



European
Research Area

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

How to apply for an FP7 project from a third country?

1. Getting started

- Screen CORDIS for the relevant Work Programme in your research area to see, whether any topic is of interest (<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>).
- Contact your FP7 Contact (it exists now in many third countries – if in doubt, check http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html)
- Get a copy of the Guide for Applicants on cordis.

2. Inform potential partners in Europe

It is useful to inform European researchers that you are interested in joining FP7 projects. This can be done in many ways, e.g. through the partner search pages at (http://cordis.europa.eu/partners-service/home_en.html) (where also comprehensive information is available on all aspects of FP7), through scientific friends, business partners, conferences, etc.

We suggest that you start your contacts with preparing one-page description of your collaboration interest. This one-page description should contain:

- (1) A thematic title (best to use the words from the FP7 Work Programme)
- (2) The name of the call (if you know it)
- (3) Your research interest in the project
- (4) Your collaboration interest (how can you contribute, and what type of collaboration you are seeking)
- (5) A short description of your institute and of your laboratory
- (6) If you are from an International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC – see at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/inco>), inform that you are eligible for funding
- (7) Your complete contact address (with phone numbers, email, etc.).

Then send this one-page description to your European contacts, find contacts from the cordis partner search, publish your information at the cordis partner search (or ask your FP7 contact to do this for you), look in the internet for related projects, and send your interest to your national contact point, your embassy in Brussels, etc.

When you start, your chances are highest as a project partner. This means that you would need to link up with a (European) coordinator preparing a proposal and, preferably, participate in the preparation of a proposal from the very beginning.

3. Join a project proposal

When preparing a proposal, the coordinator will ask the partners to provide a written contribution regarding their part. Typically the information that each partner should send is:

- (1) Description of your research contribution (to be developed into section B of the proposal)
- (2) Description of your institution (to be developed within section B of the proposal)
- (3) CVs of key researchers
- (4) Importance of the project for your country
- (5) Economic impact of the project
- (6) Ideas or plans for exploiting the results
- (7) List of references and related projects
- (8) Illustrations, graphics, pictures (optional)
- (9) Your requested budget
- (10) Basic administrative information on your institution (to be inserted into section A of the proposal).

Partners from countries of the ICPC list are eligible for funding from the European Commission and should consider requesting it. Additional funding from your own country is always welcome. As a general rule any EU contribution is complemented by a contribution from the participant. The level of possible funding depends to the status of your organisation, and the type of work to be carried out: please refer to the Guide for Applicants (Annex 3).

Please do not send too much text because the coordinator will have to assemble the contributions from many partners to make a full proposal. One or two pages per item may be sufficient unless the coordinator specifically demands more because of the nature of the proposal to be developed.

The most important rule for a successful participant is to be well prepared, fast and to join a potential consortium at an early stage.

