

WORK PROGRAMME 2009

CAPACITIES

PART 7

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

(European Commission C(2008)4566 of 26 August 2008)

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7. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The international competitiveness of modern economies is linked increasingly to their ability to generate, adapt and use new knowledge. Science and technology (S&T) are considered to be key factors contributing to achieving sustainable development, prosperity and economic growth. S&T has also proved to be instrumental to enhancing and enriching many other policy areas with an impact on external relations: trade, development, environment, energy, telecommunications, etc.

A new approach is followed in the 7th Framework Programme to support the activities of international cooperation:

- The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the Cooperation programme;
- The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the People programme;
- Activities of the Capacities Programme are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme as well as provide access opportunities in research programmes managed by third countries.

The latter foster international cooperation through support measures for third countries and regions. They support dialogues and information exchange activities with third countries and regions in order to enable the EU and the targeted countries and regions to discuss with different current and future research priorities. The outcomes of these dialogues provide intelligence for developing research policy, offer input to the respective FP7 specific programmes, and inspire research topics for international cooperation, in particular in the Cooperation Programme. The activities of international cooperation in the Capacities Programme also support actions to increase coherence in international research activities with and amongst the Member States that contribute to a better Europe-level coordination on aspects of international S&T cooperation, as well as to improve knowledge on the cooperation opportunities offered by third countries' research programmes.

The activities defined in the Specific Programme are:

- Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies;
- Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships;
- Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T cooperation.

I CONTEXT

Objective

To become more competitive and play a leading role at world level, the European Community needs a strong and coherent international science and technology policy. This international policy has three objectives:

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe.
- To enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contact with their partners in third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale.
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Policy context

The actions for international cooperation in the Capacities Programme will facilitate research and innovation policy projects in FP7. They will be carried out by consortia with participants from different countries and will aim at developing, adapting and using new knowledge. Such collaboration will also support the wider remit of European research policy as well as trade and industry-related policies. The production and use of scientific knowledge will also be a vital element for the establishment and reinforcement of the Union's relations with third countries, on a bilateral, bi-regional or global scale. Close cooperation will be sought with instruments of the Member States and other Community budget lines and instruments such as those that are designed with a defined geographical coverage to implement particular policies (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI), the Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (ICI), Asia and Latin America (ALA), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Development Fund (EDF).

Approach for 2009

The work programme 2009 will complete the activities initiated in the first work programme (2007-2008) in the respect of the 3 lines of activities defined in the Specific Programme, with a specific emphasis on the reinforcement of the cooperation at regional and bilateral level.

To achieve these objectives, the following approach will be used in this work programme:

- Ongoing S&T dialogues¹ and networks will be further enhanced at regional level in order to identify and establish the priority areas of research for the “specific international cooperation actions” of the Cooperation Programme. These networks will promote regional integration and will also be used for strengthening the coordination of S&T cooperation and the complementarities with activities carried out by means of other Community policy instruments,
- Partnerships with third countries will be reinforced, in particular in the frame of S&T cooperation agreements,
- Access opportunities for European researchers in national research programmes managed by third countries will be analysed and disseminated in the Member States and Associated Countries.

¹ A S&T dialogue (in line with EC policies) means in this context the dialogue between the Member States, the EC and the third countries concerned where common issues are identified.

II CONTENT OF CALLS

Activity 7.1 Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies (FP7-INCO-2009-1, INCO-NET)

This INCO-NET call will cover regions, which were either left aside or not sufficiently represented in the first INCO-NET call (FP7-2007-INCO-1). The INCO-NET proposals to be solicited through this call cover:

- Arabic Gulf countries with the involvement of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- Caribbean region with an emphasis on overseas countries, departments and territories as European Coordinators;
- Central America region;
- Pacific region with an emphasis on overseas countries and territories, with a possible liaison with Australia and New Zealand;
- South Caucasus and Central Asian region (covering Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

This Activity includes therefore one Area for each of these five different regions.

A strong coordination with existing INCO-NET projects will be requested, in particular with the Mediterranean INCO-NET for the Gulf countries, with the Latin-American INCO-NET for the Caribbean region and Central American region and with the Eastern Europe INCO-NET for the South Caucasus and Central Asian region.

The INCO-NET projects will address the coordination and complementarities with activities carried out by means of Community external policy instruments such as for instance the ENPI and country or region specific strategy papers. They will seek in particular synergies with programmes supporting capacity building in the area of science and technology.

Technical content/ scope

The INCO-NET projects are aimed at establishing bi-regional dialogues that will:

- Promote and structure the participation of third countries in the activities of FP7.
- Promote regional integration and will lead to the identification and the prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Facilitate the uptake and use of common identified research areas and the monitoring of performance and impacts of international S&T cooperation across the Specific Programmes of FP7.

Priorities identified in these dialogues on the one hand and priorities of the themes of the Cooperation Programme on the other hand will be brought together to identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit for the work programmes of the corresponding thematic areas. The INCO-NET projects will ensure establishing balanced partnerships, regrouping multiple international stakeholders (partners from research, industry, government and civil

society) for research actions. They will also be used for monitoring the implementation of the S&T priorities. These partnerships will require multidisciplinary approaches to tackle diverse needs at a global, regional and/or country level.

INCO-NET actions can only deal with horizontal issues and as such must not be restricted to a single or restricted number of thematic areas. Proposals addressing a specific research area will be declared ineligible.

Each proposal must address the following proposed activities; in addition it must also contain the three complementary aspects defined below.

Proposed activities

Three complementary aspects to be considered in the scope of INCO-NET actions are:

- Dialogue:
 - Fora for active and constant exchange of views between European and non-European stakeholders on a country/regional basis for exchange by demands and potential of both sides to guide and set the framework for international S&T cooperation. Activities should build to the extent possible on ongoing initiatives and can include surveys, studies, workshops, seminars and networking among a range of actors and activities.
 - S&T Cooperation dialogues should continue to be linked to the broader external Community actions. Synergies between the international S&T dialogues and the objectives of the external relations actions should be strengthened and complementarity be ensured.
 - The exchange of views with third country policy makers to lay down common objectives on global issues and face jointly the challenges and opportunities of the European Research Area (ERA) and its partners. Such discussions should focus on interdisciplinary issues with a real need for coordination of S&T policies and new rules that arise from the globalisation of research and S&T cooperation.
 - Activities planned to identify priority areas for cooperation should combine both a bottom up (including different groups of stakeholders concerned) and top down approaches (looking at longer term strategic challenges of the EU that could benefit from research).
 - Identification of areas with potential for enhanced co-ordination with Member States and Associated States on the one hand, and the third countries covered by the INCO-NET on the other, leading to the setting of new priority areas of research cooperation based on mutual interest and benefit.
- Implementation and Dissemination activities:
 - Setting up or strengthening platforms for strategic analysis and anticipation with a focus on connecting global trends and issues to regional specificities;

- Elaboration of evidence and articulated recommendations prioritising issues for international S&T cooperation;
 - Setting regional networks/fora with all relevant stakeholders;
 - Increase awareness and dissemination of FP7 activities, their goal and tools;
 - Disseminating results.
- Monitoring and review:
 - Continuous monitoring and review of ongoing cooperation activities should be included in the tasks with a view to provide feedback and updating of the policies and priorities for international cooperation.

The activities to be included in the projects per region will depend on and will also reflect the priorities, the capabilities and capacities of the partners/regions.

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Action' (coordinating action). The financial support from the Community will take the form of a grant to implement the INCO-NET action as appropriate. Under this scheme, no support will be provided for the research activities themselves. Each INCO-NET action should last sufficiently long to build and develop sustainable networking structures. Duration of up to 4 years may be envisaged.

Participants

Preference will be given to INCO-NET actions involving the participation of a significant number of third countries of the region targeted by the INCO-NET action. The different regions are described below. A high coverage of the region will be considered essential to guarantee the success of these actions. Additional countries can also join from another region (e.g. a neighbouring region) if there is a clear added value to the project and to the regional activities. Consortium composition and responsibilities should be balanced between European and third country participants. The funding of participants from industrialised or high-income third countries would be allowed for this Activity if it is considered essential for the success of the proposals.

Areas open to this call

Each proposal must target only one single Area covered by the call.

It is important to have as many regions covered under this call as possible in order to build up and reinforce dialogues with third countries. For this reason, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied. Only one project per Area of the Activity 7.1 of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked project for a given Area will be selected.

7.1.1 Area: Arabic Gulf Countries Region: FP7-INCO-2009-1.1

Within the Gulf area, the European Community has a region-to-region relationship with the Gulf Cooperation Council¹ (GCC) countries, channelled through a Cooperation Agreement signed in 1988. The GCC main objectives are to effect coordination, integration and inter-connection between its Member States in all fields, strengthening ties between their peoples, formulating similar regulations in various fields such as economy, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation, administration, as well as fostering scientific and technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources, establishing scientific research centres, setting up joint ventures, and encouraging cooperation of the private sector.

At the last GCC-EU Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting (Riyadh, 8 May 2007), the Joint Council welcomed the new opportunities opened by the 7th Framework Programme in the field of science and technology². Both parties agreed to establish contacts at expert level for concrete action in both fields. The Joint Council, emphasising the importance of furthering cooperation on environmental issues and encouraged the holding of EU-GCC experts meeting on regular basis in other areas of mutual interest.

The GCC countries R&D capacity and productivity remains relatively limited although the resources are available. The UN Arab Human Development Reports recommended the consolidation of knowledge acquisition and its effective utilisation as one of three key drivers for progress. A strategic approach can significantly contribute to the quick development of an innovative knowledge-based economy and the proposed INCO-NET can contribute to this objective by promoting a strategic partnership in Research and Development between the EU and the GCC countries region.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Disseminate the EU R&D strategy and best practices as an input for the development of national R&D policy in the Gulf countries;
- Identifying the Gulf countries S&T international cooperation activities and programmes towards Mediterranean Partner Countries and examining possible synergies or complementarities with EU activities, in particular with respect to challenges faced by developing countries through joint activities;
- Strengthening co-ordination and complementarities with other Community external policies, in particular with activities carried out by means of the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI) and the financing Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (ICI);

A strong coordination will be requested with the existing INCO-NET project targeting the Mediterranean Partner Countries (acronym: MIRA³, project number: 211359).

¹ The GCC is a political and economic alliance made up of six Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain). Additional information available at <http://www.gcc-sg.org/>

² http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/er/94036.pdf

³ Additional information available at <http://www.miraproject.eu/>

7.1.2 Area: Caribbean Region FP7-INCO-2009-1.2

The proposed INCO-NET should target the ACP countries located in the Caribbean region¹ and should actively involve overseas departments and collectivities², Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)^{3,4} as well as Member States, which have research organisations either located or actively involved in the region.

Europe has strong historic ties with the Caribbean region and some Member States still have close links with the region, notably through the French Overseas Departments, and the particular relationship between the UK and the Netherlands and the OCTs. Moreover the Caribbean's prominent role within the ACP group of states and its inclusion within the Cotonou Agreement constitute the basis of its special relationship with the EU. The EU-Caribbean partnership at a high political level also needs to be seen in the context of the wider EU-LAC strategic partnership forged between the EU, Caribbean and Latin American States at their first joint Summit in Rio in 1999. The proposed INCO-NET should therefore liaise closely with the INCO-NET project targeting the Latin American region (acronym: EULARINET⁵, project number: 212186), in particular for activities concerning the definition of the strategy and methodology on S&T prioritisation as well as the broader policy dialogue with policy makers from the region.

In March 2006, the European Commission adopted the Communication on the EU-Caribbean strategy for the growth, stability and development, which serves as the framework for EU - Caribbean relations at the political, economic and development level for the future and insisted on the cooperation between the EU and CARICOM/CARIFORUM. The communication acknowledges the role of the 7th Framework Programme, in reinforcing the partnership with the Caribbean region and in particular in promoting the exchange of researchers and greater coordination of bi-lateral programmes between single Member States and third countries of the Caribbean region. Moreover, scientific and technological cooperation has been included in the discussions between the CARIFORUM States and the European Community in view of the signature of the recent Economic partnership agreement.

Apart from the aforementioned common activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Increasing the cooperation between the research organisations and universities located in the OCTs, the overseas departments and other countries of the region;
- Developing researchers' exchanges between the EU and the Caribbean region through the promotion of the People specific programme;

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, who are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement and Cuba which is a member of the ACP group but is not a signatory to Cotonou.

² The French overseas departments and collectivities include Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin and Saint Barthelemy (organisations located in French Guyana could also participate in the proposals).

³ Additional Information on the association of the OCTs with the European Community is available in the Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001

⁴ There are 8 OCTs located in the Caribbean region:

- Bermuda, Anguilla, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, Cayman islands, Turks & Caicos islands (UK)
- Aruba, Netherland Antilles (NL)

⁵ Additional information available at <http://www.S2lat.eu/eularinet/>

- Promoting public-private partnerships and strengthening the participation of the private sector in innovation and knowledge transfer activities.
- Strengthening co-ordination and complementarities with Community external policies, in particular with activities carried out by means of the European Development Fund (EDF) as well as with activities carried out by means of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) targeting the overseas departments;

7.1.3 Area: Central America Region: FP7-INCO-2009-1.3

The proposed INCO-NET on Central America should address the specific needs of the central American countries, in particular through the development of specific activities aimed at increasing the awareness and dissemination on FP7 activities (information days, support to third country contact points, brokerage events...). The proposed INCO-NET should liaise closely with the INCO-NET project for Latin America (acronym: EULARINET¹, project number: 212186), in particular for activities concerning the definition of the strategy and methodology on S&T priority setting as well as the broader S&T cooperation strategies for the EU-LAC region. A strong coordination between the proposed INCO-NET and the on-going INCO-NET EULARINET must be ensured.

The proposed INCO-NET should aim at involving participants from all Central American countries in order to reach the highest impact. The participation in the proposals of Nicaragua, being already present in EULARINET, would be considered essential to ensure continuity and coordination between projects. Because of its long established bilateral and bi-regional activities with Europe and its role vis-à-vis Central American countries, the participation of Mexico would also be considered essential for the project.

The European Union and the six countries that make up the Central American isthmus (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) enjoy already a comprehensive relationship that encompasses political dialogue, cooperation and a favourable trade regime. The San José Dialogue, which forms the cornerstone of EU-Central American relations, was launched at the ministerial meeting in San José in 1984. Political support from the EU was backed up by a cooperation programme in order to address the socio-economic issues in the region. In March 2007 the Commission adopted a Regional Strategy Paper for the period 2007-2013 with an indicative financial allocation of EUR 75 million to support the process of political, economic and social integration in the context of the preparation of an Association Agreement. Since April 2007 the Commission has received the mandate to negotiate such an Agreement with Central America on behalf of the European Community and its MS, whereas Mexico signed an Association Agreement already in 2000 placing emphasis on S&T cooperation. In addition, specific programmes developed at the level of the Regional Strategy Paper for Latin America complement the R&D policy in the area of high level education and cooperation between academic institutions (ALFA, ALBAN etc.).

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Coordinating with EULARINET, specially for the S&T policy dialogue ;
- Promoting the setting-up a network of FP7 Contact Points in Central America;

¹ Additional information available at <http://www.S2lat.eu/eularinet/>

- Promoting public-private partnerships and strengthening the participation of the private sector in innovation and knowledge transfer activities;
- Strengthening co-ordination and complementarities with other Community external policies, in particular with activities carried out by means of the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI).

7.1.4 Area: Pacific Region: FP7-INCO-2009-1.4

The proposed INCO-NET should target the ACP countries located in the Pacific region¹ and should actively involve Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)² as well as Member States, which have research organisations either located or actively involved in the region.

The EU strategy for Pacific brings the EU's relationship with the Pacific into line with the new EU development policy statement adopted by the EU institutions in December 2005 and with the revised Cotonou Agreement of 2005. The strategy put the emphasis on stronger political relations on matters of common interest, more focused development actions on regional cooperation and closer coordination with other partners, in particular Australia and New Zealand.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Increasing the cooperation between the research organisations and universities located in the OCTs and the other countries of the region;
- Identifying S&T international cooperation activities and programmes towards Pacific region and examining possible synergies or complementarities with EU activities, in particular with respect to challenges faced by developing countries;
- Strengthening co-ordination and complementarities with Community external policies, in particular with activities carried out by means of the European Development Fund (EDF);
- Involving Australia and New Zealand so as to use the expertise developed by these countries in the setting up of their bilateral cooperation platforms and identify priorities of mutual interest and benefit, which could lead to coordinated activities.

7.1.5 Area: South Caucasus and Central Asia Region: FP7-INCO-2009-1.5

The proposed INCO-NET on South Caucasus and Central Asian countries should address the specific needs of the South Caucasus and Central Asia countries, which could not be fully covered by the on-going INCO-NET project targeting a broader region, (Acronym: INCONET EECA - Eastern Europe and Central Asia³, project number: 212226).

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

¹ Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Pacific Islands (Palau), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa.

² There OCTs located in the Pacific region are:

- Pitcairn (UK)
- French Polynesia, New Caledonia and its dependencies, Wallis and Futuna (FR)

³ Additional Information available at www.inco-eeqa.net

- strengthening the participation of South Caucasus and Central Asian countries¹ in FP7 through contributing to the identification of common S&T priorities and increasing the awareness and dissemination on FP7 activities (e.g. information days, support of third country contact points, brokerage events...).
- mapping the key and leading institutes which could establish long-term partnerships with counterparts in Member States and Associated States.
- providing recommendations for better coordinating S&T policy with on the one hand, the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) through paying attention to regional cooperation initiatives such as the Black Sea Synergy², and on the other hand, the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI).

The proposed INCO-NET should liaise closely with the INCONET EECA, in particular for activities concerning the definition of the strategy and methodology on S&T prioritisation as well as the broader policy dialogue with policy makers from the region. A strong coordination between the proposed INCO-NET and the on-going INCONET EECA must be ensured.

The proposed INCO-NET should aim at involving participants from all South Caucasus and Central Asian countries in order to reach the highest impact.

Expected impact

The INCO-NET actions will support structured fora for dialogue between the EU and the targeted groups of third countries. These will lead to the setting of priorities for S&T cooperation based on mutual interest and benefit and thus achieving more targeted use of available resources. These coordination actions will lead to an enhanced participation of these countries and regions in the FP7 and to an effective implementation of the joint activities. The expected impact will be higher when there is a large coverage of the region, involving the participation of a significant number of third countries.

¹ The targeted countries are: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan:

² See the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – Black Sea Synergy – A new regional co-operation initiative – COM(2007)160

Activity 7.2 Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships (FP7-INCO-2009-2, BILAT)

This BILAT call covers countries, which have or are in the process of negotiating an S&T cooperation agreement with the EC and which were either left aside or inadequately represented in the first BILAT call (FP7-2007-INCO-2). The BILAT proposals to be solicited through this call will target one of the following countries:

- Argentina,
- Canada,
- Egypt,
- Japan,
- Jordan,
- USA,

This Activity includes therefore one Area for each of these six different countries.

Technical content/ scope

The development of S&T Partnerships will be based on bi-lateral dialogues and coordination of policy initiatives in jointly defined priority areas. Within the framework of the S&T promotion platforms, priority will be given to the elaboration of collaboration schemes and the identification of new activities.

Proposed activities

The proposals should focus on:

- Improving the process of providing information on programs and funding designed to promote cooperation of third countries in the Framework Programme;
- Better identifying and demonstrating mutual interest and benefit in S&T cooperation between the EU and specific third countries and
- Sharing best practices via joint fora such as workshops and presenting the state of the art and the prospects for cooperation in particular fields.

These actions will comprise information and awareness activities, the establishment and reinforcement of information services such as a liaison/promotion structure, a comprehensive website and a mailing database, specialised thematic workshops or special high-level events both at the scientific level in specific third countries and in Europe as well as at the political and policy-making level.

The following specific issues may be addressed by the actions:

- Development of information facilities which may consist of a centre, a website and a number of information services on European–third country collaboration providing a range of services including:
- Information and links on existing collaboration (including a 'living'inventory of collaboration) and Community Programmes,

- Assistance in forming research partnerships and a referral service to relevant experts for specialist advice;
- Assistance in identifying suitable research partners in the country.
- Events aimed at identifying priorities for collaboration and enhancing the quality, quantity and visibility of future actions.
- Actions to exchange information and experience with the information platforms in other third countries and with information services in the Member States.

Funding scheme(s)

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Action' (supporting action). The actions will aim specifically at *support activities* which will be implemented to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of organisations from third countries in the priority thematic areas of the 7th Framework Programme. This will be done through information and awareness activities in those areas in which special efforts are needed. It is expected that the cost of these activities can be up to EUR 0.5 million per action for three years, depending on the scientific potential of the country. For proposals targeting industrialised countries, matching funds from the target country would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.

Participants

In order to be eligible, the proposals must target one of the countries covered by the Areas of the Activity 7.2. The consortium must include participants from the country that is aimed at in the proposal. In that context, the participation of the third country authorities responsible for the follow-up of the S&T cooperation agreement or any organisation, which has received the necessary mandate from the national authorities, is considered essential for the project and will be reflected in the evaluation. Evidence of such mandate should be provided in the proposal description. The funding of participants from industrialised countries would be allowed for this Activity if it is considered essential for the success of the proposals. The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.

Areas open to this call

Each proposal must target only one single Area covered by the call.

It is important to have as many countries covered under this call as possible in order to reinforce the participation of these third countries in the 7th Framework Programme. For this reason, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied. Only one project per Area of the Activity 7.2 of the WP will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked project for a given Area will be selected.

7.2.1 Area: Argentina: FP7-INCO-2009-2.1

The S&T Agreement between the Community and Argentina was signed in 1999, and entered into force in 2001 for five years. In 2006 it has been renewed with the same objectives. Activities include: participation of research entities from Argentina in RTD projects of the framework programme, visits and exchanges of scientists and experts, joint organisation of scientific seminars, conferences and workshops; concerted actions, exchanges and sharing of equipment and materials; exchanges of relevant information on practices, laws, regulations.

The S&T agreement frames the bi-lateral cooperation between the Community and Argentina that has to be inserted into the regional context of relationships between the EU and LA, and in particular the ambitious goal of creating the EU-LAC (European Union – Latin America and Caribbean) Knowledge Area launched by the Heads of State and Government at the Madrid Summit in 2002, then developed further at the Guadalajara (Mexico) Summit in 2004.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Support the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres (incl. thematic information points) and its institutional capacity building, including training in project management,
- Support an S&T observatory on EU-Argentina cooperation incl. the production of standardised indicators,
- Help Argentinean researchers foster partnerships with EU researchers and relevant organisations,
- Increase the participation of Argentina in the People Programme,
- Support coordination between research, education and innovation.

7.2.2 Area: Canada: FP7-INCO-2009-2.2

The EU and Canada have a long standing and strong relationship formalised by several agreements¹. Scientific and technological cooperation appears as one of the priority policy areas.²

The EU relations with Canada are complemented by several bilateral agreements between the Member States and the numerous Canadian players in the S&T field (Federal and Provincial governments, universities, industries and private institutions).

There is a growing need from both sides to harness more effectively the 1996 S&T agreement in order to draw mutual benefits towards a knowledge society and to address global challenges. As such, EU and Canada have called for a more strategic and selective approach, focussing on specific areas of common interest and ensuring better co-ordination.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

¹ Additional information available at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/canada/intro/s_t_agreements.htm

² Additional information available at http://www.delcan.cec.eu.int/en/eu_and_canada/official_documents/instruments/eu-ca_acec_1976.shtml

- Organising thematic workshops in order to exchange best practices and examine priority areas for intensified S&T cooperation, in close coordination with other dimensions of external relations;
- Addressing the issues affecting the participation of Canadian organisations to the Framework Programme, in particular in relation to administrative matters (legal and contractual aspects including protection and exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights);
- Supporting an S&T observatory on EU-Canada cooperation;
- Studying possibilities of cooperation in addressing global challenges;
- Promoting the S&T cooperation with the EU, in particular by establishing links with all players at the Government level, including the Provinces, and with the Industry;

The proposal should take stock of the outcome of other past or on-going initiatives that have a link with S&T cooperation such as the ERA-CAN project¹, the IDEAL-IST project² for the ICT thematic priority, the joint EU-Canada cost-benefit study for a closer economic partnership launched at the last 2007 Summit³, the EU-Canada Framework for Regulatory Cooperation and Transparency⁴, and the on-going High Level Dialogues on Energy and Environment⁵.

7.2.3 Area: Egypt: FP7-INCO-2009-2.3

The EU's proximity policy towards the Mediterranean region is governed by the global and comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched at the 1995 Barcelona Conference, between the European Union and its Mediterranean Partners (hence called the Barcelona Process⁶).

The current agenda of EU-Egypt relations is spelled out in an Action Plan⁷ under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The joint Action Plan provides a comprehensive policy framework for developing relations between Egypt and the EU, based on an agenda of mutual commitments on political, social and economic issues. It stresses the need to promote cooperation in the area of science and technology, develop national capabilities of technical, scientific and technological research and innovation, the development of R&D and transfer of technology, promote links in scientific research, strengthen efforts to implement the EU-Egypt Agreement on Scientific and Technological cooperation, strengthen links between higher research institutes and education institutions.

A research and innovation bilateral programme for an amount of EUR 11 million was launched in 2006 within the frame of the MEDA Programme⁸. This programme should contribute to developing an innovation culture for the benefit of the Egyptian industry and to supporting the progressive move of the economy from low to medium technology. This will

¹ Additional information available at <http://www.era-can.ca/>

² Additional information available at <http://www.ideal-ist.net/>

³ Document available at http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/EU-Canada_statement-I.pdf

⁴ Additional information available at

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/gov_relations/canada_regul_coop_dialogue/eu_can_reg_dialogue.htm

⁵ Document available at http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/EU-Canada_statement-I.pdf

⁶ Additional information available at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index.htm

⁷ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action_plans/egypt_enp_ap_final_en.pdf

⁸ Additional information available at

http://www.delegy.ec.europa.eu/en/EU_EGYPT_Cooperation/EC_Bilateral_Cooperation_new.asp

include the strengthening of linkages between research institutions and industry, the supporting of progressive integration of Egypt into the European Research Area and the boosting of Egypt's invention and innovation efforts.

An agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and Egypt was signed in June 2005. The purpose of this agreement is to reinforce the cooperation between Europe and Egypt in the field of Science and Technology mainly through the participation to the Framework Programmes.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Support the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres (incl. thematic contact points),
- Help Egyptian researchers foster partnerships with EU researchers in view of preparing FP7 proposals,
- Increase the participation of Egypt in the People Programme by helping the development of mobility centres and of a mobility portal,
- Train research administrators in the management of international contracts in the research area.
- Develop synergies and complementarities with the bilateral MEDA programme on research and innovation.

7.2.4 Area: Japan: FP7-INCO-2009-2.4

The EU and Japan recognise that S&T are key elements for enhancing competitiveness as well as for a sustainable economic and social development. They put strong emphasis on policies to promote and support research and innovation.

Developing relations between the EU and Japan in the field of S&T is important, as the EU and Japan can together contribute to face global challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation and energy security and efficiency.

EU-Japan collaboration has not so far fully reflected the huge R&D potential of these two major players in the world. The number of European entities and researchers participating in Japanese research projects also remains modest. These facts call for EU-Japan cooperation in research and development to grow in vigour and stature which in turn would give their relationship a new dimension.

The bilateral EU-Japan relationship is anchored mainly in the Joint Declaration of 1991, the Action Plan for EU-Japan Cooperation of 2001, and the Joint Declaration following the 16th EU-Japan Summit in Berlin in 2007.

The 2007 Joint Declaration renewed the commitment of EU and Japan to intensify S&T cooperation, with the aim to create the best possible framework conditions for research and innovation. This goal is enshrined by the paper entitled "Promoting Research and Innovation towards Prosperity" adopted by the Summit leaders. Aside of a number of sectoral initiatives in several thematic areas, a strong focus is put on the promotion of cooperation in research as an upstream source of innovations, on the protection and enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, on the support and cooperation with the private sector, business initiatives, and academia, and on developing an innovation-friendly environment. In addition, negotiations are currently on-going to conclude a Science and Technology agreement with Japan in order

to reinforce the cooperation in this area mainly through the participation to the Framework Programmes.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Organise events, workshops and seminars aimed at identifying S&T priorities of mutual interest and at setting up contacts for partnerships;
- Identify best practices, promoting their use both in the private and the public sector;
- Addressing the issues affecting the participation of Japanese organisations to the Framework Programme, in particular in relation to administrative matters (legal and contractual aspects including protection and exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights);
- Seek synergies and complementarities with initiatives such as the ERA-LINK network.

7.2.5 Area: Jordan: FP7-INCO-2009-2.5

The EU's proximity policy towards the Mediterranean region is governed by the global and comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched at the 1995 Barcelona Conference, between the European Union and its Mediterranean Partners (hence called the Barcelona Process¹). The current agenda of EU-Jordan relations is spelled out in an Action Plan² under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The Action Plan stresses the need to accelerate the integration of Jordan into the European Research Area and the Community Framework Programme by putting into place a mutual information systems as well as a network of national contact points for the Framework programme and connecting the Research, Development and Innovation operators.

A research and innovation programme for an amount of EUR 5 million has been identified in the National Indicative Programme 2005-2006³. The purpose of this Support to Research & Technological Development & Innovation Initiatives and Strategies in Jordan (SRTD) is to increase the participation of Jordan's Research & Technological Development and Innovation sectors to Jordan's economic growth. The programme includes the development of the scientific and technological capacity in Jordan with a focus on the use of RTD results by the industrial and SME sector.

A Council decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an S&T agreement between Jordan and the European Community should be adopted in April 2008. The purpose of this agreement is to reinforce the cooperation between Europe and Jordan in the field of Science and Technology mainly through the participation to the Framework Programmes.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Support the national network of FP7 contact points in universities and research centres (incl. thematic contact points),
- Develop an S&T observatory on EU-Jordan cooperation,

¹ Additional information available at http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euomed/index.htm

² Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/action_plans/jordan_enp_ap_final_en.pdf

³ Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/deljor/content/National_Indicative_Programme.pdf

- Help Jordanian researchers foster partnerships with EU researchers in view of preparing FP7 proposals,
- Increase the participation of Jordan in the People Programme,
- Train research administrators in the management of international contracts in the research area.
- Develop synergies and complementarities with the SRTD programme.

7.2.6 Area: United States of America: FP7-INCO-2009-2.6

The EU and the US share a close economic relation and a global responsibility for providing leadership in addressing world concerns such as environment, energy, and health.

The 1998 EU–US Science and Technology agreement, which was renewed in 2004, established a formal basis for cooperation in the priority areas of environment, metrology, materials science (including nanotechnology), non-nuclear and renewable energy. Its programmed renewal should later also include space and security research. Science and Technology appears therefore as an important component of the EU-US bilateral cooperation.

As they advance towards the same goal of establishing knowledge-based economies spelled out in the EU “Lisbon Strategy” and the US “American Competitiveness Initiative”, the EU and the US need to cooperate more closely. A stepped-up effort is needed in jointly tackling global issues, in boosting cooperative and frontier research in strategic areas of mutual interest, in developing large research infrastructures and in promoting transatlantic mobility of scientists.

Apart from the aforementioned proposed activities, specific emphasis should be put on the following:

- Addressing the existing issues affecting the participation of US organisations to the Framework Programme, in particular in relation to administrative matters (legal and contractual aspects including protection and exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights);
- Organising transatlantic workshops in order to exchange best practices and to explore innovative ways of intensified S&T cooperation by using a multidisciplinary, cross-cutting approach, in close coordination with other dimensions of external relations (e.g. transatlantic mobility, science and society)
- Supporting an S&T observatory on EU-US cooperation and intensifying the information flow of transatlantic research opportunities;
- Studying possibilities of cooperation in addressing global challenges;

The proposal should seek synergies and make use of on-going initiatives such as the ERA-LINK network in particular with respect to awareness-raising and promotion activities.

Expected impact

The overall aim of these actions is to improve S&T cooperation between Europe and targeted third countries by providing access to information and by identifying priorities and the best partners for research. It is expected that this translates into a measurable increase of effective collaborations as well as less readily measurable improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and partner countries with the S&T agreements.

Activity 7.3 Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T cooperation

This Activity will not be covered in the work programme 2009.

Activity 7.4 Supporting the trans-national cooperation among NCPs (FP7-INCO-2009-4, INCO-NCP)

Technical content/scope

The aim of this Activity is to reinforce the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for the 7th Framework Programme under Activities of International Cooperation by promoting trans-national cooperation. The action will focus on identifying and sharing good practices. This may entail various mechanisms such as benchmarking, joint workshops, training, and twinning schemes. Practical initiatives to benefit cross-border audiences may also be included, such as trans-national brokerage events. The specific approach should be adapted to the nature of the theme and to the capacities and priorities of the NCPs concerned.

Proposed activities

The proposed action shall build upon previous experience and achievements obtained during the first phase of the INCO NCP network (project INCONTACT). The proposal should address the following activities:

Enhancing cooperation of INCO NCP:

Objective: to improve cooperation of INCO NCPs. An annual meeting/conference should be organised for all the INCO NCPs and FP7 contact points. The project should cover the travelling costs of all the NCPs and FP7 contact points.

Deliverables/tasks:

- Organisation of annual NCP meetings/conferences in host European countries in cooperation with DG RTD. Besides the regular information delivered by the Commission services, FP7 contact points from third countries should have the opportunity to present dynamic research activities in their countries.
- Twinning Scheme: A twinning scheme should be implemented between European NCPs and FP7 contact points on a voluntary basis.

Increasing the visibility of the Framework Programme in third countries:

Objective: to increase third countries awareness on FP7, by highlighting the opportunities available to them and by focussing on the procedures to be followed for successful participation.

Deliverables/tasks:

- Organisation of FP7 info days in countries and regions not sufficiently covered by the previous INCONTACT project.

Expanding the NCP network – Networking with Thematic NCPs:

Objective: to enhance the interaction/cooperation with the thematic NCP networks, but also to take actions for the further development of the INCO network by fostering and including new members.

Deliverables/tasks:

- Building permanent links with all the thematic NCP networks for following the opportunities for third countries and promoting third country participation.
- Providing support to newly appointed FP7 contact points in third countries.

Developing good practices:

Objective: to increase the INCO NCPs effectiveness by identifying, adapting and further exploiting techniques and good working practices that contribute to enhanced performance.

Deliverables/tasks:

- Benchmarking of NCP activities
- The e-handbook (following the pre-established Wikipedia format) prepared during the INCONTACT project shall be enriched and continuously updated according to the INCO NCP needs.
- Development of training material. A set of training material should be developed by experienced NCPs focusing on successful proposal submission, proposal evaluation, IPR, etc

Funding Scheme

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Action' (coordinating action). The indicative budget for the call is EUR 2.00 million. It is expected that the project should last for a maximum of 4 years, and should in any case finish by the end of the 7th Framework Programme.

Participants

The participation to this action is restricted to the NCPs, who have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities as well as to FP7 contact points from third countries, who have been officially appointed by the national authorities of the so-called third countries as national coordinators or as INCO contact points¹. Any other participants from the Member States, Associated Countries and third countries are ineligible.

The proposal is expected to include a large but not extensive number of NCPs, officially appointed by the relevant national authorities in order to secure effective project management.

¹ On 1st Feb 2008, 39 FP7 contact points from third countries have been appointed as national coordinators and 27 FP7 contact points have been appointed as INCO contact points. They cover 31 different countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, New Zealand, China, Korea, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, South Africa, Tunisia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

However, the activities and deliverables of the project will be made available to all the INCO NCPs. The action may also involve FP7 contact points from third countries.

All participating NCPs and FP7 contact points have to demonstrate adequately their commitment to contribute to specific tasks, and participate to specific events. The Commission expects to receive a single proposal under this heading.

Expected Impact

- An improved NCP service across Europe, therefore increasing overall awareness on FP7, helping simplify access to FP7 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of submitted proposals.
- A more consistent and consistent level of NCP support services across Europe.
- An increased participation of organisations from third countries, alongside European organisations, in line with the principle of mutual benefit.

Activity 7.5 Supporting the EU access to third country programmes (FP7-INCO-2009-5, ACCESS4EU)

Technical content/scope

This Activity aims at increasing the awareness and dissemination in the Member States and Associated Countries of access opportunities for European researchers and research organisations in national research and/or innovation programmes managed by third countries. The mobility programmes will not be covered by this Activity since they are better addressed through the bilateral cooperation agreements between the Member States and the third countries as well as through the People Programme of the Framework Programme. The purpose of this Activity is to help develop the reciprocity aspect of the S&T agreements by identifying the programme open to EU researchers and promote their participation. The projects are supposed to provide outputs useful inter alia in the context of the Joint Committee meetings of the S&T agreements.

The proposals must target only one of the following countries:

- Australia,
- Brazil,
- Canada,
- China,
- India,
- Japan,
- Mexico,
- New Zealand,
- Russia,
- South Africa,
- South Korea,
- United States of America.

The research and/or innovation programmes to be covered by the proposal must not be restricted to one thematic area but should cover the main research programmes of the countries concerned so as to benefit to the largest European scientific communities.

The link with the activities carried under the S&T cooperation agreements is essential as well as the interaction with existing national or European networks such as ERA-LINK or ongoing international cooperation ERA-NET projects.

Proposed activities

The proposals should focus on the following complementary activities:

- Mapping of the access opportunities in the target countries. For that purpose, data will be collected from the national agencies and programmes of the target country. The rules of participation and funding of European organisations and researchers as well as the potential obstacles to their participation will be analysed. The proposals should also include a survey of the bilateral cooperation agreements and programmes between the Member States and/or Associated Countries and the target country and analyse in particular their reciprocity conditions.

- Dissemination of the results to European research organisations and multipliers. The proposals should develop the most appropriate methodology for increasing the awareness on access opportunities in the target country to the European research community so as to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of European organisations in the programmes managed by the target country. This will be done through information and awareness activities in the Member States and/or Associated Countries as well as through the development and regular updating of dedicated interactive web pages.
- Monitoring of the participation of researchers from the Member States and Associated Countries to the programmes managed by the target country.
- Provide a feedback for use by the Commission in the context of the Joint Committee meetings of the S&T agreements and make appropriate recommendation to ensure matching reciprocity from the target country.

Funding Scheme

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Action' (supporting action). It is expected that the Community contribution for these activities could be up to EUR 0.5 million per proposal for two to three years, depending on the number and complexity of the programmes involved.

Participants

Preference will be given to proposals involving the participation of research organisations, universities, national/regional agencies and/or industrial organisations of the Member States and/or Associated Countries. It is expected that several such organisations could be involved in the proposals to ensure the widest dissemination both geographically and thematically of the access opportunities to European researchers. The participation of organisations from the target country is considered essential for collecting and analysing the information necessary for mapping the access opportunities in the third countries. In that context, the funding of participants from industrialised countries would be allowed for this Activity if it is considered essential for the success of the proposals.

Area open to this call

There is only one Area for this call. It is however important to have as many countries covered under the call. For this reason, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied. Only one project per target country of the Activity 7.5 of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked proposal for a given target country will be considered for funding, subject to the result of the evaluation and availability of the 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.

Expected Impact

The overall aim of these actions is to increase S&T cooperation between Europe and targeted third countries by identifying access opportunities to European researchers in research programmes managed by third countries. It is expected that this translates into a measurable increase of effective collaborations of European research organisations in third countries programmes as well as less readily measurable improvement of mutual understanding of the respective research systems in Europe and third countries with S&T agreements.

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

1. Call title: Activities of International Cooperation - INCO-NET

- **Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2009-1**
- **Date of publication¹: 03 September 2008**
- **Deadline²: 12 January 2009, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time**
- **Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 7.90 MILLION**

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
7.1.Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies		
7.1.1 Arabic Gulf Countries region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 2.00 million
7.1.2 Caribbean region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 1.50 million
7.1.3 Central America region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 1.50 million
7.1.4 Pacific region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 1.40 million
7.1.5 South Caucasus and Central Asia region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 1.50 million

Eligibility conditions

The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme. The additional eligibility criteria that apply to this call are:

- Proposals addressing a specific research area will be declared ineligible.
- The proposals must target only one single Area covered by the call.

¹ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² At the time of the publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 7.90 million is given to this call budget from the 2009 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - 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.

Minimum number of participants¹ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no two of which are established in the same MS or AC.

Evaluation procedure:

- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Preference will be given to INCO-NET actions involving the participation of a significant number of third countries of the region targeted by the INCO-NET action. A high coverage of the region will be considered essential to guarantee the success of these actions.

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2009. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2009.

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.

¹ 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.

2. Call title: Activities of International Cooperation BILAT

- **Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2009-2**
- **Date of publication¹: 03 September 2008**
- **Deadline²: 12 January 2009, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time**
- **Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 3.00 MILLION**

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
7.2. Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships		
7.2.1 Argentina	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million
7.2.2 Canada	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million
7.2.3 Egypt	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million
7.2.4 Japan	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million
7.2.5 Jordan	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million
7.2.6 USA	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 0.50 million

Eligibility conditions

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme. The additional eligibility criteria that apply to this call are:

- Each proposal must target only one single Area covered by the call.
- The consortium must include participants from the country that is aimed at in the proposal

Minimum number of participants¹ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

¹ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² At the time of the publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 3 million is given to this call budget from the 2009 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ - 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.

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

Evaluation procedure:

- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The participation of the third country authorities responsible for the follow-up of the S&T cooperation agreement or any organisation, which has received the necessary mandate from the national authorities, is considered essential for the project and will be reflected in the evaluation.
- For proposals targeting industrialised countries, matching funds from the target country would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.
- The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals would be welcomed and this will be reflected in the evaluation.

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2009. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiations for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2009.

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.

¹ 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.

3. Call title: Trans-national cooperation among NCPs - INCO-NCP

- **Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2009-4**
- **Date of publication¹: 03 September 2008**
- **Deadline²: 12 January 2009, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time**
- **Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 2.00 MILLION**

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes
7.4. Reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCP) under the activities of International Cooperation by promoting trans-national cooperation (INCO-NCP)	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)

Eligibility conditions

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme. The additional eligibility criteria that apply to this call are:

- The participation to this action is restricted to the NCPs, who have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities as well as to FP7 contact points from third countries, who have been officially appointed by the national authorities of the so-called third countries as national coordinators or as INCO contact points. Any other participants from the Member States, Associated Countries and third countries are ineligible.

Minimum number of participants⁵ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no two of which are established in the same MS or AC.

¹ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² At the time of the publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 2 million is given to this call budget from the 2009 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

Evaluation procedure:

- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2009. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiations for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2009.

Consortia agreements

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the projects.

Forms of grants:

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

4. Call title: Activities of International Cooperation - ACCESS4EU

- **Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2009-5**
- **Date of publication¹: 03 September 2008**
- **Deadline²: 12 January 2009, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time**
- **Indicative budget^{3,4}: EUR 5.00 MILLION**

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes
7.5. Supporting the EU access to third country programmes (ACCESS4EU)	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)

Eligibility conditions

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme. The additional eligibility criteria that apply to this call are:

- The proposals must target only one of the following countries:
 - Australia,
 - Brazil,
 - Canada,
 - China,
 - India
 - Japan,
 - Mexico,
 - New Zealand,
 - Russia,
 - South Africa,
 - South Korea,
 - United States of America.
- The research and/or innovation programmes to be covered by the proposal must not be restricted to one thematic area but should cover the main research programmes of the countries concerned so as to benefit to the largest European scientific communities.
- The mobility programmes will not be covered by this call.

¹ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication

² At the time of the publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³ An amount of EUR 5 million is given to this call budget from the 2009 budget. This is under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁴ 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.

Minimum number of participants¹ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

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

Evaluation procedure:

- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Preference will be given to proposals involving the participation of research organisations, universities, national/regional agencies and/or industrial organisations of the Member States and/or Associated Countries.
- The participation of organisations from the target country is considered essential for collecting and analysing the information necessary for mapping the access opportunities in the third countries.

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2009. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2009.

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.

¹ 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.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

Impact of the cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement

The objective is to perform an analysis of the impact of cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement, which are up for renewal. The countries targeted in 2009 will be Mexico and Morocco. This activity will involve one study for each targeted country, implemented through expert contracts to be launched in the 1st quarter 2009.

The evaluation should comprise an in-depth desk research on the achievements and scope of the S&T agreements as well as on-site visit in the targeted country.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action, expert contracts¹, indicative budget EUR 0.15 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched by the middle of 2009

Development of future policy options for international cooperation

i) Study for assessing the impact of the 'ERA policy framework' for S&T International Cooperation:

This study should quantify and assess the impact of the implementation measures for international cooperation outlined in particular in the Commission Communication on the ERA policy framework for S&T International Cooperation (due to be adopted in July 2008) so as to provide inputs for the 2010 ERA progress report. It should also provide analysis and recommendations to refine the EC research initiatives (including future Framework Programmes) and evaluate progress towards the implementation of the wider opening of the ERA.

Funding scheme: call for tender² (service contract), indicative budget EUR 0.10 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched by the middle of 2009

ii) Extension of the ERAWATCH web based service on third countries:

ERAWATCH is an information and intelligence system on national and/or regional research policies. The aim of ERAWATCH is to provide a stable and long term source of information

¹ In accordance with Article 14(c), 17 and 27(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 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).

² In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 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).

and analysis to support evidence-based policy-making. ERAWATCH is developed through a partnership between the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies – IPTS).

The proposed action will extend the ERAWATCH web based service through the addition of new 3rd country profiles (e.g. Argentina, Chile, Mexico, South Africa and Algeria), so as to ensure coverage of the countries with which the EC has or may be about to have an S&T Agreement. It will also cover the maintenance of the existing 3rd country profiles including analytical work needed and possible additional country profiles (e.g. countries from South East Asia). The proposed action is a complementary initiative to the Area 6.1.1. of the 'Support to the Coherent Development of Research Policies' part of the Capacities work programme.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action – grant to a named beneficiary: European Commission Joint Research Centre (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies), budget EUR 0.30 million.

Indicative timeframe: to be launched by the middle of 2009

iii) Assessment of the potential for regional S&T agreements:

This study will assess the operational requirements, including the governance issues, organisation, representation and effectiveness of regional umbrella bodies for the introduction of regional S&T cooperation agreements so as to provide effective policy dialogue structures with third countries. The study will also identify for the targeted regions e.g. ASEAN the areas of strengths in research and technological developments.

Funding scheme: call for tender¹ (service contract), indicative budget EUR 0.10 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched by the middle of 2009

¹ In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 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).

Indicative budget for the Activities of International Cooperation of the 2009 Work Programme¹

	Total (EUR million)
Call FP7-INCO-2009-1 (INCO-NET)	7.90
Call FP7-INCO-2009-2 (BILAT)	3.00
Call FP7-INCO-2009-4 (INCO-NCP)	2.00
Call FP7-INCO-2009-5 (ACCESS4EU)	5.00
Other actions	0.65
Evaluation, monitoring and reviewers	0.16
Estimated total budget allocation	18.71

Budget Figures in This Work Programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Following the evaluation of proposals, the final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals 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.

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.

¹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

V INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS

While the work programme 2009 will complete the activities initiated in the work programme 2007-2008, the work programme 2010, building on the outcomes of the INCO-NET and BILAT projects, will help implement the strategy for international cooperation in S&T, which should be adopted in the middle of 2008. Emphasis should also be put on the coordination of national policies and programmes of the Member States and Associated Countries on a voluntary basis.