

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Joint call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programmes for research, technological development and demonstration on 'Quality of life and management of living resources (1998-2002)', 'Competitive and sustainable growth (1998-2002)', 'Energy, environment and sustainable development (1998-2002)'

Support for the integration of 'newly associated states' (NAS) in the European research area

(Accompanying measures)

Call identifier: QoL/Growth/EESD-2001-INTEGR

(2001/C 264/05)

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of 25 January 1999, adopting the specific programmes for research, technological development and demonstration on 'Quality of life and management of living resources (1998-2002)'⁽²⁾, 'Competitive and sustainable growth (1998-2002)'⁽³⁾, 'Energy, environment and sustainable development (1998-2002)'⁽⁴⁾ (hereinafter referred to as thematic programmes), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the thematic programmes.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programmes, work programmes⁽⁵⁾, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and indicative timetables for their implementation, have been drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programmes. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of indirect actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programmes.

2. This call relates to proposals, specified under point 4 of this call, called by a fixed deadline, following which evaluation will take place, and following which no other proposal will be considered under this call notice.

Proposals are invited to be submitted by single proposers and in one step.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 40.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 58.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Decisions C(1999) 252 of 4 March 1999, C(1999) 606 of 17 March 1999, as last modified by Commission Decisions C(2001) 2673 of 19 September 2001, C(2001) 2653 of 13 September 2001, C(2001) 2655 of 13 September 2001 and C(2001) 2690 of 19 September 2001.

3. The specific programmes are implemented notably through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV of the fifth framework programme and in Annex III of the specific programmes.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programmes, the Council Decision of 22 December 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the fifth framework programme⁽⁶⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programmes. The fifth framework programme manual of proposal evaluation procedures⁽⁷⁾, along with its annex on the specific programmes, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination⁽⁸⁾, provide further details.

Information on these rules and on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the guide for proposers, which can be obtained, along with the work programmes and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

Quality of life and management of living resources

Joint NAS Call
European Commission
DG Research
SDME 08/56
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: quality-of-life@cec.eu.int
Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/life/>

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁽⁷⁾ Commission Decision C(1999) 710 of 24 March 1999, as last modified by Commission Decision C(2001) 2607 of 31 August 2001.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

Competitive and sustainable growth

Joint NAS Call
European Commission
DG Research
MO75 06/1
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: growth@cec.eu.int
Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/growth/>

Environment and sustainable development

Joint NAS Call
European Commission
DG Research
SDME 07/50
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: eesd@cec.eu.int
Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/>

Energy

Joint NAS Call
European Commission
DG Research
MO75 06/20
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: eesd@cec.eu.int
Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/>

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programmes, according to the rules for participation and dissemination, are hereby invited to submit proposals that address Annex III(a) ⁽⁹⁾ of the work programmes of the specific programmes on 'Quality of life and management of living resources (1998-2002)' ⁽²⁾, 'Competitive and sustainable growth (1998-2002)' ⁽³⁾, 'Energy, environment and sustainable development (1998-2002)' ⁽⁴⁾.

SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF NAS IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

(Accompanying measures)

<u>Budget</u>	QoL:	EUR 10 million
	Growth:	EUR 10 million
	ESD:	EUR 10 million
	Energy:	EUR 10 million

Call identifier QoL/Growth/EESD-2001-INTEGR

⁽⁹⁾ Commission Decisions C(1999) 252 of 4 March 1999, C(1999) 606 of 17 March 1999, as last modified by Commission Decisions C(2001) 2690 of 19 September 2001, C(2001) 2653 of 13 September 2001 and C(2001) 2655 of 13 September 2001.

Objectives and approach

As a contribution to better integrate the science and technology sector of the NAS into the European research area, the objective will be to support a number of outstanding research centres to better put their capabilities at the service of the economic and social needs of these countries, in conformity with the interest of the Union as a whole. This will be done in the first place by improving the links between centres in the NAS and other European centres, e.g. through networking, exchange, training and twinning arrangements.

Deliverables:

- increased networking between centres,
- increased scope (regional coverage, subjects, activities) of the centres,
- contribution to capacity building through attracting young researchers,
- support for economic and social needs of the NAS,
- increased linkage with economic and social environment of the NAS,
- enhanced participation of centres in other areas of the fifth framework programme.

Priorities for the call

Centres to be supported should bring together theoretical and applied research, including research in the natural, social and economic sciences, where possible using a multi-disciplinary approach. Support will be provided for a package of measures aimed at opening opportunities which would not be available with the budget the centre would normally receive. The package may comprise different types of activity, such as: workshops, conferences, coordination of a research network with other countries, visiting fellows (teacher and/or researchers), training for PhD students and/or post-doctoral researchers, twinning with a fellow centre in Europe and study visits of the researchers from the centre to other institutions. It should have a well-defined target and envisaged impact.

Specific criteria

Basic criteria

A centre is defined here as an existing working unit (a single proposer), either independent or functioning within a locally established research organisation, having its own specific research agenda and preferably distinct organisational and administrative boundaries. The centre should not be a subsidiary or branch of an organisation established in another country.

Selection criteria*Scientific/technological excellence of the centre:*

- scientific/technological reputation of permanent staff,
- quality and volume of scientific/technological output and activities (number of publications, patents, licences etc.),
- attraction to visitors,
- experience with networking activities (participation in European or bilateral cooperation projects, number of researchers on visits abroad, organisation of national or international conferences, workshops etc.).

Structure of the centre:

- quality of management and of supervisory board,
- distribution of staff age and qualifications,
- infrastructure and working environment (including safety regulations and equal opportunities),
- links with economic and social environment of NAS.

Scientific/technological potential and impact of the package:

- clear definition of target,
- contribution to linkages with other European centres,
- coherence with the themes of the thematic programmes,
- contribution to supra-regional relevance and international attractiveness,
- contribution to economic and social relevance of the centre to NAS.

Diversity of funding:

Proportion of existing funding coming from external sources and the origin of this funding. The contribution of the Community to the proposed package should correspond to no more than one-third of the total normal activity level of the centre.

5. Proposers are encouraged to prepare proposals with a software tool (the proposal preparation tool — ProTool) which is available from the Commission via the Internet (<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/protocol>), by electronic mail or on

CD-ROM. It will help them prepare the administrative and technical information required.

Proposals may be sent in one of two ways:

- Made by the proposal preparation tool and sent electronically, by use of a sealing mechanism, including encryption and server uploading or electronic mail.

The coordinator must request a digital certificate from the Commission's certification authority for electronic signature of the proposal file. When the proposal has been finalised, it is then 'sealed' and a short validation file ('fingerprint') is created.

The validation file, which identifies the proposal file uniquely, must be sent (electronically or by fax) not later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on 31 January 2002. The unmodified proposal file must be received electronically not later than 48 hours after expiry of the deadline.

- Prepared on the paper forms distributed with the information package or made by the proposal preparation tool and then printed out by the coordinator.

To be receivable, proposals submitted on paper must be received by the Commission not later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on 31 January 2002⁽¹⁰⁾ at the following address:

Integration of Newly Associated States (NAS) in the ERA
Research Proposals Office
Square Frère-Orban/Frère-Orbanplein 8
B-1040 Brussels.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above, by which to submit proposals, and to submit only one version of any given proposal. In the case of an eligible proposal being received in both paper and electronic formats, only the electronic version will be considered.

Each proposal will be attributed only to one evaluation panel according to the main thematic priority.

6. In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal) please make sure to cite the relevant call identifier (QoL/ Growth/ EESD-2001-INTEGR).

⁽¹⁰⁾ Users of courier services that ask for the recipient's telephone number should give the following: (32-2) 298 42 06.

In submitting a proposal, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

According to the rules for participation and dissemination and the European Commission regulation for implementing them, Member States and associated States may have access, on presentation of a reasoned request, to useful knowledge which is relevant to policy-making. This knowledge must have been generated by those RTD actions supported as a

result of this call and which addressed a part of the work programme specified as eligible for such access.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.
