COOPERATION WORK PROGRAMME 2011

(European Commission C(2010) 4900 of 19 July 2010)

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

This is the work programme for 2011 for the Cooperation Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities.

The work programme was adopted by the Commission, with the assistance of the Programme Committee.

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 2010 and in 2011.

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 2011 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 partners².

This work programme is the first Cooperation work programme following the publication of the **Europe 2020 Strategy**³, with sets clear priorities on developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation ('smart growth'). One of the flagship initiatives of this strategy is the **Innovation Union**, which aims at re-focusing R&D and innovation policy on the challenges facing our society. Where appropriate and within the existing legal framework, the FP7 work programmes will support the implementation of the Innovation Union initiative.

In preparing this work programme, the Commission has relied on advice from a wide range of consultations, including from the European Technology Platforms⁴ and from specific advice of a series of advisory groups⁵. 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 Community 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.

² As set out in the Communication 'A European Economic Recovery Plan'; COM(2008)800 of 26 November 2008.

³ COM(2010) 2020

⁴ http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/advisory_en.html

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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 Researchers⁶ offers a reference framework, while respecting its voluntary nature.

This work programme contributes to meeting the overarching objective of EU research policy to develop an open and competitive European Research Area (ERA), an essential element of the Innovation Union flagship initiative, characterized by research excellence and the free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology at the heart of a single EU market for research and innovation. The main premise of ERA is to realize critical research mass and economies of scale unattainable at national level and to overcome 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 levels. Tackling these depends upon the extent to which high-level political commitment⁷ is matched by concerted action and sustainable partnerships between the Member States and the European Commission and corresponding concrete research activities involving stakeholders.

This work programme also emphasizes the **innovation potential of research**, including, where relevant, a focus on helping to solve major societal challenges as highlighted in the Europe 2020 strategy. The ever increasing importance of harnessing the innovation-driven growth and jobs potential of research in building a knowledge-intensive economy takes on a special significance in the economic crisis as a means of mitigating its effects and ensuring a rapid recovery in the next economic upswing.

By funding excellent state-of-the-art research in key priority areas and pooling research resources, this work programme helps to boost R&D and innovation investments in Europe, fosters better integration of European R&D, and raises research excellence.

More specifically, the essence of the Cooperation programme is that it supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in transnational cooperation. It aims at gaining or consolidating leadership in key scientific and technology areas through collaborative research, the coordination of national research programmes and the establishment of Joint Technology Initiatives building where relevant on coordinated and common strategies such as those of the European Technology Platforms. Through joint actions among academia, industry, research centres and public authorities and the establishment of excellent research projects and networks, it is instrumental in fostering better integration of European research and national and regional research programmes, thus helping to complete the ERA. Also by tackling major and urgent societal challenges which transcend national borders such as energy efficiency, climate change, resources depletion and health or population ageing needs, it underpins innovation and brings about decisive progress in the transition towards a knowledge intensive economy.

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/europeancharter

⁷ As in the Ljubljana Process, Council Conclusions on the Launch of the "Ljubljana Process"- towards full realisation of ERA, 30 May 2008.

Scope of Work Programme

The scope of this work programme corresponds to that defined in the Cooperation Specific Programme. The calls for proposals planned within this work programme are those which are scheduled to be launched in the second half of 2010 and in 2011.

Cross-Cutting Issues

There are several issues that are of importance to all Themes of the Cooperation Programme. These are addressed here and, as appropriate, elaborated further in the Themes and/or in the Annexes. The Cooperation Programme will contribute towards promoting growth, sustainable development and environmental protection, including addressing the problem of climate change.

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 2011 work programme includes a call on the Ocean of tomorrow: joining research forces to meet challenges in ocean management, which cuts across the Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology, Energy, Transport and Environment for an overall amount of EUR 45 million. In addition, as part of the initiatives linked to the Recovery Package is a call on Sustainable automotive electrochemical storage for an overall amount of EUR 25,5 million where the following themes are involved: Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP), Environment (including Climate Change) and Transport (including Aeronautics). A call on innovative photovoltaic cell processes will associate Themes NMP and Energy for EUR 25 million. A call on global systems dynamics to better understand the interactions between ecological and socio-economic systems and to improve their ability to respond to global environmental changes will be issued by Theme Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Socioeconomic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH) for EUR 2,5 million.

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.

Dissemination, Knowledge Transfer Broader Engagement and Gender

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. 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.⁸

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 funds⁹, 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 2008¹⁰, 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 Pilot 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.

Objectives related to gender, communication and dissemination will be addressed during the contract negotiation.

SME Participation

The participation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) is of particular importance in this work programme. A special emphasis has been placed on the participation of SMEs; indeed the aim will be to enable at least 15% of the funding of the Cooperation programme to go to

⁸ Available from http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/fiche_index_en.htm

¹⁰C(2008) 4408 final of 20.08.08

SME participants. Specific research topics of particular interest for SMEs, or specifically targeted to SMEs are highlighted in each Theme, where relevant.

Ethical Aspects

All research carried out under this work programme must respect fundamental ethical principles, and the requirements set out in the text of the Cooperation Specific Programme. More information on the procedures for the peer 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 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 2006^{11} . 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.

Collaborative Research

This specific programme will support a range of research 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 collaborative projects and coordination and Support Actions) and International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES).

Collaborative Projects can range from small or medium-scale focused research 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.

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

¹¹ OJ L 412 of 30.12.2006, p. 42

(FCH). JTIs will strengthen links between the research community and industry, thus facilitating the commercialisation of research results and reducing time-to-market. 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

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. This programme builds on the success of activities carried out in the Sixth Framework Programme. Actions foreseen include the continuation of the ERA-NET scheme; support to the developing Joint Programming Initiatives, currently being selected in a process led by Member States; support to inter-governmental organisms, such as EUREKA and COST, and 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.

With <u>the ERA-NET scheme</u>, the coordination of national and regional research programmes is strengthened through two kinds of actions:

- The 'ERA-NET', which provides a framework for actors implementing public research programmes to coordinate their activities.
- The 'ERA-NET Plus', which, in a limited number of cases, can provide additional EU financial support to facilitate joint calls for proposals between national and/or regional programmes.

In 2011, the ERA-NET scheme will be mainly implemented through a cross-thematic call for proposals, open to strategically important activities and topics explicitly specified in the Cooperation work programme at the level of individual Themes, which will independently provide the required funding. The cross-thematic call will include also centrally-managed Horizontal Support Actions, looking at refining and promoting the acceptance of European-level guidelines on "Framework Conditions" (e.g. harmonisation of peer review, definition of rules for cross-border funding, etc), applicable to transnational R&D programme collaborations. (*The FP7-ERANET-2011-RTD Call Fiche is published in Annex 4*).

<u>Support for Joint Programming</u> will be provided by sustaining the coordination and capacitybuilding process for the Joint Programming Initiatives which have been selected, so to facilitate their work and shorten the time required for reaching the implementation phase. (*The FP7-JPROG-2011-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 European High Level Scientific & non-University Research Performing Organisations will be focused on increasing their role and standing in ERA, taking particularly into account the contributions they could make in answering the needs of our society.

International Cooperation

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, Norway, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.
- The general opening up of all research activities which allows for the participation of legal entities from all third countries, i.e. from high income countries as well as from middle and low income countries identified as International Cooperation Partner Country (see list of countries considered as ICPC in Annex 1). In addition, 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 or other activities. For instance, the 2011 work programme includes coordinated calls with Japan (under the NMP and Energy themes), with Russia (under the NMP and ICT themes) as well as with Brazil (under the ICT theme).

Following the 2010 EU-Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Summit¹², which focused on 'Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion' and its Action Plan, particular attention is given to the participation of research entities from the LAC region (for details see the calls of the themes concerned).

- Through the Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAs), research cooperation can be dedicated to a given countries/region listed of 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.

¹² Madrid, 18-19 May 2010. See also <u>http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm</u> – Latin America and Caribbean

Risk-Sharing Finance Facility

Improving access to loans for RTD actions requires public support to overcome market deficiencies for the financing of riskier European RTD actions, which often involve a high level of risk. In accordance with Annex III of the Cooperation Specific Programme, the European Union has provided a contribution to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for a Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), with a view to foster primarily private sector investment in research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) as well as innovation¹³. This new financing instrument has been designed by the European Investment Bank with the support of the EU.

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 Community shall be automatically eligible to 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".

The European Union contribution to the RSFF from the Cooperation programme is funded by proportional contributions of all Themes, with the exception of Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities. The Commitment Appropriations to RSFF from the Cooperation Programme for 2011 is expected to be EUR 200 million¹⁴.

Further information on the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility is given in Annex 4 to this work programme.

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

¹³ Costs related to Innovations activities may be considered as eligible EC RSFF Operations provided their compliance with the provisions set in the RSFF Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and the European Investment Bank (as stated in the article A4.6.2: Selection of Projects for Financing and the Eligibility Criteria below).

¹⁴ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority and according to the conclusions of the interim evaluation of the RSFF.

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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 data¹⁵.

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 beneficiaries¹⁶, 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 actions¹⁷.

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.

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.

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 beneficiaries¹⁶, 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'.

¹⁵ OJ L 281 of 23.11.1995, p. 31

¹⁶ According to Article 13 and Article 14 (a) of Regulation No 1906/2006 or 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.

¹⁷ Not available in the case of the ICT Theme.

In carrying out the evaluations of proposals received, the Commission may chose 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.

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: $http://ec.europa.eu/budget/sound_fin_mgt/ews_en.htm$

Budget Figures in This Work Programme

This work programme draws on financing from the 2011 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.