

WORK PROGRAMME 2011

CAPACITIES

PART 7

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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7. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The international competitiveness of modern economies is linked increasingly to their ability to generate, adapt and use new knowledge. Science and technology (S&T) are considered to be key factors contributing to achieving sustainable development, prosperity and economic growth. S&T has also proved to be instrumental to enhancing and enriching many other policy areas with an impact on external relations: trade, development, environment, energy, telecommunications, etc.

A new approach is followed in the Seventh Framework Programme to support the activities of international cooperation:

- The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the Cooperation programme;
- The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the People programme;
- Activities of the Capacities Programme are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme as well as provide access opportunities in research programmes managed by third countries.

The latter foster international cooperation through support measures for third countries and regions. They support dialogues and information exchange activities with third countries and regions in order to enable the EU and the targeted countries and regions to discuss current and future research priorities. The outcomes of these dialogues contribute to developing research policy, offer input to the respective FP7 Specific Programmes, and inspire research topics for international cooperation, in particular in the Cooperation Programme. The activities of international cooperation in the Capacities Programme also support 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, as well as to improve knowledge on the cooperation opportunities offered by third countries' research programmes.

The activities defined in the Specific Programme are:

- Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies;
- Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships;
- Supporting the coordination of national and regional policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T cooperation.

Objective

To become more competitive and play a leading role at world level, the European Union needs a strong and coherent international science and technology policy. This international policy has three objectives:

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe.
- To enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with their partners in third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale.
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

I CONTEXT

Policy context

The actions for international cooperation in the Capacities Programme will facilitate research and innovation policy projects in FP7. They will be carried out by consortia with participants from different countries and will aim at developing, adapting and using new knowledge. Such collaboration will also support the wider remit of European research policy as well as trade and industry-related policies. The production and use of scientific knowledge will also be a vital element for the establishment and reinforcement of the Union's relations with third countries, on a bilateral, bi-regional or global scale. Close cooperation will be sought with instruments of the Member States and other European Union budget lines and instruments such as those that are designed with a defined geographical coverage to implement particular policies (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI), the Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (ICI), Asia and Latin America (ALA), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Development Fund (EDF)).

Approach for 2011

The previous work programmes (2007-2008, 2009 and 2010) have supported bi-regional cooperation activities with most of the regions of the world (INCO-NET), bilateral cooperation partnership with all countries with S&T cooperation agreement (BILAT, ACCESS4EU) and developed the coordination of European programme owners and managers with strategic third countries (ERA-NET). While the work programmes 2012 and 2013 will support the second phase of these initiatives using the result of the impact assessment to be launched in 2010, the work programme 2011 provides an opportunity to consolidate the activities initiated in the work programme 2010 (ERA-WIDE) but also underpin the broad policy goals defined by the Commission such as the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Innovation

Union initiative as well as contribute to the implementation of the work programme of the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC). The new activities should in particular contribute to strengthening innovation in Europe as they target joint institutes/centres, whose aim is to facilitate joint science and innovation related activities between European and third country researchers.

II CONTENT OF CALLS

Activity 7.1 Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.2 Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.3 Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States in the field of international S&T cooperation

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.4 Supporting trans-national cooperation among NCPs

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.5 Supporting EU access to third country programmes

No such activities are foreseen.

Activity 7.6 Reinforcing cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the ERA (FP7-INCO-2011-6, ERA-WIDE)

The reinforcement of the cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the European Research Area (ERA) is an important part of the EC communication on the Strategic Framework for international S&T cooperation¹. In order to promote closer scientific cooperation with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries and to prepare their possible association to the Framework Programmes, dedicated activities aimed at improving the cooperation capacity of these countries should be carried out under the Specific International Cooperation activities of FP7. This should complement the Research and Innovation activities described in the National Indicative Programmes and covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instruments (ENPI).

Technical content/scope

The objective of this action is to reinforce the cooperation capacities of research centres located in the ENP countries, which are not associated to FP7 at the time of the publication of the call². The call will give these countries the possibility to improve the research activities of their highest quality and/or promising centres in a scientific field addressed by the thematic priorities of FP7.

Proposed activities

The activities covered by the call are:

- twinning with research centres in Member States or Associated Countries in view of exchanging knowledge and good practices, disseminating scientific information, identifying partners and setting up joint experiments through short-term visits or exchange of staff, meetings, seminars, and similar activities;
- developing training modules to build competency and facilitate the participation of these centres in FP7;
- developing research centres' strategy in order to increase their scope and visibility (regional coverage, activities), to develop comparative advantage and to improve their competitiveness by enhancing their responses to the socio-economic needs of their countries and of the region.

The ERA-WIDE activity does not support directly research work but contributes to improve the centre's capacities in a given research area. The activities proposed should form a coherent plan and therefore they should be described in details and justified. Preference should be given to activities with a regional impact.

¹ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com_2008_588_en.pdf

² The countries targeted by the call are: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian Administered Areas, Lebanon, Syria, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Actions' (supporting action).

The requested European Union contribution for each project is expected to be about EUR 0.5 million. The typical duration of the project would be between 2 to 3 years.

Eligible costs: travel and subsistence costs for short-term staff exchange or scientific visits, meetings and seminars, consumables, studies, depreciation of equipment. The requested European Union contribution to consumables and equipment costs should not exceed 30% of the total requested European Union contribution.

Participants

This call is addressed to research centres of high level S&T capacities, which are located in an ENP country not associated to FP7 at the time of the publication of the call. The research centre is defined here as an existing working unit, either independent or functioning within a locally established research organisation of one of the countries concerned, having preferably distinct organisational and administrative boundaries. The centre should not be a subsidiary or branch of an organisation established in another country.

The proposal must target only one such centre, the consortium must however include one or more additional participants, in particular from the Member States and/or Associated Countries so as to fulfil the objectives of the activity.

The research centre targeted by the proposal must be the coordinator of the proposal.

When multiple eligible proposals targeting the same research centre are submitted, only the eligible proposal, which has been submitted last will be evaluated.

Only one ERA-WIDE grant targeting the same research centre can be active at any time.

Areas open to this call

The call will be open to the fields of science addressed by the thematic priorities of FP7 and will target centres located in the following regions:

- Area 1: Eastern Europe and South Caucasus: Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan,
- Area 2: Mediterranean Countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian-administered Areas, Lebanon, Syria

It is important to ensure that as many countries as possible can be covered under the call while rewarding the best proposals in each Area. For this reason, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied: At least one project per country covered by the areas of the Activity 7.6 of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria.

Therefore, the highest ranked proposal for a given target country will be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects in each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply

this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.

Socio-economic dimension of research

Where relevant, account should be taken of possible socio-economic impacts of research, including risks and opportunities. A sound understanding of where such benefits might arise and their nature should be demonstrated, both at the level of research design and of project implementation and/or research management. In this context, and where appropriate, the proposal should ensure engagement of relevant stakeholders e.g. user groups, civil society organisations, policy makers or the media. A multi-disciplinary approach should be adopted through the involvement of researchers from social sciences and /or humanities. Foresight and other forward looking activities should be integrated within the proposal wherever appropriate. Proposals raising ethical or security concerns are also encouraged to pay attention to wider public outreach.

Gender dimension

The pursuit of scientific knowledge and its technical application towards society requires the talent, perspectives and insight that can only be assured by increasing diversity in the research workforce. Therefore, all projects are encouraged to have a balanced participation of women and men in their research activities and raise awareness on combating gender prejudices and stereotypes. When human beings are involved gender differences may exist. These will be addressed as an integral part of the research to ensure the highest level of scientific quality. In addition, specific actions to promote gender equality in research can be financed as part of the project, as specified in the Appendix 7 of the Negotiation Guidance Notes.

Expected impact

The outcomes of the activity should be:

- contribution to RTD capacity building and management in the target country,
- enhanced participation of the country in the Seventh Framework Programme,
- increased visibility and scope (regional coverage, subjects, activities) of the centres with increased linkage with economic and social environment,
- networking with other research centres in Member States or Associated Countries (mobilising the human and material resources existing in a given field, disseminating scientific information as well as the results of research, facilitating communication between the centres having similar scientific interest),
- increased job opportunities that encourage gender equality in the country, in particular for young scientists (measures to avoid 'brain drain' phenomena: better career opportunities, better work conditions, access to research infrastructures).

Activity 7.7 Strengthening European research facilities in third countries: INCO-LAB activity (FP7-INCO-2011-7, INCO-LAB)

Technical content/ scope

The Member States and Associated Countries have as an objective to increase their coordination in third countries, through in particular maximising the use of their own research facilities in these countries. The objective of the INCO-LAB activity is to use the joint research institutes funded by one or several Member States and located in third countries as a catalyst to structure and increase the cooperation with third countries.

The objectives of the INCO-LAB activity are to:

- Open the activities of the joint institutes to researchers from at least 3 different Member States and Associated Countries other than those owning the facilities;
- Increase the scientific cooperation between researchers from the Member States and Associated Countries and those of the host country through the involvement of additional researchers in ongoing research activities as well as in the preparation of new joint projects via the organisation of joint seminars, summer schools and similar activities,
- Prepare the way for opening the institutional arrangement of the joint institutes to additional Member States or Associated Countries governments/ministries, research organisations.

The proposals must address all 3 objectives.

Proposed activities

In order to achieve these objectives, the activity should cover:

- The physical participation of researchers from the Member States and/or Associated Countries in the joint institute; covering the costs for their travel, subsistence and salary.
- The enhancement of the research capacity of the joint institute with a view of further opening it to new participating researchers; this would cover resources, consumables, support staff, supplies as well as depreciation of equipment.
- The preparation and implementation of future joint activities, typically the organisation of workshops, seminars or any other similar activities.

The researchers' stay in the joint institutes could last from a few months to a few years depending on the type of activities. The costs of researchers incl. PhD students and post doctoral researchers can be covered. These costs as well as the applicable salaries/rates of the researchers will be defined by the joint institute.

The requested European Union contribution to personnel costs should constitute the main fraction of the total European Union contribution; the requested European Union contribution to equipment should not exceed 30% of the total European Union contribution and should be justified on the basis of a specific research programme aimed at developing cooperation between European and third country researchers.

The proposals should provide a detailed planning for the participation of researchers in the joint institute and should specify how the positions will be advertised and how the researchers will be selected¹.

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Actions' (supporting action). The European Union contribution for each project is expected to be about EUR 2 million. The typical duration of the project would be up to 4 years.

Participants

The eligible joint institutes must be the result of institutional arrangements² based on a bilateral or multilateral agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding between at least one partner – government, ministry or a research organisation – of an EU Member State or Associated Country with a counterpart in a third country concerned. National institutes of a Member State or an Associated Country, which are located in a third country and which are the result of an agreement with the third country are also eligible. The eligible joint institute can be characterized as follows:

- 1) an independent legal entity established in the target third country. It should have a strategic research mission, should support directly research activities; or
- 2) a joint Science & Technology centre, which is not a separate legal entity from its funding partner(s). It should have a strategic research mission, support directly research activities and should be established in one of the target third country.

In the first case, the proposal will be submitted directly by the joint institute; in the second case it will be submitted by the funding partners as participants.

Institutes, which depend solely on national funding from EU Member States or/and Associated countries are not eligible under this call. Joint institutes which are exclusively funded by private organisations are not eligible under this call.

The eligible joint institutes must be established in one of the target third country, virtual laboratories or network should not be targeted by this Activity.

The proposals should contain all necessary legal information justifying the eligibility of the joint institutes.

Areas open to this call

The call will target joint institutes located in the following countries:

- Area 1: Brazil
- Area 2: China
- Area 3: India
- Area 4: Japan

¹ The joint institute should take into consideration the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

² The institutional arrangements must be established before the publication of the call.

- Area 5: Russia
- Area 6: USA

It is important to have as many countries as possible covered under the call. For this reason, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied: at least one project per Area of the Activity 7.7 of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria.

Therefore, the highest ranked proposal for a given Area will be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects from each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. If there is no proposal above thresholds in a given Area, the indicative budget of this Area will be added to that remaining budget. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.

Socio-economic dimension of research

Where relevant, account should be taken of possible socio-economic impacts of research, including risks and opportunities. A sound understanding of where such benefits might arise and their nature should be demonstrated, both at the level of research design and of project implementation and/or research management. In this context, and where appropriate, the proposal should ensure engagement of relevant stakeholders e.g. user groups, civil society organisations, policy makers or the media. A multi-disciplinary approach should be adopted through the involvement of researchers from social sciences and /or humanities. Foresight and other forward looking activities should be integrated within the proposal wherever appropriate. Proposals raising ethical or security concerns are also encouraged to pay attention to wider public outreach.

Gender dimension

The pursuit of scientific knowledge and its technical application towards society requires the talent, perspectives and insight that can only be assured by increasing diversity in the research workforce. Therefore, all projects are encouraged to have a balanced participation of women and men in their research activities and raise awareness on combating gender prejudices and stereotypes. When human beings are involved gender differences may exist. These will be addressed as an integral part of the research to ensure the highest level of scientific quality. In addition, specific actions to promote gender equality in research can be financed as part of the project, as specified in the Appendix 8 of the Negotiation Guidance Notes.

Expected impact

The outcomes of the activity should be:

- Broadening of the European participation in the joint institutes while ensuring gender balance;

- Increased cooperation with targeted third countries;
- Increased visibility and scientific excellence of the joint institutes;
- Help maximising the initial investment of a small number of Member States to benefit the whole European Union;
- Foster future collaborative research projects between European and third countries in areas of mutual interest and for mutual benefit.

Activity 7.8 Strengthening joint European S&T centres in Third Countries: INCO-HOUSE activity (FP7-INCO-2011-8, INCO-HOUSE)

Technical content/ scope

The INCO-HOUSE activity is complementary to the INCO-LAB activity as its goal is to support the opening of the institutional arrangement of joint centres funded by one or several Member States and Associated Countries and located in third countries.

The INCO-HOUSE activity does not aim at regrouping existing liaison offices, which purpose is to promote national research programmes or organisations from the Member States or Associated countries.

It targets joint centres, which aims are to promote collaborative research programmes in fundamental and applied sciences between one or several Member State or Associated Countries and one third country through co-funding mechanisms.

The objective of the INCO-HOUSE activity is to prepare the way for opening the institutional arrangement of the joint centres to additional European organisations thus helping Member States and Associated Countries develop coordinated activities with third countries.

Proposed activities

In order to achieve this objective, the activity would cover the cost of a feasibility study of the opening of the institutional arrangement as well as coordination costs linked to the involvement of additional organisations (travel, personnel costs...). The proposals should also propose a plan for dissemination of the results including the organisations of workshops and/or seminars.

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Actions' (supporting action). The European Union contribution for each project is expected to be about EUR 0.25 million. The typical duration of the project would be 2 years.

Participants

The eligible joint centres must be the result of institutional arrangements¹ based on a bilateral or multilateral agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding between at least one partner – government, ministry or research organisation – of an EU Member State or Associated Country with a counterpart in a third country concerned. The eligible joint centre is an organisation, which is an independent legal entity established in the third country, whose aim is to facilitate joint science and innovation related activities through co-funding of projects. Contrary to the INCO-LAB activity, the eligible joint centres should not host research projects.

The proposals should contain all necessary legal information justifying the eligibility of the joint centres.

¹ The institutional arrangements must be established before the publication of the call.

Areas open to this call

As a pilot activity, the call will target joint centres established only in India.

Socio-economic dimension of research

Where relevant, account should be taken of possible socio-economic impacts of research, including risks and opportunities. A sound understanding of where such benefits might arise and their nature should be demonstrated, both at the level of research design and of project implementation and/or research management. In this context, and where appropriate, the proposal should ensure engagement of relevant stakeholders e.g. user groups, civil society organisations, policy makers or the media. A multi-disciplinary approach should be adopted through the involvement of researchers from social sciences and /or humanities. Foresight and other forward looking activities should be integrated within the proposal wherever appropriate. Proposals raising ethical or security concerns are also encouraged to pay attention to wider public outreach.

Gender dimension

The pursuit of scientific knowledge and its technical application towards society requires the talent, perspectives and insight that can only be assured by increasing diversity in the research workforce. Therefore, all projects are encouraged to have a balanced participation of women and men in their research activities and raise awareness on combating gender prejudices and stereotypes. When human beings are involved gender differences may exist. These will be addressed as an integral part of the research to ensure the highest level of scientific quality. In addition, specific actions to promote gender equality in research can be financed as part of the project, as specified in the Appendix 8 of the Negotiation Guidance Notes.

Expected impact

The outcomes of the activity should be:

- Increased coordination between Member States and Associated Countries in developing joint activities with Third Countries;
- Increased visibility and impact of the existing joint centres;
- Supporting the development of EU partnerships in the area of S&T International Cooperation;
- More collaborative research projects between European and third countries in areas of mutual interest and for mutual benefit.

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

1. Call title: Reinforcing cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the ERA – Activity ERA-WIDE

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2011-6
- Date of publication¹: 20/07/2010
- Deadline²: 15/03/2011, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 15.00 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding schemes	Indicative amount
<u>INCO-6 Reinforcing cooperation with Europe's neighbours in the context of the ERA</u>		
INCO.2011-6.1 Eastern Europe and South Caucasus: Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 6.00 million
INCO.2011-6.2 Mediterranean Countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian-administered Areas, Lebanon, Syria	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 9.00 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions	At least 1 independent legal entity

¹ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 15.00 million is given to this call budget from the 2011 budget. This is under the condition that the draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.
- All budgetary figures given in this call are indicative. The repartition of the sub-budgets awarded within this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

(supporting action)	
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The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

- The proposal must target only one research centre of high level S&T capacities, which is located in an ENP country not associated to FP7 at the time of the publication of the call. The research centre is defined here as an existing working unit, either independent or functioning within a locally established research organisation of one of the countries concerned, having preferably distinct organisational and administrative boundaries. The centre should not be a subsidiary or branch of an organisation established in another country.
- The consortium must include the research centre that is targeted in the proposal. The consortium must however include one or more additional participants, in particular from the Member States and/or Associated Countries.
- The research centre targeted by the proposal must be the coordinator of the proposal.
- When multiple eligible proposals targeting the same research centre are submitted, only the eligible proposal, which has been submitted last, will be evaluated.
- Only one ERA-WIDE grant targeting the same research centre can be active at any time.
- Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme. Additionally, the highest ranked proposal for a given target country should be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects in each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
- The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
- The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of May 2011. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in September 2011.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

2. Call title: Strengthening European research facilities in third countries – Activity INCO-LAB

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2011-7
- Date of publication¹: 20/07/2010
- Deadline²: 15/03/2011, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 12.00 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-7 Strengthening European research facilities in third countries		
INCO.2011-7.1 Brazil	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.2 China	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.3 India	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.4 Japan	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.5 Russia	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.6 USA	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions	At least 1 independent legal entity

¹ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 12.00 million is given to this call budget from the 2011 budget. This is under the condition that the draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.
- All budgetary figures given in this call are indicative. The repartition of the sub-budgets awarded within this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

(supporting action)	
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The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

- The eligible joint institutes must be the result of institutional arrangements¹ based on a bilateral or multilateral agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding between at least one partner – government, ministry or a research organisation – of an EU Member State or Associated Country with a counterpart in a Third Country concerned. National institutes of a Member State or an Associated Country, which are located in a Third Country and which are the result of an agreement with the Third country are also eligible. The eligible joint institute can be characterized as follows:
 - an independent legal entity established in the target third country. It should have a strategic research mission, should support directly research activities; or
 - a joint Science & Technology centre, which is not a separate legal entity from its funding partner(s). It should have a strategic research mission, support directly research activities and should be established in one of the target third country.
- In the first case, the proposal will be submitted directly by the joint institute; in the second case it will be submitted by the funding partners as participants.
- Institutes, which depend solely on national funding from EU Member States or/and Associated countries are not eligible under this call. Joint institutes which are exclusively funded by private organisations are not eligible under this call.
- Proposals not addressing all three following objectives will be considered ineligible:
 - Open the activities of the joint institutes to researchers from at least 3 different Member States and Associated Countries other than those owning the facilities;
 - Increase the scientific cooperation between researchers from the Member States and Associated Countries and those of the host country through the involvement of additional researchers in ongoing research activities as well as in the preparation of new joint projects via the organisation of joint seminars, summer schools and similar activities,
 - Prepare the way for opening the institutional arrangement of the joint institutes to additional Member States or Associated Countries governments/ministries, research organisations.
- The eligible joint institutes must be established in one of the target third country..

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme. Additionally, the highest ranked proposal for a given Area should be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects from each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. If there is no proposal above thresholds in a given Area, the indicative budget of this Area will be added to that remaining budget. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.

¹ The institutional arrangements must be established before the publication of the call.

- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
- The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
- The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of May 2011. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in September 2011.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

3. Call title: Strengthening joint European S&T centres in Third Countries – Activity INCO-HOUSE

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2011-8
- Date of publication¹: 20/07/2010
- Deadline²: 15/03/2011, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 0.50 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-8 <u>Strengthening joint European S&T centres in Third Countries</u>		
INCO.2011-8.1 India	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	At least 1 independent legal entity

The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

- The eligible joint centres must be the result of institutional arrangements⁶ based on a bilateral or multilateral agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding between at least one partner – government, ministry or research organisation – of an EU Member State or Associated Country with a counterpart in a Third Country concerned. The eligible joint centre is an organisation, which is an independent legal entity established in the third country, whose aim is to facilitate joint science and innovation related activities through co-funding of projects. The eligible joint centres should not host research projects.

¹ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 0.50 million is given to this call budget from the 2011 budget. This is under the condition that the draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

- All budgetary figures given in this call are indicative. The repartition of the sub-budgets awarded within this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁵ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

⁶ The institutional arrangements must be established before the publication of the call.

- The call targets joint centres established only in India.

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.
- The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
- The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of May 2011. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in September 2011.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

Impact of the cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement

The objective is to perform an analysis of the impact of cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement, which are up for renewal. The country targeted in 2011 will be Brazil, Chile and India. This activity will involve one report for each targeted country, implemented through expert contracts to be launched by the middle of 2011.

The evaluation should comprise an in-depth desk research on the achievements and scope of the S&T agreements as well as on-site visit in the targeted country.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), expert contracts¹, indicative budget **EUR 0.15 million**

Indicative timeframe: to be launched by the middle of 2011

Reinforcing the international dimension of ERA through supporting the new European Partnership for International S&T Cooperation International cooperation is an integral part of the further development of the European Research Area (ERA) where the research policy objective to make Europe more open to the world is being implemented through a 'partnership' approach. This partnership, which builds a closer relationship between national programmes of Member States and the European Union, is being brought forward through the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC)².

With an emphasis on supporting this partnership approach, 2 broad topics for funding are proposed: i) developing stronger links with stakeholders; ii) supporting international S&T co-operation initiatives.

i) Developing stronger links with stakeholders for international S&T co-operation

As one of the 5 ERA initiatives, support to 'opening ERA to the world' is required to ensure a more systematic and broader involvement of stakeholders in ERA governance and to ensure that the ERA Vision 2020 is better communicated to different categories of stakeholders and society. Further action is required to address and actively involve stakeholders at the European level and to a different degree, stakeholders in Third Countries.

In line with priorities that have emerged by further developing the partnership between the Member States and the EU³, a series of international activities will be supported to develop broad networking of stakeholder representatives involved in international S&T co-operation. Focus should be placed on selected 'global challenges' and, with key strategic partner countries.

¹ In accordance with Article 14(c), 17 and 27(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

² Council conclusions concerning a European partnership for international scientific and technological cooperation, 16017/08 of 2 December 2008

³ See 1st Annual Report of SFIC

Scope: Organise different measures consisting of preparatory studies and workshops to be held in Europe or in one of the key strategic partner countries¹ during 2011/2012 to bring together major stakeholder groups on selected topics reflecting the SFIC priorities.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), public procurement² (service contract), indicative budget **EUR 0.45 million**

Indicative timeframe: to be launched in the first half of 2011

Expected duration: 2 years.

ii) Supporting international S&T co-operation initiatives

Research partnering and networking activities: Encouraging European and 3rd Country research organisations to develop closer collaborative links with a view to programme coordination in line with the ongoing work within the context of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation (SFIC). Initially such activities will support the India 'Pilot Initiative'.

Scope: 'Pilot Initiative' with India

The scope of this action is to promote networking activities among existing European and Indian projects and research institutions engaged in collaborative research in strategically important areas such as the broad area of water related challenges. This area has been identified by the Strategic Forum for International Science and Technology Cooperation (SFIC) as one of the priority areas for the pilot initiative with India.

This action is intended to promote a wide-range networking of the relevant scientific research communities and stakeholders from both sides and the establishment of linkages between EU research institutions and projects/programmes active vis-à-vis and with India.

This action will provide support for:

- i) a general networking (via meetings, workshops, short term visits, etc.) of the scientific communities operating respectively under the EU, Member States and India programmes and
- ii) exchanges - of information, data, resources, materials, methods and tools.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), public procurement³ (service contract), indicative budget **EUR 0.90 million**.

Indicative timeframe: to be launched in the first half of 2011

Expected duration: 2 years.

¹ These are countries, which have signed or are in the process of negotiating an EU S&T cooperation agreement.

² In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

³ In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

V. BUDGET

Activities	Budget 2011¹ EUR million
Call FP7- <i>INCO-2011-6 (ERA-WIDE)</i>	<i>15.00</i>
Call FP7- <i>INCO-2011-7 (INCO-LAB)</i>	<i>12.00</i>
Call FP7- <i>INCO-2011-8 (INCO-HOUSE)</i>	<i>0.50</i>
Other actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluations (EUR <i>0.25</i> million) • Monitoring and reviews (EUR <i>0.00</i> million) • Actions implemented through public procurements and expert groups (EUR <i>1.50</i> million) 	<i>1.75</i>
Estimated total budget	29.25

Budget Figures in This Work Programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. The final budgets may vary following the evaluation of proposals.

The final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary:

- The total budget of the call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call, and
- Any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

For actions not implemented through calls for proposals:

- The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20% of the indicated budgets for these actions;
- The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the indicated budget for these actions.

¹ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

VI INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS

The work programmes 2012 and 2013 should support the second phase of the INCO-NET, BILAT projects, which were launched in 2008 and 2009 and should provide opportunities for strengthening the joint activities developed within the geographical FP7 ERA-NET projects via the ERA-NET PLUS scheme. The scope and implementation of these activities will take into account the recommendations of the impact assessment launched in 2010 as well as underpinning the broad policy goals defined by the Commission.

The work programmes 2012 and 2013 will continue to help reinforcing the external dimension of the ERA and in particular contributing to the implementation of the communication on the strategic framework for international S&T cooperation through specific measures targeting strategic partners.