

Call for proposals FP7-Science-in-Society -2010- CAREERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Note 1: The answers to the frequently asked questions are provided for informational purposes only and are not in any way binding for the European Commission. The text of the Work Programme remains the only legally binding document.

Note 2: Please note that this page may be updated with new questions.

Note 3 related to the Guide for Applicants:

Herewith the Commission would like to inform you of information additional to the Guide for Applicants. Before submitting your proposal, please ensure that you have carefully read this additional information to the Guide for Applicants posted on the CORDIS website under the call page:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=271

The additional information corrects what is written in the Guide for Applicants on the following two subjects:

1. Method of calculating indirect costs: The Commission has decided to extend the possibility of using the specific flat rate of 60% for indirect costs, (applicable under certain conditions to non-profit bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs) for the entire duration of FP7. The cut-off date for this rate (1/1/2010), mentioned in Annex 3 to the Guide for applicants, is therefore no longer applicable.

2. Audits of ongoing projects: The following paragraph should be inserted at the end of Chapter 5 of the Guide for Applicants ("What happens next"):

Applicants are reminded that DG Research has adopted a new and reinforced audit strategy aimed at detecting and correcting errors in cost claims submitted in projects on the basis of professional auditing standards. As a result the number of audits and participants audited will increase significantly and the Commission's services will assure appropriate mutual exchange of information within its relevant internal departments in order to fully coordinate any corrective actions to be taken in a consistent way. More information can be found here:

http://cordis.europa.eu/audit-certification/home_en.html

We apologise for any inconvenience these changes may cause.

Note 4: Please note that the general FAQs for FP7 are available at:

- http://cordis.europa.eu/guidance/helpdesk/faq_en.html
- <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=faq&lg=en>
- http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/faq_en.html

Topic SiS-2010-2.2.2.1. – Reinforcing links between science education and S&T careers in the private sector through reinforcing the partnership industry / education.

The funding scheme for this topic is Support and coordination action (Supporting – CSA-SA). The additional eligibility criterion is that the consortium must consist of at least 3 independent legal entities established in at least 3 different Member States or Associated Countries. If this condition is not respected, the proposal will be deemed **ineligible**.

Should there be 10 partners from 10 EU and Associated countries?

The eligibility criterion is to have at least 3 entities (i.e. *3 independent legal entities established in at least 3 different Member States or Associated Countries*). The Work Programme states that the proposal should **involve** a range of actors from at least 10 European countries. This involvement may be as consortium members but it may take other forms.

What is the definition of science?

Physical sciences, life sciences, computer science, technology and mathematics - but the emphasis is not on the disciplines but rather on the diversity of S&T careers options open to young people with relevant qualifications.

What about careers in the non-scientific or technological sectors?

This is not covered by the call: the careers in question must be directly related to science, technology, or R&D.

Do we have to propose identical activities within each of the 10 countries (minimum) represented in the proposal?

This is for you to decide: you could envisage completely different activities within each country provided that each addresses the topic objectives.

Why is joint funding a condition?

The basic principle of funding in FP7 is co-financing. In other words, the European Commission does not buy research services but contributes a percentage of the overall costs by giving grants to projects. The maximum reimbursement rates for a project depend on the funding scheme used, the legal status of the participants and the type of activity.

Moreover, we want to bring about an improvement in the current situation. The immediate beneficiaries will be the stakeholders and so it is only right and proper to expect that they will make a contribution towards the costs of the proposed activities.

The call budget does not reflect the scale of the perceived problem.

As with many other areas, Community funding is offered in the hope that best practice and visible pilot and demonstration activities will emerge that could serve as examples to the community of stakeholders.

What is the "element of independent evaluation"?

Throughout the activity and on its completion (end of funding) the project must include an element of independent evaluation, which will assess progress and results of the project. This could mean a separate work package, recourse to external reviewers, etc. Clearly the evaluation function must be distinct from implementation in order to have an objective view on the progress being made. It is advised to check for conflict of interest between the independent evaluation element and the proposed activities. The degree of independence of the chosen independent evaluation method will be assessed in the evaluation of the submitted proposals.

Do you expect “employers, teachers, parents, career advisory services and personnel” to be partners in the consortium?

The text of the call states "the proposals should aim to involve the participation of a range of actors and stakeholders including employers, teachers, parents, career advisory services and personnel, and of course the young people themselves ...". Proposals should address all these categories, but these do not necessarily have to be included in the consortium. These entities could become beneficiaries in the project or be addressed by dissemination activities as appropriate.

What kind of activities can be included in the proposals?

Please see the text of the call. All activities that contribute to reinforcing links between science education and science careers can be included in the proposals. In particular, industry, research organisations and other appropriate bodies are expected to be involved in activities that promote a better awareness of the diversity of careers and opportunities on offer to young people who have qualifications in science, maths and technology.