

COOPERATION WORK PROGRAMME 2013¹

(European Commission C(2012) 4536 of 09 July 2012)

¹ In accordance with Articles 179 to 190 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 182(1) as contextualised in the following decisions: Decision 1982/2006/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18/12/2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (2007 – 2013) and the Council Decision 971/2006/CE of 19/12/2006 adopting a Specific Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration: 'Cooperation' (2007 – 2013).

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General Introduction

The work programme, adopted by the Commission, is the final such exercise under the Cooperation Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7).

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – THE KEY DRIVERS FOR NEW GROWTH AND JOBS

Aligned with the Europe 2020 growth and job creation strategy², this work programme is the Union's biggest investment package to date to boost research and innovation. The activities of the work programme have been prioritised and designed to ensure that their outputs and impacts would contribute to and push forward the key policy priorities of the European Union. Additionally this work programme has been tailored to fully fit the policy framework set out with the Innovation Union³, the Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

In practical terms, activities will address the significant innovation gap the Union is facing, they will build up the knowledge base and they will develop solutions to tackle a number of clearly identified societal challenges facing Europe at large. This work programme is indeed expected to have a significant macro-economic impact over time on European society through its contribution to creating new and sustainable jobs and growth.

FROM FP7 TO HORIZON 2020

The activities under this work programme will also provide for a preparation and smooth transition towards Horizon 2020, the EU's new research and innovation programme covering the period 2014-2020⁴. The 2013 work programme **ushers in new approaches that will be deployed more fully in Horizon 2020**. The final FP7 Cooperation work programme includes in particular the issues outlined below.

a) Facing EU challenges: strategic prioritisation

Across the themes there has been a strong focus on priority areas having a high European added-value, including support to other key EU policies, and a high potential impact. Each priority is anchored in a particular theme, but usually also with a cross-cutting involvement of one or more other themes. The priorities are:

- *Oceans of the future*: Promoting research and innovation on marine technologies, in particular sensors, anti-biofouling materials, and innovative transport and deployment systems for the offshore energy sector. Following joint initiatives in earlier editions of the work programme, a joint call is organised, involving Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology (KBBE), Environment, Transport, Energy, and Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP).

² Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' COM(2010) 2020 of 3.3.2010.

³ European Commission Communication on 'Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union' (COM(2010) 546 final of 6.10.2010).

⁴ COM(2011)809 of 30.11.2011

- *Water*: Improving the sustainability of natural resources, linked in part to the proposed European Innovation Partnership on Water. This priority is primarily supported under Environment, but with contributions also from ICT, KBBE and, in the Capacities SP, from Science in Society.
- *Raw materials*: Moving European industry away from a resource-intensive basis (relying on raw materials, labour, energy etc.) to one that is more knowledge-intensive and sustainable. Here there are strong links to an important part of a proposed Horizon 2020 challenge and the proposed European Partnership on Raw Materials. This priority is primarily under NMP, with contributions also from Environment.
- *Smart Cities*: Part of the follow-up to the Commission's Communication on this subject; also with strong links to parts of the Public-private partnerships set up under the "Recovery package" (see annex 5). Wide ranging support comes primarily under Energy, ICT, Transport and NMP, but with important contributions also from Environment, Social Sciences and Humanities and, in the Capacities SP, under Science in Society.
- *Secure clean and efficient energy*: Firmly driven by the SET plan⁵, including work on renewable energies and carbon capture and storage; and with strong link to a proposed challenge under Horizon 2020. Support here is primarily under Energy, with contributions from Security, Environment and NMP.
- *Public sector reform*: In the face of the financial and economic crisis, together with an ageing population and an increased dependency ratio with its attendant impact on the public purse, the European welfare state, in its different forms, is under huge pressure. New ways of organising public administrations need to be explored and developed. Relevant initiatives are found under Social Sciences and Humanities, and in the Capacities SP, under the Coherent Development of Research Policies part.
- *Brain research*: Effective and translational brain research can have a major impact on health care costs, estimated at EUR 800 billion in 2010. Support is primarily under Health, with contributions also from KBBE and Social Sciences and Humanities.
- *Anti-microbial resistance*: This follows up on the Commission's recently launched Action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance⁶; and also in line with commitments to the Millennium Development Goals⁷. Again, support is primarily under Health. There are also contributions from KBBE, NMP, Security, and, in the Capacities SP, under Science in Society.
- *Bio Resource Efficiency*: This priority follows up on the Commission's Bio-Economy Communication⁸, and links as well to the greenhouse gas emission targets. This is strongly focused on KBBE, but with contributions from Social Sciences and Humanities, and Environment.

⁵ COM(2009) 519 final of 7.10.2009.

⁶ 'Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial resistance'. COM(2011)748 final of 15.11.2011.

⁷ Recalled by President Barroso recently in his declaration on the State of the Union at the European Parliament (28/9/2011).

⁸ COM(2012)60 final of 13.2.2012.

- *Europe: a destination for world-class researchers.* This priority underlines the proposed first pillar of Horizon 2020, helping make Europe an attractive place to do excellence research. While excellence science clearly permeates this entire work programme, the mobility aspects are primarily concerns for ERC (Ideas) and Marie Curie (People).

The specific topics that address the above priorities are indicated in the introductory sections of the different themes.

b) Ramping up the innovation dimension

More than ever before, this work programme embraces the full innovation cycle. The goal is to make sure that the fruits of research can be exploited, and to help place new products and services on the market. To this end:

- All themes – except Social Sciences and Humanities – include demonstration, piloting, and validation measures.
- Demand-driven innovation is encouraged, by way of support to pre-commercial public procurement (e.g. ICT, Security, Environment and KBBE); standardisation (e.g. Health, KBBE, ICT, NMP, Environment, Energy, Transport, Security); analysis of regulatory needs (e.g. Health, ICT, KBBE, NMP, Environment, Energy); and actions relevant to existing and possible European Innovation Partnerships (Health, ICT in the case of 'Active and Healthy Ageing'; KBBE in the case of 'Agricultural productivity and sustainability'; NMP and Environment in the case of 'Raw materials'; and Environment in the case 'Water').
- More opportunities for non-technological innovation are provided, including support for public sector innovation (e.g. Prizes and expert groups); social innovation, including transnational networks for incubators (Health, KBBE, Environment, Transport, Social Sciences and Humanities and, in the Capacities SP, CDRP); Service innovation, including process and organisational innovation (e.g. Environment).

c) Enhancing participation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Innovative SMEs are the seedbeds for new jobs and future growth. We need to help existing ones flourish, and to encourage fresh start-ups. In total 105 topics in this work programme are dedicated in one way or another to SMEs, estimated to lead to around 20% of the total budget share. This includes SME-oriented topics, or topics generally encouraging industrial participants (including SMEs), as well as dedicated calls with strict rules leading to strong SME participation. This includes as well the pilot action begun under Health last year, which in many ways presages the dedicated SME instrument planned for Horizon 2020.

d) Widening Participation

Funding decisions in FP7 are based on the principle of excellence, and not by concerns of geographical return. This will firmly remain the case in the future under Horizon 2020. However, it is important that excellence can flourish wherever it is found, and to ensure that there are no unfair barriers to participation in the programme. To this end, this edition of the work programme includes a number of activities to better understand the challenges and opportunities faced in different parts of Europe in relation to participating in a competitive

research and innovation environment. For example, under Social Sciences and Humanities, a study will look into the reasons for different levels of performance in the Framework Programme; some Themes will carry out mapping exercises or regional research and innovation landscape per sector (e.g. Transport), pointing to where competitive advantages lie.

ERA Chairs:

As part of this issue, while being outside the scope of the Cooperation Specific Programme, a pilot action on the proposed "ERA Chairs" in Horizon 2020 is being prepared for the 2013 work programme covering the Capacities Specific Programme. The aim of the "ERA Chairs" is to attract outstanding academics to institutions with a clear potential for research excellence, in order to help these institutions fully unlock this potential and hereby create a level playing field for research and innovation. Call details for this pilot action are expected to be provided in an update to the related work programme before the end of 2012. The budget is envisaged to be of the order of EUR 12 million.

Over and above these measures in the work programme, there will be a proactive communication effort to ensure that the opportunities offered by the programme are widely known and understood.

e) European Research Area

This work programme contributes to meeting the overarching objective of the EU research policy to develop an open and competitive **European Research Area (ERA)**, which is a core element in the research and innovation agenda of the Commission, as defined in the Innovation Union flagship.

The main premise of ERA is to increase research quality and impact, as well as to raise the attractiveness of the EU as a research location, by exploiting cross-border synergies. This would help to realise research critical mass and economies of scale unattainable at national level. Deficiencies and inefficiencies arising from fragmentation, sub-criticality and duplication in R&D activities, and from a lack of policy coherence and coordination at and between regional, national and European level, could also be overcome. Tackling these depends upon the extent to which high-level political/ ministerial commitment⁹ is matched by concerted action and enhanced partnerships between the Member States and the European Commission; but also research stakeholders as well as concrete research initiatives leading to substantial progress and improvements in research quality, impact and funding efficiency.

In the implementation of the Cooperation Specific Programme, attention is also paid to the working conditions, transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a **Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**¹⁰ offers a reference framework, while respecting its voluntary nature.

⁹ As endorsed by the Council of the European Union (February 2012), stating that: 'Europe needs a unified research area to attract talent and investment. Remaining gaps must therefore be addressed rapidly and the European Research Area completed by 2014 to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation. In particular, efforts should be made to improve the mobility and career prospects of researchers, the mobility of graduate students and the attractiveness of Europe for foreign researchers.'

¹⁰ <http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/europeancharter>

CONSULTATION AND ADVICE

The Cooperation work programme is structured around 10 chapters, which set out the implementation of the research Themes. A range of issues of relevance to the Cooperation work programme as a whole are set out in Annexes 1-5. In general, each chapter is self-standing; however, applicants are advised to read this general introduction and the Annexes, in addition to the chapter(s) containing the research Theme(s) of interest. The 2013 work programme contains a fifth annex, which sets out a series of research topics in three key cross-thematic research initiatives: the Green Cars Initiative; the Energy Efficient Buildings Initiative; and the Factories of the Future Initiative. These three research initiatives will be implemented as public private partnerships in collaboration with key European industrial partners¹¹.

In preparing this work programme, the Commission has relied on advice from a wide range of consultations, including from the European Technology Platforms¹² and from specific advice of a series of advisory groups¹³. The European Technology Platforms provide a framework for stakeholders, led by industry, to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on a number of strategically important issues where achieving Europe's future growth, competitiveness and sustainability objectives is dependent upon major research and technological advances in the medium to long term. The advisory groups are groups of independent, high-level, experts which have been set up by the Commission to advise on the implementation of European Union research policy in each of the ten research Themes contained in this work programme. The experts were chosen based on their knowledge, skills and significant experience in the field of research and aligned issues covered by the Themes. More information on the members, and the work of the advisory groups as well as the European Technology Platforms can be found on the Internet pages of the Seventh Framework Programme.

The Commission is also assisted by the Programme Committee of Member State delegates. The Committee provides an opinion on the draft work programme before it is adopted by the Commission.

¹¹ As set out in the Communication 'A European Economic Recovery Plan'; COM(2008)800 of 26 November 2008.

¹² http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/advisory_en.html

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

a) Collaborative Research

This specific programme will support a range of research and innovation actions involving the active collaboration of research teams from all sectors, including industry, SMEs, universities and other higher education institutions, research institutes and centres, international European interest organisations, civil society organisations, and any other legal entities. These actions will be implemented through the funding schemes: Collaborative Projects, Networks of Excellence, Research for the Benefit of Specific Groups (in particular SMEs), Coordination and Support Actions, Integrating Activities/Preparatory Phase (Combination of collaborate projects and coordination and support actions) and International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES).

Collaborative Projects can range from small or medium-scale focused research and innovation actions, to large-scale integrating projects. When a distinction is made between these two types of projects, it will be based – unless specifically otherwise stated – on the size of the European Union contribution requested. The related thresholds may vary for each Theme, and will be specified in the relevant parts of this work programme. It is important to note that these thresholds will constitute eligibility criteria. Additional qualitative aspects may also be given in the relevant parts of this work programme.

Researchers based in Associated Countries may take part in the Cooperation programme on the same basis and with the same rights and obligations as those based in Member States.

b) Pluri-disciplinary and Cross-Thematic Research, Including Calls jointly implemented

Cross-Thematic and pluri-disciplinary research areas are included in this work programme, paying particular attention to key scientific areas such as energy efficiency and marine sciences and technologies. Such cross-Thematic research areas are considered at the topic level, either by a centre of gravity approach with close cooperation of the Themes involved and with the topic presented in the most relevant Theme, or by consideration of the specific topic by both Themes. In certain fields of research, where it is clear that proposals will always contain a high proportion of interest for one of more Themes, there is the potential for calls for proposals jointly implemented or coordinated by one or more Themes to allow for a more focussed approach to such cross-Thematic or pluri-disciplinary research areas.

The 2013 work programme includes e.g. the cross-thematic call "The Ocean of Tomorrow: joining research forces to meet challenges in ocean management" implemented by 5 Themes. Additionally, Theme 3 "ICT" and Theme 5 "Energy" will implement a coordinated call on Smart Cities and Communities in order to contribute to the Commission Initiative on the subject.

c) Adaptation to Evolving Needs and Opportunities

The Cooperation Programme has been designed to be responsive to the changing and evolving research needs of European industry and policy makers. Each Theme includes a range of different research topics, including those relevant to industrial needs, such as those identified in the strategic research agenda for the Technology Platforms, and topics relevant to the formulation, implementation and assessment of EU policies and regulations. In addition, 'emerging' research needs are incorporated through more 'bottom-up' research topics. There is

also provision for the inclusion of research topics related to 'unforeseen policy needs' which may require a quick reaction, as relevant.

d) Coordination of non-Union Research Programmes

The coordination of non-Union research programmes is an important and integral part of the development of the European Research Area. Actions foreseen include the continuation of the ERA-NET scheme and support to the developing Joint Programming Initiatives, support to inter-governmental organisms, such as EUREKA and COST, measures to sustain an active dialog with European High Level Scientific & non-University Research Organisations. Detailed information on these activities is provided in Annex 4 to the Cooperation work programme.

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes through two specific actions:

- 'ERA-NET actions' - which provide a framework for actors implementing public research programmes to coordinate their activities.
- 'ERA-NET Plus actions' - which can provide additional EU financial support to facilitate joint calls for proposals between national and/or regional programmes.

In 2013, the ERA-NET scheme foresees a cross-thematic call for proposals, open to challenge-oriented strategic priorities. Proposals submitted to the 2013 ERA-NET call shall clearly demonstrate the innovation potential of the planned activities. Participants shall adopt a global approach in their proposals and the presence of partners from relevant non-EU countries will be considered a plus during the proposal evaluation phase. (*The FP7-ERANET-2013-RTD Call Fiche is published in Annex 4*).

The Cooperation programme provides also support for inter-governmental organisms, including funding for the COST secretariat activities and payment of the annual EC membership fee to EUREKA. The dialogue with EIROforum and its members, National Research Councils and other Research Organisations will be sustained in view of improving coordination and improving the efficiency of trans-national research collaborations.

e) Risk-Sharing Finance Facility

Commitment No. 10 of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative is to increase private finance and close the market gap in investing in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI). The European added-value of public support is to overcome market gaps for the financing of European RDI with a high level of risk.

In accordance with Annex III to the Cooperation Specific Programme, the European Union (EU) provides a contribution to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for a Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF). The objective is to foster primarily private sector investment in research, technological development and demonstration as well as innovation¹⁴. The EIB designed this debt financial instrument with the Commission with the financial support of the EU.

¹⁴ Costs related to Innovations activities may be considered as eligible EU RSFF Operations if they comply with the provisions set in the RSFF cooperation agreement between the European Union and the European Investment Bank (as stated in Article A4.6.2: Selection of Projects for Financing and the Eligibility Criteria under Annex IV).

In compliance with the Cooperation Specific Programme, "Joint Technology Initiatives, Collaborative Projects, Networks of Excellence and Research for the benefit of SMEs funded by the EU shall be automatically eligible for the RSFF provided their objectives fall within the scope of the contributing themes of this Specific Programme. Legal entities established in third countries other than Associated Countries are also eligible if they participate in the above mentioned FP7 indirect actions and their costs are eligible for Community funding".

In December 2011, the Commission and the EIB responded to the European Council's and European Parliament's requests to develop and improve the RSFF through an amendment to the RSFF cooperation agreement. The EU now assumes a higher risk aiming at a higher multiplying effect of its contribution. The RSI (Risk-Sharing Instrument for SMEs and smaller midcaps) has also been created. This new RSFF facility incentivises banks to provide loans to innovative SMEs and small mid-sized firms investing in RDI. The European Investment Fund (EIF) manages this facility as an intermediary of the EIB.

The last year of FP7 is also a preparatory phase for the development of innovative financial instruments for RDI under the proposed Horizon 2020, to notably better support innovative SMEs. Therefore, the RSFF focus for 2013 is on maximising the implementation level for target groups that have so far been relatively less attracted to the RSFF, for example innovative SMEs under the Cooperation Specific Programme.

Annex 4 to this work programme gives more information on the RSFF.

f) Joint Technology Initiatives

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) address fields of major European public interest, focussed on well-defined areas of strategic importance for the competitiveness of European industry. These have been identified in the areas of Innovative Medicines (IMI), 'Clean Sky', Embedded Computing Systems (ARTEMIS), Nanoelectronics (ENIAC) and Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH). JTIs will strengthen links between the research community and industry, thus facilitating the commercialisation of research results and reducing time-to-market and complementing this work programme. After the Council adopted the Regulations for the JTIs they started their operations. Further information on the JTIs can be found on the Internet pages of the Seventh Framework Programme.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIMENSION

Research cooperation with international partners is an important objective of the Seventh Research Framework Programme. Under the Cooperation Specific Programme, research cooperation with international partners is implemented in the following ways:

- Legal entities from countries associated to the framework programme can participate under the same terms and conditions as those established in the EU Member States. The countries currently associated are: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Faroe Islands, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Lichtenstein, Moldova, Norway, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.
- Through the principle of general opening up of all research activities, the participation of legal entities from all third countries is allowed, i.e. from high income countries as well as from middle and low income countries, the latter two being identified as International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) (see list of countries considered as ICPC in Annex 1). Legal entities from the associated countries and the ICPC list are eligible for funding. Legal entities from the other third countries and international organisations are eligible for funding under the conditions laid down in Art 29 (2) of the Rules for Participation.
- Some topics in the work programme, in areas of mutual interest and benefit, may target the participation of legal entities from a specific third country, from a group of countries, or from a region. In this case, the active participation of the relevant third country partner or partners should add to the scientific and/or technological excellence of the project and/or lead to an increased impact of the research to be undertaken. These aspects will be considered specifically during the evaluation.

The participation of third countries may also be implemented in the form of specific measures such as coordinated calls, twinning of projects, use of matching funds or mutual opening.

- Through the Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs), research cooperation can be dedicated to given countries/regions on the ICPC list. The SICA topics are of mutual interest and identified in the work programmes per theme. It should be noted that in the case of SICAs the participation of the targeted countries/regions is an eligibility condition in the Collaborative Projects. Unless specifically stated, there are no such specific participation criteria for Coordination and Support Actions targeted at ICPCs. Depending on the nature and the expected impact of these actions, the participation of third countries in such projects could, however, be considered essential. Further information on these criteria is given in each theme and also in the relevant Guide for Applicants.

The inclusion of international partners is particularly relevant where such participation contributes to the innovative potential of the proposal concerned. This should take account of the potential exploitation of IPR and should be reflected within the description of the criterion 'Impact' in the proposal.

DISSEMINATION, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND GENDER ISSUES¹⁵

FP7 is working to develop a better relationship between scientists and European citizens. With this aim in mind, the work programme will encourage activities to promote greater public engagement and dialogue in order to involve citizens and civil society organisations in research and science policy.

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 to raise awareness on combating gender prejudices and stereotypes. When human beings are involved as users, gender differences may exist. These will be addressed as an integral part of the research to ensure the highest level of scientific quality.¹⁶ In addition, specific actions to promote gender equality in research can be financed as part of the proposal, as specified in Appendix 7 of the Negotiation Guidance Notes.¹⁷

With the aim of encouraging young people's interest in science and science studies, account will be taken of the possible relevance of research results for the purposes of science education. Where appropriate, communication and dissemination strategies will address the wider audience of policy-makers, the media and the general public (including young people), in order to promote increased understanding between the scientific world and society at large.

In order to strengthen the diffusion and use of the output of EU research, the dissemination of knowledge and transfer of results, including to policy makers and to the managing authorities of the Cohesion Policy funds¹⁸, will be supported in the Themes (see also Annex 4 for further information on CORDIS). In addition, specific Internet pages of the Seventh Framework Programme also provide applicants with full details of the calls for proposals open under this work programme, together with all of the documentation necessary to make an application

As from 20 August 2008¹⁹, the Cooperation Themes Health, Energy, Environment, Information and Communication Technologies (*Challenge 2*), as well as Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities have been involved in the FP7 Open Access. Participants to their projects will be required to deposit peer-reviewed articles resulting from projects to an institutional or subject-based repository, and to make their best efforts to ensure open access to these articles within a specified period, usually six months.

¹⁵ Objectives related communication and dissemination, knowledge transfer and gender issues will be addressed during the contract negotiation.

¹⁶ Case studies are presented at www.genderedinnovations.eu

¹⁷ Available from : ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/negotiation_en.pdf

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/fiche_index_en.htm

¹⁹ C(2008) 4408 final of 20.08.08

PRACTICAL MODALITIES

This work programme provides additional detail of the implementation of the Specific Programme, setting out information on the priorities, objectives and policy relevance of the research topics which will be implemented through calls for proposals in the latter half of 2012 and in 2013.

a) Submitting a Proposal

Proposals should be submitted in accordance with the terms set out in a call for proposals. In order to submit a proposal, applicants should consult the following documents:

- The text of the call for proposals, as announced in the Official Journal of the European Union, and published on the specific Internet pages of the Seventh Framework Programme
- This work programme, including the General introduction and the Annexes; and
- The relevant Guide for Applicants

There are also a number of other useful texts, which applicants could refer to, including the Specific Programme 'Cooperation', the Rules for Participation for FP7, the Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Project Selection Procedures, and the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. These documents, and other relevant background documents, are available on the Internet pages of the Seventh Framework Programme. Proposals should also be consistent with national legislation implementing Directive 95/45/EC of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data²⁰.

The forms of the grant which will be used and the maximum reimbursement rates for projects funded through the Cooperation work programme are set out in Annex 3 and are applicable to actions as a result of calls for proposals and grants to identified beneficiaries²¹, unless indicated otherwise in the Themes. Participants will also have the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions²².

Every Member State and Associated country has appointed a set of National Contact Points (NCPs) to assist potential and successful applicants. There is a NCP for each of the Themes of the Cooperation Programme. Applicants are encouraged to make contact with the relevant NCP from their country.

b) Evaluation Criteria and Related Issues

The 'Rules for Submission of Proposals and the Related Evaluation, Selection and Award Procedures' set out the basic procedures to be followed by all programmes under the Seventh Framework Programme.

²⁰ OJ L 281 of 23.11.1995, p. 31

²¹ According to Article 13 and Article 14 (a) of Regulation No 1906/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council 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) OJ L391 of 30.12.2006.

²² Not available in the case of the ICT Theme.

The set of eligibility and evaluation criteria for this work programme is given in Annex 2 and is applicable to actions as a result of calls for proposals and grants to identified beneficiaries²¹, unless indicated otherwise in the Themes. Any complementary criteria, which may apply, are clearly set out in the relevant chapter of this work programme and in the text of the calls for proposals.

All proposals which deal with ethical issues and all proposals for which ethical concerns have been identified during the evaluation process may be reviewed by a separate ethical evaluation panel, before they can be selected for funding. Further information on this ethical review and all aspects of the evaluation procedure are given in the 'Rules on Submission of Proposals and the Related Evaluation, Selection and Award Procedures'.

The work programmes, and consequently the calls for proposals, may specify and restrict the participation of legal entities, according to their activity and type, or according to the funding scheme used.

Calls for proposals may involve a two-stage submission and/or a two-step evaluation procedure. When such a procedure is employed, this is clearly stated in the text of the call for proposals and the Guides for Applicants. More information on two-stage submission and two-step evaluation is given in the 'Rules on Submission of Proposals and the Related Evaluation, Selection and Award Procedures'.

In carrying out the evaluations of proposals received, the Commission may choose to send the proposals to external experts, or to make the proposals available electronically, so that the experts may carry out their examination and review of the proposals at their home and/or their place of work.

c) Ethical Aspects

All research carried out under this work programme must respect fundamental ethical principles and legislation as well as, and the requirements set out in the text of the Cooperation Specific Programme. More information on the procedures for the peer and ethics review of submitted proposals is given in the 'Rules for Submission of Proposals, and the Related Evaluation, Selection and Award Procedures'.

The Commission is fully committed to the principles set out in:

- a) The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as well as in the relevant EU legislation
- b) The declaration on the use of human embryonic stem cells, as set out in the annex to the Commission Communication COM(2006)548 of 26 September 2006²³. This states that the Commission will maintain the practice of the 6th Framework Programme. Accordingly, the Commission will not fund projects which include research activities which destroy human embryos, including for the procurement of stem cells. The exclusion of funding of this step of research will not prevent Community funding of subsequent steps involving human embryonic stem cells.

²³ OJ L 412 of 30.12.2006, p. 42

d) Prior Information of Candidates, Tenderers and Grant Applicants

(Article 8 of Decision on the EWS and Article 13 of Regulation on the Central Exclusion Database)

The Commission uses an internal information tool (EWS), as well as a database available to public authorities implementing EU funds (CED) to flag identified risks related to beneficiaries of centrally managed contracts and grants with a view to protecting the EU's financial interests.

Candidates, tenderers, grant applicants and, if they are legal entities, persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (EWS) for the use of authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies (OJ, L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 125), or
- the Commission Regulation of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database – CED (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 12),

their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the EWS only or both in the EWS and CED, and communicated to the persons and entities listed in the above-mentioned Decision and Regulation, in relation to the award or the execution of a procurement contract or a grant agreement or decision.

More information on the EWS and CED can be found at the following address:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/sound_fin_mgt/ews_en.htm

e) Budget Figures in This Work Programme

This work programme draws on financing from the 2013 budgetary year. All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Unless otherwise stated, 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.