sup> 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.

8. In the case of successive submissions of a proposal in the same format, 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 electronic format (CD-ROM, diskette, on-line), the Commission will only examine the text submitted under the electronic formats.

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

<sup>(6)</sup> 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 Debouvere).

<sup>(7)</sup> All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).

<sup>(8)</sup> 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).

<sup>(9)</sup> See footnote 6.

<sup>(10)</sup> See footnote 7.

<sup>(11)</sup> See footnote 8.

<sup>(12)</sup> See footnote 7.

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

## ANNEX

1. Specific programme: Structuring the European Research Area.
2. Thematic priority/domain: Research and Innovation.
3. Call title: Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs).
4. Call Identifier No: FP6-2003-INNOV-2.
5. Date of Publication: 2 April 2003.
6. Closing date: 2 July 2003, at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. Total indicative budget: EUR 74 million (for four years)
8. Area and instruments:

Area	Instrument
1.2.4.2	Specific Support Actions

9. Minimum number of participants:

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
Specific support actions	One legal entity

10. Restriction to participation: None.
11. Consortium agreement: In the case of consortia, participants resulting from this call are required to conclude a consortium agreement.
12. Evaluation procedure:
  - The evaluation shall follow a single stage procedure.

However, due to the nature of the IRC project, a further assessment within the one-stage evaluation procedure is required, based on the results of the experts' evaluation. This will assess each individual proposal within the context of their national set-up. It will incorporate in the overall evaluation process the opinions (duly noted) of representatives of the countries covered. This second stage will be used to assist in the determination of the most appropriate regional coverage for the preferred proposals i.e. removal of unnecessary overlapping between bordering regions and to assist in the final recommendation of a proposal in the case of two or more suitable proposals being identified for essentially the same region.

- Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. Evaluation criteria:

The evaluation criteria and weighting shall be as below. No thresholds will apply to this call.

Evaluation criteria	Innovation relay centres (IRCs)
1. Relevance	Weighting: 20 %
2. Quality of the support action	Weighting: 30 %
3. Potential impact	Weighting: 15 %
4. Quality of the management	Weighting: 15 %
5. Mobilisation of resources	Weighting: 20 %

Due to the nature of the IRC project, the criteria will have to be interpreted within the context that each proposer will be an organisation/consortium proposing to deliver specific services across a specific geographical area but also working within a trans-national network of other relay centres.

Further information in this respect will be given in the Call for Proposals documentation.

14. Indicative evaluation and selection delays:

- *Evaluation results:* estimated to be within four months after the relevant closure date mentioned under point 6.
  - *Contract signature:* it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force on 1 April 2004.
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