

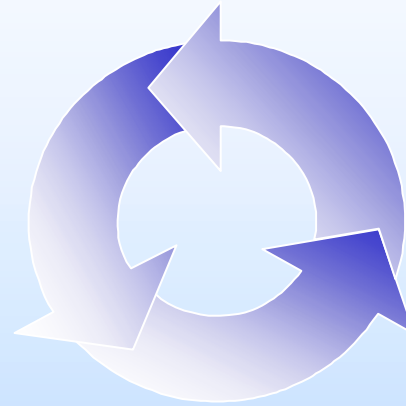


EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

“ERA-NET”

“ERA-NET”



**Cooperation and coordination of national
or regional research and innovation
activities (i.e. programmes)**





Overview of the Presentation

European Research Area (ERA) Policy background

ERA-NET Scheme:

- Objectives and Activities
- Partnership and Management
- Proposals and Calls
- Evaluation process
- ERA-NET and other initiatives
- Information and assistance



European Research Area - Combining three concepts *:

- the creation of an **"internal market" in research** (free movement of knowledge, researchers and technology)
- the **restructuring** of the **European research fabric** (improved coordination of national research activities and policies)
- the development of a **European research policy** (taking into account other EU and national policies)

* COM(2002) 565 final, THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA :
PROVIDING NEW MOMENTUM



FP 6 supporting ERA

Integrating Community Research

- 7 Thematic areas
- Cross-cutting research activities

Strengthening the foundations of ERA

- Coordination of research activities/programmes
- Development of Research/Innovation policies

Structuring the ERA



Coordination of Research

Policy level

- ✓ open method of coordination
- ✓ mapping, benchmarking, score boards

Programme level

- ✓ ERA-NET
- ✓ Article 169

Project level

- ✓ New Instruments
- ✓ Traditional Instruments



Objectives

To step up the cooperation and coordination of national or regional research activities (i.e. programmes) through:

- The **networking of programmes** (parts of programmes) which are strategically planned and nationally/regionally funded
- The **mutual opening** of national/regional research programmes



Fields covered

- ERA-NET activities under this scheme may be carried out in any **field of science and technology** (beyond the FP6 priorities), including the social and human sciences
- The ERA-NET scheme will be implemented through a **bottom-up** approach in the sense of giving **no preference to one specific research theme or discipline**



Activities

A step by step approach....but ambitious

ERA-NET may include the following **activities** to foster coordination and cooperation between programmes:

- ★ Systematic **exchange** of information & best practices
- ★ **Strategic** activities
- ★ Implementation of **joint** activities
- ★ **Transnational** research activities



★ Systematic exchange of information and best practices

Information exchange between programme managers on:

- Actual **running projects** in the respective programmes
- National or regional **research priorities**
- Existing **evaluation practices**
- **Programme management** approaches



✳ Strategic activities

Identification and analysis of:

- Mutual **complementarities** between the ERA-NET partners
- Research activities that could lead to the design of **future multinational schemes**
- Administrative or legal **barriers** that hinder transnational cooperation
- **New opportunities and gaps** in research and stimulation of new interdisciplinary work
- **Common evaluation systems**



☀ Implementation of joint activities

Concrete joint activities could cover:

- A posteriori **clustering** of nationally or regionally funded research projects.
- The systematic use of **multinational evaluation procedures**
- Joint **training activities**
- Mutual **opening** of facilities or laboratories



✳ Transnational research activities

Implementation of transnational research activities could include:

- Development of transnational and joint **strategies** and/or **programmes**
- **Common calls** for proposals
- Transnational **evaluation and dissemination**
- Transnational **funding** of research activities



Management framework

The network management should pay special attention to:

- **Knowledge management** and other innovation related activities
- Ensuring high **standards of scientific excellence**
- **Ethical issues**
- Promotion of **gender equality**
- Promotion of **science and society issues**

...as well as **administrative and financial management tasks**



Participants

The Partnership composition allows as **eligible participants**:

- Legal entities from **at least 3 MS or AS** of which at least two are MS or candidate AS with the following characteristics:
 - **public bodies** responsible for financing or managing research activities carried out at national or regional level
 - **other national or regional organisations** that finance or manage such research activities
 - **bodies operating at European level** that include as part of their mission the pan-European coordination of nationally-funded research
- **A sole participant**, being a grouping of public bodies (EEIG or any similar structures)

In addition to the minimum number of participants other legal entities (e.g. charities) managing such research programmes, may participate.

The partnership can be gradually increased.



Instruments

Coordination Actions (CA) :

Supporting the **implementation of a network (ERA-NET)** that shall involve many levels of **cooperation and coordination** under a **step by step** perspective.

Specific support actions (SSA) :

These actions will be **limited in scope** and should facilitate the **preparation of future ERA-NETs** . In particular **candidate countries** participation may be encouraged through SSAs.



Coordination Actions (1)

Activities related to networking and mutual opening of national or regional programmes are eligible for financial support. These activities may cover the indicated steps for coordination and cooperation and the overall management framework of the network.

No research activities will be financed by ERA-NET (CA) .

Financial aspects and duration:

- 3 M€ max. funding for :
 - all eligible networking costs (100%)
 - overheads (20% of direct costs, except subcontracts)
 - administrative & financial management (100% up to max. 7% of the EU contribution)
- 5 years max.



Coordination Actions (2)

The following can be carried out:

- **Benchmarking** and dissemination of best practices
- Use of **electronic communication tools**, including the use of common web-portals
- **Fora** of research programme makers and programme managers
- Short-term **exchanges** of programme managers
- Development of transnational **funding** solutions and/or agreements



Specific Support Actions (1)

Activities supporting the **preparation of future ERA-NETs** are eligible for financial support. These activities, may in particular be used to facilitate participation from Candidate Countries. One single participant (public body) is eligible.

No research activities will be financed by ERA-NET (SSA) .

Financial aspects and duration:

- 200 000 € max. funding for :
 - all eligible support activity costs (up to 100%)
 - overheads (20% of direct costs, except subcontracts)
 - administrative & financial management (100% up to max. 7% of the EU contribution)
- 1 year max.



Specific Support Actions (2)

The following can be carried out:

- Preparatory **conferences or seminars**
- **Studies and analysis** of the research fields
- **Establishment** of working or expert **groups**
- **Information** and **communication** activities
- Specific events for **candidate countries**
- **Establishing contacts**
- Setting up of **fora** to prepare for coordination actions



Calls and Budget

Open call for proposals (single step) :

1st cut-off date : **3 June 2003**, budget 24 M€

from March 2004, cut-off dates **every 6 months**
up to October 2005

Indicative **total budget: 148 M€** (2002- 2006)



Proposal

“ERA-NET”

PART A - FORMS

PART B - Proposal Content

Proposal Submission Forms
A1

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
of Framework Programme for
Research, Technological
Development and Innovation

Large scale Projects
Networks of Excellence
Specific Targeted Projects
Coordinated Actions
Specific Support Actions

Proposal Number* Proposal Acronym*

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSAL

Proposal Title*
(max. 200 char.)

Duration in months* Call (part) reference*

Activity codes* most relevant to your topic*

Keyword 1*
Keyword 2*
Keyword 3*

Free keywords*

Abstract* (max. 1500 char.)

For a proposal to be considered complete, all questions must be answered. If a field is not applicable, you will observe a '0'.

Strategic objectives addressed

Proposal abstract

B.0 Objectives of the ERA-NET and State of the Art

B.1 Relevance to the objectives of the ERA-NET

B.2 Technical content of the coordination activity

- Workpackage list (full duration of project)
- Workpackage description (full duration of project)

B.3 Potential impact

B.4 The consortium

B.5 Project management

B.6 Mobilisation of resources

- CA Project Effort Form (person-months)

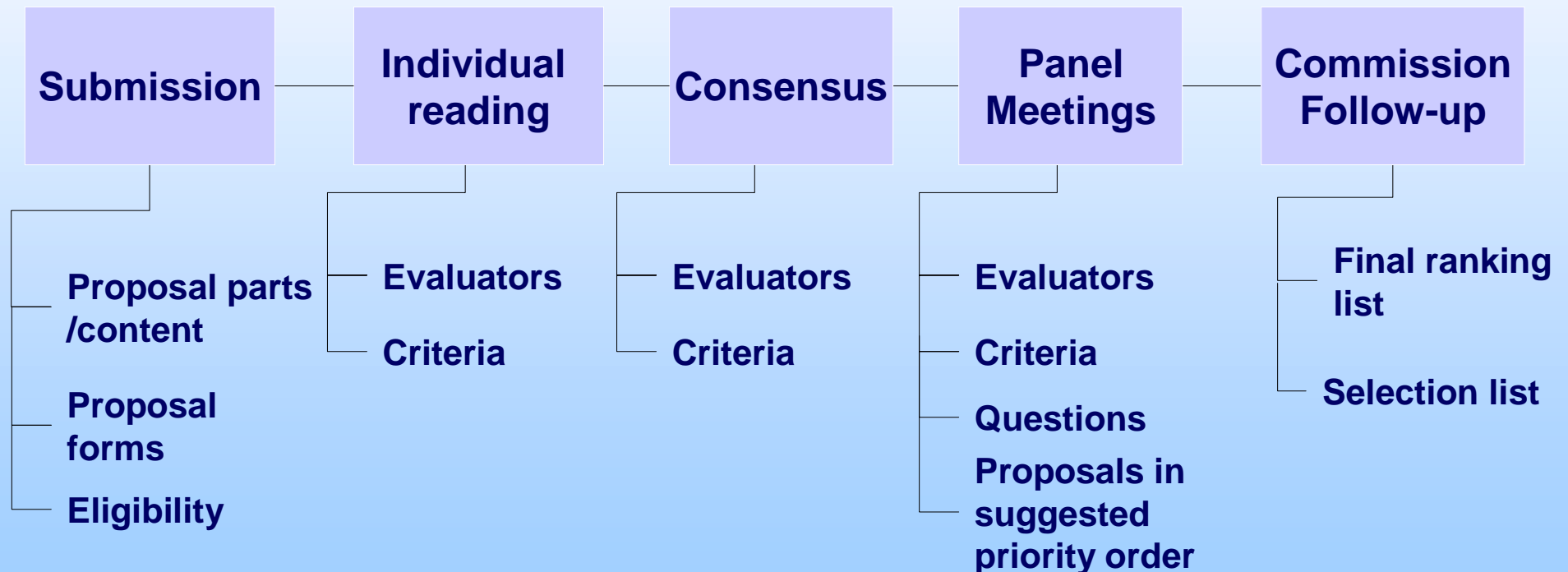
B.7 Other issues

Ethical issues

Gender issues



Evaluation process





Evaluators

- **Wide pool of evaluators**
 - Evaluator lists from **calls** to individuals and institutions
 - **Commission may select** individuals with the appropriate skills from **outside these lists**
- **Qualifications**
 - **Highest level professionals** from science and/or industry and from internationally recognised authorities
 - **Highest level expertise** in public or private sector, in management of national or regional **programmes**
 - Ability to **appreciate challenges** and industrial and socio-economic effects of R&D
 - Language skills
 - From MS, AS, ACS and other countries



Evaluation criteria (CA)

- Relevance to the objectives of the programme (3/5)
- Quality of the coordination (4/5)
- Potential impact (3/5)
 - participants are key actors in national systems
 - foundation for a “durable” cooperation
- Quality of the consortium (3/5)
- Quality of the management (3/5)
 - suitable governance at appropriate level
- Mobilization of resources (3/5)

Overall threshold (21/30)



Evaluation criteria (SSA)

- **Relevance to the objectives of the programme (4/5)**
- **Quality of the coordination (3/5)**
- **Potential impact (3/5)**
- **Quality of the management (3/5)**
- **Mobilization of resources (3/5)**

Overall threshold (17.5/25)



Benefits

National/regional research programmes and their **managers will benefit through:**

- increased and close **cooperation with European colleagues:**
 - exchange of best practices
 - identification of who is doing what
 - exchange of programme management approaches
- Common platform dealing with **“horizontal” issues** (i.e. Ethics)
- **Exchange on legal/administrative** aspects of RTD programme implementation
- Reflection on intensified **transnational RTD** cooperation
- Improved **cost/benefit** ratio through increased cooperation



Differences

ERA-NET

- ✓ Objective: Coordination of national/regional **programmes**
- ✓ EC support: Coordination activities (no research)
- ✓ Participants: **National/regional bodies** managing research programmes

COST

- ✓ Objective: Coordination at the level of **researchers**
- ✓ EC support: Scientific coordination
- ✓ Participants: Mainly **Universities & RTD Centers**

EUREKA

- ✓ Objective: **Funding** of industrial **research projects**
- ✓ EC support: Only to the EUREKA secretariat
- ✓ Participants: Mainly **Industry and RTD performers**



ERA-NET and Article 169

ERA-NET:

- **Co-ordination** and cooperation between national research programmes
- Community funding : **coordination costs of strategic activities** developed by programme managers
- **All fields** of S&T
- **Light decision** making process

Article 169

- **Beyond co-ordination** and cooperation of national research programmes
- Community funding : strong financial contribution of **research and coordination** activities
- FP6 S&T **priority fields**
- **Heavy decision** making process: **co-decision procedure**



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INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Infopack: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>

NCPs: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/ncp.htm>

Website: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/coordination.htm>

Helpdesk: rtd-coordination@cec.eu.int

Evaluators: <http://www.cordis.lu/experts>