

WORK PROGRAMME 2007-2008

CAPACITIES

PART 6

SUPPORT FOR THE COHERENT DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH POLICIES

(European Commission C(2007)2464 of 14 June 2007)

6. SUPPORT FOR THE COHERENT DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH POLICIES

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Objectives:

Enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of national and Community research policies and their articulation with other policies, improving the impact of public research and its links with industry, and strengthening public support and its leverage effect on investment by private actors.

I CONTEXT

Policy context

In March 2000, the European Union set itself the ambitious goal to become, by 2010, "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world", what has become known as the Lisbon strategy.

Leveraging *investment in R&D* became a key element of this strategy following the Barcelona European Council's objective to raise the EU's overall R&D investment to approach 3% of GDP by 2010.

The ways and means to achieve this objective were initially defined in 2002 in the Commission's communication 'More research for Europe – Towards 3% of GDP'¹, which was followed by the Action Plan 'Investing in research'², adopted by the Commission in 2003.

Though the 3% Action Plan has had a mobilizing effect on *Member States* and some progress has been achieved, R&D efforts still need to be intensified.

In 2005, the new Commission undertook a thorough review of the Lisbon strategy. This led the Commission to propose a *European Partnership for Growth and Jobs, with 'knowledge and innovation for growth' being one of its main pillars*³. The revised Lisbon Strategy is currently being implemented through Member State-owned National Reform Programmes (NRP) and their yearly progress reports, a Community Lisbon Programme and multilateral surveillance organised at the Community level.

Actions to be undertaken at Community level are presented in more detail in the Communication '*More Research and Innovation - A Common Approach*'⁴, adopted on the 12th of October 2005. This Communication sets out an integrated action plan that addresses the full research and innovation spectrum. It outlines a number of new actions, going beyond the 3% Action Plan of 2003.

In addition, the Commission has launched a broad consultation on further progress in establishing the European Research Area, on the basis of a Green Paper adopted in April 2007⁵.

¹ COM(2002) 499

² COM(2003) 226

³ COM(2005) 24

⁴ COM(2005) 488

⁵ COM(2007) 161

Increasing the intensity and quality of research investment in the EU and furthering the construction of the European Research Area will require a coherent approach to policy development addressing the European research system as a multi-level and multi-actor system and addressing multiple issues on multiple levels.

The Seventh Framework Programme's contribution to this process will focus on

- Supporting evidence based policy making by gathering and analysing both qualitative and quantitative policy relevant information, in order to map and benchmark the current state of play as regards regional, national and Community research policies, their mutual interaction and their articulation with other policy domains; and to assess important policy trends and their effects;
- Providing a range of instruments supporting interaction and coordination between Member States and between the Member State and the Community level, both through multilateral procedures (such as the CREST OMC process) and bottom-up actions involving limited numbers of Member States or Member States' regions and focussing on mutual policy learning in its broadest meaning, including both comparative studies/benchmarking/peer review and increasingly also the identification and take up of good practices, formulation of policy recommendations and, where appropriate, joint policy initiatives

Implementation of this activity will mainly be through expert groups, studies and a number of grants to named beneficiaries, including in support of activities undertaken by JRC-IPTS. Open calls for proposals will only be used to a limited extent.

Throughout the implementation of this activity, care will be taken to build synergies and complementarities and to assure adequate coordination, where appropriate, with other FP7 activities and other Commission initiatives.

Approach

6-1 Monitoring and analysis of research-related public policies and strategies

The objective of this action line is to provide qualitative and quantitative information and analyses in support of the design, implementation, evaluation and trans-national co-ordination of public research-related policies and strategies.

6-1-1 Development of an information and intelligence service (ERAWATCH) :

ERAWATCH has been set up as an integrated information system to facilitate access to information on national and/or regional research policies, programmes and activities, with a view to developing a long term strategic intelligence service to support evidence-based policy-making in the field of research and thus helping to accelerate the realisation of the ERA.

The development, the setting up and the implementation of ERAWATCH is carried out jointly by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies – IPTS).

With ERAWATCH having become an operational reality in 2006⁶, future activities will further develop ERAWATCH into a strategic intelligence system, providing a corner stone for evidence-based policy intelligence in the field of research in the EU.

As a policy information service ERAWATCH will therefore collect and diffuse structured data on : policies and measures in the field of R&D, performance indicators and reference data on the strategic actors.

Policy analysis will take on a number of forms : comparative analysis of policy dynamics on horizontal research policy themes and governance issues ('thematic reports'), comparative analysis of the performance of research systems and of policy trends ('country reports'), development of short policy notes, publication of a regular ERAWATCH newsletter.

Throughout the operational phase, the aim will be to further coordinate ERAWATCH with activities such as the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination (support to CREST OMC 3 % Expert Groups and in particular the Expert Group carrying out peer reviews of Member State policy mixes), development of the Key Figures, the Industrial Research Investment Monitoring activity, analysis of Member States' National Reform Programmes (in the context of the revised Lisbon strategy) and monitoring of their implementation.

ERAWATCH is a complimentary initiative to the INNOPOLICY TrendChart project managed by DG ENTREPRISE of the European Commission. Both initiatives contribute to policy monitoring and policy learning in the context of the revised Lisbon strategy. They both aim at collecting information, analysing it and disseminating it widely. Synergies and complementarities between the projects will be sought and coordination will be ensured.

Implementation in 2007

No actions are foreseen for 2007, as further development of ERAWATCH during 2007 and 2008 will be supported through a running FP6 contract.

6-1-2 Industrial research investment monitoring activity :

Although the level of investment in R&D of top European firms is in many sectors comparable to their counterparts in the USA or Japan, the EU's R&D investment deficit vis à vis its main competitors is largely due to underinvestment in the private sector, partly being caused by a different sector mix.

While extensive data and analysis on industrial research investment and innovation performance are available in the Member States, data availability and comparability at company and sector level need to be improved in order to better understand the factors

⁶ Public website available at <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch>

driving investment trends, identify upcoming challenges, and anticipate barriers to, and opportunities for, improving research and innovation investment.

To remedy these shortcomings, an Industrial Research Investment Monitoring system (IRIM) was established in co-operation with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies – IPTS) under the 6th Framework Programme. An important building block of this system is the annual European Industrial Research Investment Scoreboard. The 2006 edition of the scoreboard was released in October 2006. The Scoreboard will be complemented with annual sectoral surveys of prospective trends.

The ultimate objective of this activity is to provide a self-consistent and complementary source of information to help steer public policy and to allow firms to benchmark their R&D investment strategies. This will include the publication of periodic scoreboards of firm-and sector-level R&D investment, surveys of private R&D investment trends, analysis of factors affecting R&D investment decisions and practices of firms, analysis of economic impacts, and assessment of policy implications.

Implementation in 2007

*In order to ensure continuity of IRIM the **co-operation with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies – IPTS) will be renewed** for a further two years (2008-2009). The precise terms of the work and its coverage (which could include additional or modified information tools, the need to cover new information needs of policy makers, etc.) will benefit from the lessons learned in what has been achieved to date and an on-going evaluation of the work performed.*

(coordination and support action – grant to a named beneficiary : European Commission Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies) – 2 000 000 €)

*In addition, in developing the European Industrial Research and Innovation Monitoring System (EIRIMS)⁷ and building on the coordinated development and use of different instruments from DG RTD and DG ENTR, including IRIM, a **high-level stakeholders group** will be set up, involving industry representatives and policy makers, its task being to advise on the integration of component monitoring and analysis of research and innovation activities, orientation of the further development of the industrial activities and provide a forum of articulation of stakeholder views to inform the Commission's analysis and interpretation of R&D&I trends.*

(coordination and support action – expert contracts⁸ – 100 000 €)

6-1-3 Development and analysis of indicators on research activity and its impact on the economy :

⁷ As outlined in COM(2005) 474 and COM(2005) 488

⁸ In accordance with Articles 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)

This will include the preparation and publication of national and regional science and technology key figures and scoreboards using official statistical indicators wherever appropriate; the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of Member States' R&D systems; the development of indicators for the European Research Area; the development of indicators of economic impact; and the analysis of EU's position and performance in scientific and technological research.

Implementation in 2007

A grant will be provided to the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies – IPTS) for assistance in the preparation of Key Figures 2008.

(coordination and support action – grant to a named beneficiary : European Commission Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies) – 150 000 €)

6-2 Coordination of research policies

The goal of this action line is to strengthen, on a voluntary basis, the coordination of research policies. There is a need for further policy learning and for assessing good practices in support of research with regard to their transferability and methods of implementation. Through this action line, European platforms will be provided to share and validate good practices, bringing together the relevant stakeholders and encouraging peer reviews.

The following activities will be pursued :

6-2-1 Support to the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination :

As Member States have much to learn from sharing their experience with research policy making, the Open Method of Coordination is a valuable tool for helping Member States develop and optimise their research policy portfolios. The OMC process in support of the Barcelona research investment objective has since 2003 been implemented under the auspices of the European Union's Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST).

During the first OMC cycle (2003-2004), CREST created five OMC Expert Groups to address actions in the Commission's 3 % Action Plan where the OMC was particularly relevant. On the basis of their work, CREST issued a report⁹, containing 30 policy recommendations and orientations for the second OMC cycle.

The second cycle built on the work of the first in that CREST decided to concentrate on a number of focused priority topics and on an optimised work procedure, involving leadership by countries, expert support and the use of peer review where appropriate. Expert Groups addressed the following issues : fiscal measures for RTD, national policy mixes, transfer of knowledge between universities and industry or research intensive SMEs

⁹ Report available at http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/coordination/coordination01_en.htm

CREST adopted a final report⁹ on the basis of the Expert Groups' work and decided to further build on the work achieved by launching a third OMC cycle. Apart from a continuation of the work on R&D policy mixes, new issues to be discussed are : how to ensure a better coordinated use of Structural Funds and the Framework Programme, R&D in services and internationalisation of R&D. On the basis of the outcome of this cycle, CREST will engage in a decision process towards the launch of a fourth cycle in the course of 2007.

CREST has also expressed its will to be involved in the analysis of the research aspects of the revised Lisbon strategy, notably in the process of the preparation and the assessment of the implementation of the National Reform Programmes.

This action line will support the further implementation of the OMC process by providing support to Expert Groups working under the auspices of CREST.

In addition, and where appropriate, further support will be given to activities of an exploratory nature, paving the way for future policy development, and to actions in preparation and follow-up of Community initiatives which come in support of Member States' efforts.

Implementation in 2007

a) CREST OMC

Expert Groups will continue to support CREST in the application of the Open Method of Coordination. The work of these Expert Groups will be actively supported by ERAWATCH which will contribute to the collection and analysis of relevant information.

(coordination and support action – expert contracts¹⁰ – 250 000 €)

b) Activities of an exploratory nature

*A grant will be provided to the European Foundation Centre in order to undertake a **mapping of research foundations** in Europe and to make an assessment of their overall contribution to research funding. The aim of this action is to provide the background knowledge necessary to underpin the possible future development of policy actions to promote philanthropic funding of research.*

(coordination and support action – grant to a named beneficiary : European Foundation Centre AISBL – 200 000 €)

*The Commission has facilitated the creation of 31 European Technology Platform (ETPs) since 2002. To support the prospective development of ETPs, an **evaluation study** will be performed which will measure the overall impact of ETPs, and take stock of individual achievements of and identify best practise among ETPs.*

¹⁰ In accordance with Articles 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)

(coordination and support action – public procurement – specific agreement implementing the Commission's Framework Contract for procurement of evaluation and evaluation related services - 100 000 €)

c) Support to the preparation and follow-up of Community initiatives

*The **Expert Group for the follow-up of the research aspects of the revised Lisbon strategy** will be further supported. This Expert Group was created to assist the Commission in its analysis of the research aspects of the National Reform Programmes and their follow-up progress reports. The Expert Group has published a comprehensive report on its first year of activities in March 2007 and will continue its work in view of the upcoming assessment of the first three year cycle under the revised Lisbon strategy. This work will inter alia include advising on the revision of the Integrated Guidelines, contributing to the preparation of the next three year cycle (including the establishment of solid links with the initiative for a re-launch of the European Research Area) and reviewing the impact of Community policy coordination actions in the field of research policy.*

(coordination and support action – expert contracts¹¹ – 150 000 €)

*The Commission's Communication 'Putting knowledge into practice: a broad-based innovation strategy for the EU'¹² announced the development of an initiative to promote the creation of lead markets in Europe for research and innovation intensive goods and services. Support will be given to the preparation of this initiative through the establishment of an **Expert Group**.*

(coordination and support action – expert contracts¹³ – 160 000 €)

***Expert Groups** will be created to explore two specific issues identified in the Commission's Communication on improving knowledge transfer between research institutions and industry across Europe¹⁴. Their task will be to collect and analyse information, explore the issues, assess policy options, conduct peer reviews. Expert Groups will be devoted to:*

- The creation of a “**European University-Industry Forum**” which, following the adoption of the above mentioned Communication, will facilitate interaction regarding such issues between all stakeholders concerned, including universities, industry and public authorities.*
- The setting up of an Expert Group, involving public authorities and stakeholders, in order to identify **metrics to benchmark the impact of knowledge transfer activities** and support actions across Europe, also as a follow-up to the Communication on knowledge transfer.*

¹¹ In accordance with Articles 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)

¹² COM(2006) 502

¹³ In accordance with Articles 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)

¹⁴ COM (2007) 182

(coordination and support action – expert contracts¹⁵ – 240 000 €)

*As a follow-up to the Commission's Communication on how to make better use of tax incentives for stimulating R&D activity¹⁶, a **network of national experts in charge of evaluating the effectiveness of R&D tax incentives** will be created. This Expert Group will aim to facilitate an exchange of information among national policy-makers on methodologies used for evaluating R&D tax incentives and to compare results.*

(coordination and support actions – expert contracts¹⁷ – 120 000 €)

*As a follow-up to the Commission's Green Paper on the future of the European Research Area¹⁸, up to **seven Expert Groups** will be set up to explore specific dimensions where the European Research Area could be further developed and to support consultation on how these issues could be addressed. Issues for exploration will largely follow the orientations for debate given by the Green Paper, including : researchers and their careers, universities and other research institutions, knowledge sharing, research infrastructures, research programmes and priorities, international cooperation in S&T, as well as cross-cutting issues (fragmentation, specialisation, competition, co-operation, cohesion and related governance aspects).*

(coordination and support action – expert contracts¹⁹ – 925 000 €)

*In preparing concrete proposals for policy initiatives to further develop the European Research Area, support will be provided to a limited number of **studies** (up to four studies, within a total budget of 300 000 €) providing the necessary background information, data and analysis. Issues for study will be largely in line with the orientations for debate given by the Green Paper on the future of the European Research Area, as already indicated above.*

(coordination and support action – public procurement – specific agreements implementing the Commission's Multiple Framework Service Contract PP-CT-M2-2005-0001 – 300 000 €)

*The ex-ante impact assessment of the proposals to further develop the European Research Area will be supported through a limited number of prospective **evaluation studies** (up to three studies, within a total budget of 200 000 €).*

(coordination and support action – public procurement – specific agreement implementing the Commission's Framework Contract for procurement of evaluation and evaluation related services - 200 000 €)

¹⁵ In accordance with Articles 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)

¹⁶ COM(2006) 728

¹⁷ In accordance with Articles 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)

¹⁸ COM(2007) 161

¹⁹ In accordance with Articles 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)

*In the context of the broad consultation on the ERA Green Paper, support will be given to the organisation by the upcoming Portuguese Presidency of the Council of a large **stakeholder conference**. The conference will take place in the autumn of 2007. (coordination and support action – public procurement – specific agreement implementing the Commission's Framework Contract 2004-1 Organisation of events – 150 000 €)*

6-2-2 Support to bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions (OMC-NET)

In addition to the multilateral coordination processes under the supervision of CREST, there is a need for complementary action by supporting initiatives undertaken by several Member States or regions on specific research policy issues of common interest. This will enable groups of Member States and/or regions in several Member States to address issues not covered by CREST Expert Groups and will provide additional resources to foster the development of policy coordination activities.

These initiatives should primarily involve national and regional authorities being directly involved in and carrying institutional responsibility for research policy preparation and formulation, but can in addition include, where appropriate, other stakeholders such as industry, other research actors, European organisations or civil society organisations.

These activities will address issues of common interest related to research and other relevant policies that should be mobilised for the realisation of the ERA and the attaining of the EU 3 % research investment goal. They will :

- contribute to the development of more effective national and regional policies through mutual learning and peer-review;
- encourage concerted or joint initiatives between groups of countries and regions interested in areas involving a strong trans-national dimension or spill-over;
- where appropriate, identify issues requiring complementary and mutually reinforcing action at Community and Member States level.

Initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions may cover activities such as peer-review of national and regional policies, exchange of experience and personnel, networking activities, joint evaluations and impact assessments, development of quantitative comparisons of the effectiveness of national/regional/EU policies, identification of good practice, formulation of policy recommendations, design and implementation of transferability scenarios or the development and implementation of joint initiatives, large-scale dissemination of results,...

Implementation in 2007

*Implementation in 2007 will be through an **Open call for proposals for coordination and support actions**.*

(coordination and support action – call for proposals – 7 500 000 €, 2 728 280 € from the 2007 budget, to which will be added 4 771 720 € from the 2008 budget²⁰)

Indicative budget

The budget allocated to 'Support to the coherent development of research policies' is 7 773 280 € for the 2007 budget. In addition, an indicative amount of 4 771 720 € will be added to the OMC-NET call for proposals from the 2008 budget²¹.

²⁰ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2008 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority

²¹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2008 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority.

FP7 Capacities Work Programme: Support for the Coherent Development of Research Policies

Activity	Description of actions	Total²²	2007	2008²³	Funding scheme
6-1-2 - Industrial research investment monitoring	Industrial R&D investment monitoring (IRIM) : renewal of contract with JRC-IPTS	2 000 000 €	2 000 000 €		Coordination and support action, grant to a named beneficiary (European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies)
	EIRIMS stakeholders group	100 000 €	100 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
6-1-3 – Indicators and impact	Preparation of Key Figures 2008	150 000 €	150 000 €		Coordination and support action, grant to a named beneficiary (European Commission – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies)
6-2-1 - Support the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination	Support to CREST OMC 3% Expert Groups	250 000 €	250 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
	Mapping of research foundations in Europe	200 000 €	200 000 €		Coordination and support action, grant to a named beneficiary (European Foundation Centre AISBL)

²² Total funding for the activities is shown, together with the breakdown of how they are financed through the 2007 and 2008 annual budgets

²³ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2008 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority

FP7 Capacities Work Programme: Support for the Coherent Development of Research Policies

Activity	Description of actions	Total²²	2007	2008²³	Funding scheme
	ETP evaluation and impact study to support prospective development	100 000 €	100 000 €		Coordination and support action, public procurement
	Support to the Expert Group for the follow-up of the revised Lisbon strategy (Lisbon Expert Group)	150 000 €	150 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
	Expert Group to support the preparation of the lead market initiative	160 000 €	160 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
	Network of national experts in charge of evaluating the effectiveness of R&D tax incentives	120 000 €	120 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
	Expert Groups for follow-up of the Commission Communication on knowledge transfer	240 000 €	240 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
	Expert Groups to explore specific dimensions where further progress could be made in establishing the ERA (indicative areas as indicated in work programme text)	925 000 €	925 000 €		Coordination and support action, expert contracts
	Studies to provide the necessary background information and data for the the preparation of potential ERA policy proposals	300 000 €	300 000 €		Coordination and support action, public procurement
	Studies to support ex ante impact assessment of potential ERA policy proposals	200 000 €	200 000 €		Coordination and support action, public procurement
	Support to PT Presidency conference	150 000 €	150 000 €		Coordination and support action, public procurement

FP7 Capacities Work Programme: Support for the Coherent Development of Research Policies

Activity	Description of actions	Total²²	2007	2008²³	Funding scheme
6-2-2 : Support to the bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions	Call for proposals for coordination and support actions (FP7-COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET)	7 500 000 €	2 728 280 €	4 771 720 €	
ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION		12 545 000 €	7 773 280 €	4 771 720 €	

II CONTENT OF CALLS IN 2007

Activity 6-2-2 : Support to the bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions

FP7-COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET

Scope of the call

Clearly focussed proposals will be invited on specific research policy issues, addressing selected aspects of the following policy areas :

– *Developing an appropriate R&D policy mix:*

Increasing the level and the quality of R&D spending in Europe requires mobilising a broad range of instruments in a manner which is closely coordinated, both inside governments and across different governance levels (regional, national, European), and which draws upon a wide range of policy instruments addressing different aspects of the R&D system and the linkages between them. Developing appropriate R&D policy mixes includes, but is not limited to, the development of long term R&D strategies, involvement of stakeholders and expert views in the policy formulation process, using foresight studies for informing future policy options, implementing a consistent use of monitoring and evaluation tools, assuring policy coherence across government,...

– *Creating appropriate framework conditions for stimulating private R&D investment:*

To stimulate the private sector to invest more in R&D, increased and more effective public R&D spending must be accompanied by measures creating favourable framework conditions, addressing issues such as IPR protection, product regulation and standardisation, competition rules, developing R&D and innovation friendly regulations across the whole of government, innovative public procurement, encouraging corporate reporting on R&D and intellectual capital,.... Only in this way will the European Union become a place which is increasingly attractive for private investment in R&D.

– *Improving the cooperation and transfer of technologies between public research institutes and private enterprises, including through developing public-private partnerships:*

Building effective and efficient links between public research institutes and private enterprises, and thus creating an optimal match between the supply and demand side of new knowledge, is key to solving the European paradox and has thus been a main focus of policy attention during recent years.

A variety of policy measures have been developed including, but not limited to, collaborative research, stimulating universities' entrepreneurial skills, exchange of personnel between academia and industry, involving industry in research programme design or building structured forms of public-private partnerships aiming at a sustained and long term interaction.

– *Developing and making better use of incentives to leverage private R&D:*

As progressing towards the 3 % target will necessitate a substantial increase in private sector R&D investment, governments at all levels have been increasingly looking for novel ways to stimulate and leverage private sector R&D investment, e.g. through the use of fiscal incentives.

To be effective, such measures should be designed with care and be well coordinated with other policy instruments. There is a large scope for mutual learning here, on topics such as e.g. the merits of incremental versus volume based schemes, magnitude of leverage effects, how to target specific company types (e.g. SMEs),...

– *Modernising the management of research institutions and universities:*

Europe's universities have an enormous potential for contributing to the realisation of the knowledge-based society, but this potential is as of yet not fully capitalised upon and put to work effectively to underpin Europe's drive for more growth and jobs. The modernisation of universities, involving their closely interlinked roles of education, research and innovation, has been acknowledged as a core condition for the success of the Lisbon strategy.

Further measures and actions aimed at delivering on the modernisation agenda should therefore be considered, studied and further developed, including, inter alia, stimulating geographical and intersectoral mobility, building new governance systems, overcoming fragmentation, providing incentives for building partnerships with the business community, building an entrepreneurial mindset amongst researchers, optimising the current mix of funding streams, enhancing interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity,...

– *Enhancing the career development and the European, international as well as inter-sectoral mobility of R&D personnel:*

More and adequately skilled researchers will be needed in Europe in order to approach the 3 % target. Adjusting the supply of human resources for R&D to future needs will involve a combination of actions at various levels of government, aiming at e.g. attracting more students to research, attracting researchers of international repute to Europe, facilitating the mobility between the academic and the business sector, giving researchers favourable career development prospects and a positive image of the researcher's profession,...

Where appropriate, proposals may address aspects of two or more of the abovementioned areas.

Proposals should pay particular attention to the trans-national dimension associated to the issues addressed. Proposals should through their activities :

- contribute to the development of more effective national and regional policies through mutual learning, peer-review, identification of good practices, formulation of policy recommendations;
- encourage the take up of good practices and policy recommendations;
- encourage concerted or joint initiatives between groups of countries and regions interested in areas involving a strong trans-national dimension or spill-over;

- where appropriate, identify issues requiring complementary and mutually reinforcing action at Community and Member States level.

Initiatives undertaken within the coordination and support actions may cover activities such as mapping/benchmarking/peer review of national and regional policies, exchange of experience and personnel, joint evaluations and impact assessments, formulation of policy recommendations, design and implementation of transferability scenarios, development and implementation of joint initiatives, large-scale dissemination of results.

Proposers, in preparing their proposals, are invited to take into account and make the best possible use of existing information as it is available from the European Commission²⁴, OECD or other sources.

Funding schemes that apply

Coordination and support action aiming at coordinating research policies

Expected impact

- An exchange of information amongst consortium members on existing and envisaged R&D policy measures in well selected and focussed policy areas
- A contribution to the development of more effective national and regional R&D policies through processes such as mutual learning, peer review, identification of good practices,...
- A clear policy impact resulting from selected projects, as evidenced by e.g. the transfer of good practices or the formulation of policy recommendations
- The development of joint policy initiatives by consortium members, involving a strong trans-national dimension
- The identification of issues where Community intervention could be developed in support of Member State actions

²⁴ E.g. ERAWATCH (<http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch>) or the 'Investing in European research'-website (http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index_en.htm)

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

- **Call identifier:** FP7-COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET
- **Date of publication:** 20 September 2007²⁵
- **Closure date:** 6 March 2008, at 17.00, Brussels local time²⁶
- **Indicative budget:** 7 500 000 €²⁷
- **Topics:**

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Scheme
<p><u>6-2-2 Support to the bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions</u></p>	<p>COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET The call is open to clearly focussed proposals on specific research policy issues, addressing selected aspects of the following policy areas :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing an appropriate R&D policy mix; - Creating appropriate framework conditions for stimulating private R&D investment; - Improving the cooperation and transfer of technologies between public research institutes and private enterprises, including through developing public-private partnerships; - Developing and making better use of incentives to leverage private R&D; - Modernising the management of research institutions and universities; - Enhancing the career development and the European, international as 	<p>Coordination and support action (coordinating)</p>

²⁵ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

²⁶ At the time of publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

²⁷ This amount includes 4 771 720 € from the 2008 budget, under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2008 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority.

	well as inter-sectoral mobility of R&D personnel	
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- **Evaluation procedure:**
 - A one stage submission procedure will be followed.
 - The general eligibility criteria as well as evaluation criteria and sub-criteria (including weights and thresholds) for the different funding schemes are set out in annex 2 to this work programme.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
 - Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

- **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:**
 - evaluation results estimated to be available 3 months after closure date
 - contract signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to the call will come into force within 8 months after the closure date.

- **Consortium agreement:**
 - Participants to consortia resulting from this call are not required to conclude a consortium agreement.

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

- **Particular requirements for participation, evaluation and implementation:**
 - The Rules for Participation set out the general rules on the minimum number of participating legal entities required, for all funding schemes.
 - The minimum number of participants for consortia resulting from this call is five independent legal entities from five different Member States or Associated States, of which at least three shall be Member States or Associated Candidate Countries.
 - The minimum number of participants must include only public bodies (as defined in Art 2 of the Rules for Participation) being directly involved in and carrying institutional responsibility for the preparation and formulation of research policies at national or regional level. The coordinator must be chosen amongst them.
 - Other legal entities, such as industry, other research actors, European organisations or civil society organisations, that make a particular and policy relevant contribution to the project may participate.
 - The forms of grant which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme.

IV INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS

A total of three calls under the OMC-NET scheme are indicatively foreseen to be launched under the Seventh Framework Programme. Depending on experience gained with the pilot call launched under the Sixth Framework Programme, the call to be launched in 2007 and policy evolutions, future calls will either continue to be bottom-up or could be targeted towards specific R&D policy areas.