

Call title: Strengthening European research facilities in third countries – Activity INCO-LAB

- Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2011-7
- Date of publication: 20/07/2010
- Deadline¹: 15/03/2011, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time
- Indicative budget^{2,3}: EUR 12.00 MILLION

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding schemes	Indicative amount
INCO-7 Strengthening European research facilities in third countries		
INCO.2011-7.1 Brazil	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.2 China	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.3 India	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.4 Japan	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.5 Russia	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million
INCO.2011-7.6 USA	Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	EUR 2.00 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Minimum number of participants⁴ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	At least 1 independent legal entity

¹ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

² An amount of EUR 12.00 million is given to this call budget from the 2011 budget. This is under the condition that the draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

³ - The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.
 - All budgetary figures given in this call are indicative. The repartition of the sub-budgets awarded within this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁴ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:

- The eligible joint institutes must be the result of institutional arrangements⁵ based on a bilateral or multilateral agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding between at least one partner – government, ministry or a research organisation – of an EU Member State or Associated Country with a counterpart in a Third Country concerned. National institutes of a Member State or an Associated Country, which are located in a Third Country and which are the result of an agreement with the Third country are also eligible. The eligible joint institute can be characterized as follows:
 - an independent legal entity established in the target third country. It should have a strategic research mission, should support directly research activities; or
 - a joint Science & Technology centre, which is not a separate legal entity from its funding partner(s). It should have a strategic research mission, support directly research activities and should be established in one of the target third country.
- In the first case, the proposal will be submitted directly by the joint institute; in the second case it will be submitted by the funding partners as participants.
- Institutes, which depend solely on national funding from EU Member States or/and Associated countries are not eligible under this call. Joint institutes which are exclusively funded by private organisations are not eligible under this call.
- Proposals not addressing all three following objectives will be considered ineligible:
 - Open the activities of the joint institutes to researchers from at least 3 different Member States and Associated Countries other than those owning the facilities;
 - Increase the scientific cooperation between researchers from the Member States and Associated Countries and those of the host country through the involvement of additional researchers in ongoing research activities as well as in the preparation of new joint projects via the organisation of joint seminars, summer schools and similar activities,
 - Prepare the way for opening the institutional arrangement of the joint institutes to additional Member States or Associated Countries governments/ministries, research organisations.
- The eligible joint institutes must be established in one of the target third country..

Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in annex 2 of the work programme. Additionally, the highest ranked proposal for a given Area should be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the budget. After allocating a budget to the best projects in this way, all remaining projects from each Area will be ranked together in one list according to the marks obtained during evaluation. The remaining budget will be allocated to the projects according to their position in this overall ranking without further concern for country coverage. If there is no proposal above thresholds in a given Area, the indicative budget of this Area will be added to that remaining budget. The panel of experts evaluating the proposals will apply this rule when recommending a priority order for the proposals, in particular for proposals with the same score.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS.

⁵ The institutional arrangements must be established before the publication of the call.

- The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.
- The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

Indicative timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of May 2011. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in September 2011.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

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

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.