

Information Society Technologies In the 6th Framework Programme

Networks of excellence

Evaluation IST Call 1

24 April 2003



Networks of excellence

To reinforce or strengthen scientific and technological excellence on a given research topic

- by integrating the critical mass of expertise needed to provide European leadership and be a world force
- around a Joint programme of activity (JPA)

Structuring European research by integrating research capacities across Europe.

- Durable integration
- To progress knowledge on a particular theme

Overcome the fragmentation of European research

To act as a “Virtual Centre of Excellence”

To spread excellence beyond the partners

Networks of excellence

Integrating activities

- coordinated programming of the partners' activities
- sharing of research platforms/tools/facilities
- joint management of the knowledge portfolio
- staff mobility and exchanges
- relocation of staff, teams, equipment
- reinforced electronic communication systems

Joint research activities

- a programme of joint research to support the network's goals
- generating new knowledge to fill gaps in or to extend the collective knowledge portfolio

Activities to spread excellence

- training researchers and other key staff
- dissemination and communication activities
- networking activities to help transfer knowledge to trans external to the network
- where appropriate, promoting the exploitation of the results generated within the network
- where appropriate, innovation-related activities

Management Activities

Networks of excellence

In their proposal, participants will include possible qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress towards integration. Main factors to be examined

- extent of mutual specialisation and mutual complementarity
- sharing /development for common use of research infrastructure, equipment, tools and platforms
- regular joint execution of research projects
- interactive working through electronic communication systems
- joint management of the knowledge portfolio
- joint training programme (researchers and other key staff)
- coherent management framework

NoE - Main features

- **Demonstrated need for structuring**
 - description of fragmentation on the topic
 - existence of excellent capacities in Europe in the topic
 - **Is there a real need for a structuring intervention?**
- **Characteristics of the network planned:**
 - composition of the partnership: presence of key excellent actors
 - potential synergies, complementarities, specialisation among the members
 - quality/degree of integration planned
 - **Is the network planned likely to tackle the fragmentation problem identified?**
- **Viability of the network during and beyond the period**
 - awareness of high decision level representatives of the participating organisations: strong commitment
 - security regarding network's funding, particularly beyond the period
 - **Will the network constitute a durable answer to the problem identified?**

NOEs - Evaluation criteria 1

1. Relevance: *Threshold 3/5*

The extent to which

- the proposed project addresses the objectives of the work programme

NOEs - Evaluation criteria 2

2. Potential impact: *Threshold 3/5*

The extent to which

- Europe has a strategic need to strengthen S&T excellence on the topic by means of restructuring of the existing research capacities and the way research is carried out
- the goals of the network are in that connection suitably ambitious, particularly in terms of achieving European leadership and acting as a world force on this topic
- the proposal demonstrates a clear added value in carrying out the work at European level, does it take account of research activities at national level and under European initiatives (e.g. Eureka).
- an effective plan for spreading excellence, exploiting results and disseminating knowledge, including to SMEs and to those outside the network.
- the proposed approach is likely to have a durable structuring impact on European research

NOEs - Evaluation criteria 3

3. Excellence of the participants: *Threshold 3/5*

The extent to which

- the participants are currently conducting excellent research relevant to the topic of the network or are capable of important contributions to the joint programme of activities
- the participants are well suited to the tasks assigned to them
- they collectively have the necessary critical mass of expertise and resources to carry out the Joint Programme of Activities successfully

NOEs - Evaluation criteria 4

4. Degree of integration and the JPA: *Threshold 4/5*

The extent to which

- the degree of integration justifies supporting the proposal as a network of excellence
- the joint programme of activities is sufficiently well designed to achieve the expected degree of integration
- the participating organisations have made a convincing commitment towards a deep and durable integration beyond the period of Community support

NOEs - Evaluation criteria 5

5. Organisation and management : *Threshold 3/5*

The extent to which

- the organisational structure of the network provides a secure framework for any necessary structural decisions to be taken
- the management of the network is demonstrably of high quality
- there is a well-considered plan for promoting gender equality in the network

NOEs - Overall threshold

Threshold for overall score
of Network of excellence proposals:

20/25