

WORK PROGRAMME 2010

COOPERATION

ANNEX 4

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

(European Commission C(2009) 5893 of 29 July 2009)

Annex 4 General Activities

In this annex, the activities which are funded across the Programme are presented. These activities concern in particular the following:

Dissemination, knowledge transfer and broader engagement

1. The CORDIS services

Co-ordination of non-Community research programmes

2. The ERA-NET scheme
3. Research organisations in the EU
4. Strengthened coordination with EUREKA
5. Scientific and technological cooperation activities carried out in COST

Risk-Sharing Finance Facility

6. Contribution to the European Investment Bank (EIB) – Risk Sharing Finance Facility

A4.1 THE CORDIS SERVICES

CORDIS, the 'Community Research and Development Information Service', is a website which provides information for the research community on the latest news, progress, results and initiatives of the 7th and previous Framework Programmes and other relevant research initiatives in the European Research Area. Together with the Participant Portal, and the Europa website CORDIS forms an information service for the whole research community and all those interested in EU funded research and development activities. CORDIS is available at: <http://cordis.europa.eu>

Priority areas are identified for CORDIS activities in 2010:

- the continuity and easy availability to users of the existing CORDIS services, in particular the projects service, the publication of calls for proposals, thematic websites and information pages;
- editorial integration with the Europa website;
- integration with the Participant Portal, the entry point for participants to interact with the Research Directorates-General of the European Commission;
- the dissemination and exploitation of research results;
- the use of publications as an important vehicle in promoting Framework Programme projects and their outcomes;
- improvement of the ergonomics and user-friendliness of the CORDIS website;
- further improvement of the search facility, including its integration with Europa and other research thematic web sites;
- enhancement of the CORDIS Partners Service.

CORDIS activities will also include:

- **The collection of research results**
 - Putting in place and applying appropriate collection mechanisms to ensure CORDIS gathers all available research results;
- **The dissemination of research results**
 - Processing, tagging and clustering research results to ensure their efficient dissemination and easy retrieval by interested parties;
 - Rewriting texts for target audiences, highlighting achievements and promoting the take up and understanding of research results, including the understanding of research results by the citizen;
 - Publishing of news closely related to research results (e.g. on events, outcomes of projects, publications etc.);
 - Improving the tools for promoting and sharing success stories and encouraging their submission by beneficiaries;
 - Improving multilingual aspects of the CORDIS website, to facilitate the exploitation and take-up of research results.
- **The exploitation of research results**
 - Developing partnerships with thematic, national and regional entities active in the field of research for wider information sharing and dissemination of FP funded research results;
 - Promoting partnerships with relevant information services dealing with the dissemination and exploitation of research and innovation results and activities;
 - Producing posters, flyers and factsheets relating to the exploitation and take-up of research results.

In addition, throughout 2010, work will continue in reorganising and archiving current content on the CORDIS website. Thus improving the ergonomics and user-friendliness of the CORDIS website will allow for better integration with the Europa website and the Participant Portal; furthermore, the deletion of obsolete and/or out of date information will ensure a user-friendly CORDIS service. The Commission will monitor the services jointly provided by the research pages on Europa, the Participant Portal and CORDIS in order to avoid duplication.

Awareness and marketing activities will be carried out in close cooperation with the Participant Portal and the Research Directorates General.

The CORDIS website will continue to comply with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standards, in particular those relating to the web accessibility initiative (WAI).

The budget foreseen for these activities in 2010 is EUR 7.9 million.

The CORDIS website is managed through the administrative arrangements between the research Directorates General and the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (OPOCE).

A4.2 THE ERA-NET SCHEME

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes through two specific actions:

- 'ERA-NET actions' - which provide a framework for actors implementing public research programmes to coordinate their activities. This will include support for new ERA-NETs as well as for the broadening and deepening of the scope of existing ERA-NETs, e.g. by extending their partnership, as well as opening mutually their programmes;
- 'ERA-NET Plus actions'- which, *in a limited number of cases*, can provide additional EU financial support to facilitate joint calls for proposals between national and/or regional programmes.

Under the ERA-NET scheme, national and regional authorities identify research programmes they wish to coordinate or open up mutually. The participants in these actions are therefore programme 'owners' (typically ministries or regional authorities defining research programmes) or programme 'managers' (such as research councils or other *research funding* agencies managing research programmes).

The networking and mutual opening of research programmes require a progressive approach. The ERA-NET scheme therefore has a long-term perspective and it is flexible in order to allow for the different ways in which public research funding is organised in different Member States and Associated Countries.

A4.2.1 Approach

As a result of the ERA-NET scheme, progress has been made in reducing fragmentation across the European Research Area (ERA). Organisations from all Member States and Associated Countries participate actively in the scheme:

- Since the introduction of the scheme in FP6, more than 100 ERA-NET actions have been funded (through Coordination Actions), involving hundreds of national research programmes¹.
- These ERA-NET actions cover a wide range of research fields such as transport, energy, environment, industrial technologies, plant and human health, astrophysics and social sciences. In addition, several ERA-NET actions have been set up to address more horizontal topics such as international cooperation, SMEs, metrology or the promotion of gender balance in research. For the full list of projects, please refer to: <http://cordis.europa.eu/coordination/projects.htm>
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/home_en.html

¹ ERA-NET actions cover both national and regional research programmes. To avoid repetition, the term 'national research programme' will be used in this section to refer to both national and regional research programmes.

Under FP7, the ERA-NET scheme is continued and reinforced:

- New ERA-NET actions are supported.
- FP6 ERA-NET actions may re-apply to receive Commission support to extend and/or reinforce their integration.
- A new module, called 'ERA-NET Plus', facilitates the organisation of joint calls between national research programmes by 'topping-up' joint trans-national funding with Community funding.

In contrast to FP6, the ERA-NET scheme is no longer a 'stand-alone' action in FP7, but an implementation tool available to the Themes of the Cooperation specific programme and to the Parts of the Capacities Programme².

A4.2.2 Content of the *FP7-ERANET-2010-RTD* Call

For 2010, the ERA-NET scheme will be mainly implemented through a coordinated call for proposals, open for strategically important activities and topics explicitly specified in this work programme at the level of the various Themes, which will independently provide the required funding (*please refer to the Call Fiche for details*).

The call will concern also centrally-managed Horizontal Support Actions, looking at the optimization of the ERA-NET scheme and providing assistance to the EU initiative for the Joint Programming in Research³.

However, ERA-NET topics might be present also in other calls, distinct from the present one. In order to provide a complete reference on the way in which the scheme will be implemented in 2010, a list of additional subjects open for ERA-NETs is provided in appendix to the call fiche.

A4.2.2.1 Activity: ERA-NET actions

Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions (coordinating action)

The aim of ERA-NET actions is to network research programmes carried out at national or regional level, with a view to their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities.

"Research programmes carried out at national or regional level" refers to entire research programmes, parts of such programmes or similar initiatives. Such programmes shall have all of the following characteristics:

² Since both the Cooperation and the Capacities Specific Programmes foresee the use of ERA-NET / ERA-NET Plus, 'Cooperation themes' will be used in this Work Programme to cover themes in the Cooperation and the Parts of the Capacities Specific Programmes.

³ See Commission Communication "Towards Joint Programming in Research", COM(2008)468 of 16 July 2008

- a) Be strategically planned (i.e. be composed of a number of research projects focused on a defined subject area or set of problems, that are scheduled to run for a set period of time and that have a co-ordinated management).
- b) Be carried out at national or regional level.
- c) Be either financed or managed directly by national or regional public bodies, or by structures (e.g. agencies) closely related to, or mandated by, public authorities.

Eligibility

The minimum number of participants in an ERA-NET consortium is **3 independent legal entities** which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes. **Each of these must be established in a different Member State or Associated Country.**

Partners for ERA-NET actions eligible to satisfy the above condition are:

- Programme owners: typically national ministries/regional authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- Programme 'managers' (such as research councils or funding agencies) or other national or regional organisations that *implement* research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners.
- Programme owners (typically national ministries/regional authorities) which do not have a running or fully fledged research programme at the moment of submitting an ERA-NET proposal, but which are planning, and have committed, to set up such a programme, are also eligible if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination. As such, countries or regions which have less diverse research programmes (in particular new Member States and candidate Associated Countries) will find their involvement in the ERA-NET scheme greatly facilitated.

Please note that research organisations or universities which are not programme owners or managers are not eligible partners for ERA-NET actions.

In addition, other private legal entities (e.g. charities) which manage research programmes may enter the consortium if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination.

Participants are encouraged, as appropriate, to adopt a global approach in their proposals, involving also non-European research programmes in the activities undertaken by ERA-NET actions.

Sole participants (as referred to in Article 10 of the Rules for Participation) may be eligible if the above-mentioned specific criteria for eligible ERA-NET partners are respected. A sole participant shall explicitly indicate which of its 'members' forming a sole legal entity is either a programme owner or programme manager in the proposed action and indicate for these members, the respective national/regional programmes which are at the disposal of the proposed ERA-NET action.

Technical content/scope

ERA-NET actions cover the networking of national research programmes on selected topics of science and technology which are identified in the annual work programmes of the Cooperation Themes and the relevant parts of the Capacities Programme.

The networking of programmes may involve several levels of cooperation and coordination, depending on the degree of maturity of the network. The use of the ERA-NET scheme should make this evolution possible and should adopt a step-by-step approach.

In this respect, a four-step approach covering the following activities could be envisaged:

- 1) Information exchange
- 2) Definition and preparation of joint activities
- 3) Implementation of joint activities
- 4) Funding of joint trans-national research.

ERA-NET actions should be ambitious and should aim to reach step 4. They should result in concrete progress towards the opening up of, or cooperation between, the participating research programmes. The cooperation should be sustainable beyond the duration of the ERA-NET action itself.

Activities funded

The Community contribution shall take the form of a grant consisting of a reimbursement of the eligible costs related to the action.

Activities eligible for funding correspond to the four steps identified in the *'technical content/scope'* section above. More specifically, these include:

(i) Information exchange

This step aims to gather information on the structure and programmes covered by each national research system. It could also improve communication, develop better reciprocal knowledge and promote trust-building among programme owners or managers in similar scientific and technological areas through a mutual learning process, and the systematic exchange of information and good practices.

(ii) Definition and preparation of joint activities

This key part of the action should analyse the information gathered in step 1 and identify the type of cooperation and the areas which will be addressed.

It should result in an **Action plan**, which sets out common strategic issues and prepares for a concrete implementation of joint activities.

(iii) Implementation of joint activities

Experience from FP6 has shown that much of the added value in co-ordinating national programmes is gained by trying to implement joint activities, even if in a pilot form.

ERA-NET actions are therefore encouraged to develop and implement, from an early stage in the project, common, joint, strategic activities such as:

- Clustering of nationally-funded research projects, to develop complementarities or mutual reinforcement of ongoing nationally-funded research programmes.
- Multinational project evaluation procedures (common evaluation criteria and methods of implementation). This could contribute in the long-term to the integration of evaluation practices across national research systems (covering proposal, project and programme evaluation).
- Schemes for joint training activities, such as co-supervised theses and international PhD schemes, to help support a wider cooperation in research.
- Schemes for the mutual opening of facilities or laboratories in one country for scientists from another.
- Converging schemes for programme monitoring and evaluation, including joint monitoring or evaluation.
- Schemes for personnel exchange, in the context of the above activities.
- Specific cooperation agreements or arrangements between participating programmes. These would prepare the ground for further trans-national research programmes and ensure that legal barriers are removed.

(iv) Funding of joint trans-national research

The strongest form of programme networking implies the funding and implementation of a joint programme of trans-national research projects or actions. This is likely to involve the setting-up of a common strategy, a joint work programme, common (mutually open) or joint calls for proposals or tenders, a common trans-national evaluation system and a common plan for dissemination of results or experiences. In such schemes, projects funded out of a common or joint call for proposals should involve *at least two teams from two different countries*.

In this step, other ways of implementing joint research actions could also be developed or explored. For example, a complex or very ambitious research agenda could be divided in various parts, which are each addressed through differentiated national calls. Results would then be shared.

Expected Impact

The ERA-NET scheme aims to reduce the fragmentation of the European Research Area by increasing coordination between national research programmes across the EU Member States and Associated Countries.

ERA-NET actions allow Member States and Associated Countries to avoid overlap between their programmes and to develop expertise from mutual learning.

In general, ERA-NET actions should not cover very limited research areas. They should not overlap with other ongoing ERA-NET actions or create further fragmentation. Complementarities to, or coordination with, FP7 activities should be ensured where possible.

ERA-NET actions will result in concrete cooperation between research programmes, such as their networking, their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint programmes and activities.

The level of ERA-NET actions will depend on their previous experience:

- ERA-NETs launched under FP6 wishing to submit a new proposal under FP7 must include a strong coordination action, directly focusing on steps 3 and 4. As such, these proposals shall aim to broaden the partnership and/or deepen the coordination between the relevant national programmes in the concerned field. In particular, a global approach including non-European research programmes is encouraged.
- New ERA-NET actions, which address topics that were not covered in FP6, should address steps 1 to 3 as a minimum, but are encouraged to aim at the 'four step approach' described above.

The scheme will also enable national or regional systems to collectively take on tasks that they would not have been able to tackle independently.

ERA-NET actions are expected to have a lasting impact. The cooperation developed should provide reliable indications that it could continue beyond the Community funding. Lessons learned and knowledge gathered should be disseminated in the European Research Area.

In addition to the general impact described above, more specific expected benefits of ERA-NET actions include:

- Achieving critical mass, to ensure the better use of scarce resources.
- Joining forces to provide common answers to common research problems.
- Addressing global issues, common to many EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- Addressing specific geographical issues, common to a number of EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- Developing common governance principles (e.g. with respect to ethics, good practices).
- Bring together national programmes which deal with cooperation with third countries, and enable them to speak with a 'single voice'.
- Adopt a global approach, including third-country research programmes, to the activities covered by ERA-NET actions.

A4.2.2.2 Activity: ERA-NET PLUS actions

Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions (coordinating action)

Under ERA-NET Plus actions, the Commission provides an incentive to the organisation of joint calls between national or regional research programmes by 'topping-up' joint trans-national funding with Community funding. These joint calls will entail the award of grants to third parties participating in calls for proposals launched under the ERA-NET Plus actions.

These actions require programme owners or programme managers **from at least 5 different Member States or Associated Countries** to plan a single joint call with a clear financial commitment from the participating national or regional research programmes.

Activities funded

The Community will top up the total of the national contributions to the joint call with additional funding for RTD activities. The Community contribution will be limited to a maximum of 33% of the total contributions to the joint call budget. The combined national/regional and Community contributions to the joint calls have to reach **at least EUR 5 million**.

The Community contribution shall take the form of a grant. This grant will combine the reimbursement of eligible costs covering the activities linked to the preparation and coordination of the joint call⁴, and the reimbursement of eligible costs as an agreed proportional contribution to the national pooling of funds (for activities relating to the funding of selected trans-national projects, maximum 33%).

In accordance with the Decisions concerning the 7th Framework Programme⁵ and the 'Cooperation' Specific Programme⁶, the provisions of Article 120(2) of the Council Regulation on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁷ and Article 184a of the Commission Regulation laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities,⁸ shall not be applicable with regard to the financial support provided by the participants in the ERA-NET Plus actions to third parties participating in projects selected following calls for proposals launched under these actions.

The total duration of a given ERA-NET Plus action and of the resulting projects should normally **not exceed 5 years**.

⁴ No further supporting costs will be eligible once a 'selection decision' has been taken by the consortium as a result of the joint call.

⁵ OJ L 412, 30.12.2006, p. 1 Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006

⁶ OJ L 400, 30.12.2006, p. 86

⁷ Council Regulation No. 1605/2002 of 25.6.2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L248, 16.09.2002, p1).

⁸ Commission Regulation No, 2342/2002 of 23.12.2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No. 1605/2002 (OJ L357, 31.12.2002, p1).

Specific Eligibility criteria for ERA-NET Plus actions

ERA-NET Plus proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A single joint call should be planned with a clear financial commitment from the participating national or regional programmes⁹.
- Eligible participants are the same as for ERA-NET actions with the exception that programme owners, which do not have yet a running or fully fledged research programme at the moment of submitting a proposal, are not eligible for ERA-NET Plus actions. Furthermore, ***a consortium must include programme owners or programme managers from at least 5 different Member States or Associated Countries.***
- Beyond the minimum of 5 programme owners or managers, the same types of additional participants foreseen for ERA-NET actions are eligible.
- The total planned budget of ***the joint call shall have a minimum financial volume of EUR 5 million.***
- A common peer review mechanism for evaluating the proposals submitted to the joint call shall be foreseen.
- Each project financed out of the joint call shall be trans-national (i.e. minimum of two partners from different countries).
- A fixed common set of general evaluation/selection criteria (excellence, European added value, etc.) should be part of the common evaluation criteria of the joint call organised by the national programmes.

Detailed rules for participation in the funded trans-national projects shall be defined by the call organisers themselves (e.g. participating national or regional programmes).

Expected Impact

ERA-NET Plus actions aim to facilitate the launching of joint calls for proposals between EU Member States or Associated Countries, based on their European added value. In special cases, they may also facilitate the transition of an ERA-NET towards an Article 169 initiative, where the criteria for the latter are met.

The EU added value will be a critical criterion to evaluate the impact of ERA-NET Plus actions and will depend on the area/topic covered by the research programmes participating in the joint call. Therefore, the following criteria should help to identify the impact of ERA-NET Plus actions offering best prospects for sufficient European added value:

- **Relevance to EU objectives:** The field of the potential topic should be of major interest for the Community as a whole.
- **Framework Programme relevance.** As regards '**objective**': Demonstration that an ERA-NET Plus action in that topic shall allow the Community to reach the objective of effectively enhancing the coordination of national research programmes. As regards

⁹ Proposals must demonstrate that national research programmes are committed to support the call. Selected proposals will have to provide evidence that a commitment has been made by the relevant research programmes.

'content': The field of the potential topic shall be covered by the Framework Programme both in terms of scientific content and of budget allocation.

- **Pre-existing basis:** The ERA-NET Plus action should build on a pre-existing basis or coordination experience between national programmes in the topic identified.
- **Critical mass:** ERA-NET Plus actions will enable national programmes to address together with the Community programmes research areas, that due to the nature of the field are better addressed jointly or fields which would/could not have been addressed independently.
- **Instrument relevance:** Demonstration that ERA-NET Plus is the most appropriate instrument for achieving the Framework Programme goals with regard to coordination of national research programmes (i.e.: avoiding fragmentation, etc.). Demonstration that implementing an ERA-NET Plus action in a given field is more appropriate to coordination goals than other possible FP7 actions.

ERA-NET Plus actions are expected, where appropriate, to facilitate the development of a more global approach to the topics addressed, involving also non European research programme.

ERA-NET Plus actions are expected to have a lasting impact. The cooperation developed should provide reliable indications that it could continue beyond the joint call supported by the Community funding.

A4.2.2.3 Activity: Support for Programme coordination and cooperation in the context of the European Research Area (Horizontal Support Actions)

Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions – Supporting Action.

The Council of the European Union, in its conclusions of 2 December 2008¹⁰ on the Joint Programming of Research in Europe, recognised that, in the context of globalisation and the intensification of competition, there is growing awareness of the existence of common societal challenges which no Member State is capable of resolving alone. The largest share of public resources for research and innovation is actually committed at national or regional level, but there is evidence that clear benefits could be derived by further improving cooperation in the European Research Area, with structuring effects and economies of scale.

Europe needs to elaborate stronger, better coordinated, more coherent and global responses to the challenges it is facing. This will boost Europe's capacity to transform the results of research into tangible benefits for society and for the overall competitiveness of its economy. The EU and its Member States have complementary roles and must work together: both the ERA-NET scheme, which the Commission successfully introduced since FP6, as well as the new Joint Programming activities, which the Member States will undertake in a limited number of particularly important domains, can provide a valuable contribution.

¹⁰ 2891st Competitiveness Council Meeting Conclusions concerning Joint Programming of Research in Europe in response to the major societal challenges. Brussels, 2 December 2008

In order to foster further progress in co-ordination and mutual cooperation, *two sets of strategic support actions are foreseen in 2010*:

-A) Support Actions for assessing the impact of the ERA-NET scheme and optimising its operational modalities (Topic ERA-NET.2010.1)

Since the ERA-NET scheme started in 2002, a wide community of programme owners and managers has been accumulating a valuable experience. There is tremendous scope in sharing such experience for the benefit of both current participants and newcomers to the scheme. In 2008, the Commission launched a first set of initiatives offering opportunities for mutual learning and exchange of good practice, as well as the creation of a central information platform on European transnational programme cooperation in Research and Technological Development. These initiatives can be strengthened further, taking into account the needs of the ERA-NET community in terms of implementation and future development of the ERA-NET principles.

Scope

Proposals may cover the following areas:

- **Coherent implementation mechanisms and increased mutual learning**, as well as information exchange within the wider ERA-NET community. The actions should support active ERA-NETs and their participants, in particular those which started under FP7, and respond directly to the needs of the ERA-NET community.
- **Policy related issues** in the context of programme coordination and cooperation, e.g. conceptual and methodological approaches to analyse alternative means of implementing the ERA-NET principles, in view also of a possible common set of rules for programme managers and owners.

Expected Impact

The selected support actions should provide useful input in view of the possible future evolution of the ERA-NET scheme and a further opportunity to share experiences among the main stakeholders engaged in designing and deploying the broad structures and functions for the coordination of national research programmes. The selected actions should also highlight the synergies between ERA-NETs and other forms of national and regional research programme coordination.

-B) Actions in support of the European Union's initiative on Joint Programming in Research. (Topic ERA-GPC.2010.1)

In the above mentioned Council Conclusions of December 2008, the European Research Ministers, called Member States to collaborate in a dedicated configuration of CREST (referred to as "High Level Group for Joint Programming" or GPC) to identify themes for Joint Programming, chosen following broad public consultation of the different regional, national and European scientific communities and, where appropriate, of the private sector.

At the same time, the GPC was also asked to consider, with the support of the Commission, how best to find a common approach to a number of issues (referred as “Framework Conditions”), such as common peer review mechanisms and cross border mobility of research funding.

Scope

Proposals are invited in relation to:

Exploring, supporting and analyzing the “Framework Conditions” considered necessary for an effective implementation of Joint Programming, such as:

- **Common peer-review procedures**
- **Joint forward-looking activities and evaluation of programmes.**
- **Coherent approach to the funding of cross-border research by national or regional authorities.**
- **Effective measures to ensure the optimum dissemination and use of research findings, including common practices for the protection, management and sharing of intellectual property rights.**
- **Provisions to facilitate the involvement in Joint Programming of the various scientific and, where appropriate, industrial communities.**

Expected Impact

The selected actions should help the different framework conditions for Joint Programming to be moved forward, in line with relevant Council Conclusions.

All proposed events should be planned for at least six months after the closing date of the call in order to allow sufficient time to complete all procedures for the funding to be in place.

*** Call Fiche ***

Call title: ERA-NET Call 2010

- Call identifier: **FP7-ERANET-2010-RTD**
- Date of publication: 30 July 2009¹¹.
- Deadline: 19 January 2010, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time¹².

Indicative budgets and Topics¹³:

A total of EUR 21.5 million is foreseen for this call, divided as follows:

- A sum of up to EUR 20.5 million¹⁴ will be allocated by individual Themes in the Cooperation Work Programme to the ERA-NET¹⁵ topics detailed in *Table 1* (Thematic part of the Call).
- A further EUR 1 million¹⁶ for horizontal support actions, funded pro-rata by all the Themes in the Cooperation Work Programme, as detailed in *Table 2* (Horizontal part of the Call).

Table 1 – Overview of Thematic Activities and Topics in FP7-ERANET-2010 –RTD¹⁷

THEME/Activity	Topic identifier	TITLE	Budget (M€)
1. HEALTH			
1.1 Biotechnology, generic tools, and medical technologies for human health	HEALTH.2010.1.1-2	ERA-NET on Genomics and Genetic Epidemiology of Multi-factorial Diseases	2.0
1.2 Translating Research for human health	HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-1	ERA-NET on translational cancer research in Europe	2.0
1.2 Translating Research for human health	HEALTH.2010.2.4.4-2	ERA-Net on rare diseases	2.0

¹¹ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

¹² The Director-General responsible for the call may delay this deadline by up to two months.

¹³ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

¹⁴ Total indicative budget provided by the concerned Themes for ERA-NET actions. Following the evaluation of proposals, the final total budget of the call, as well the individual sub-budgets independently allocated by each Theme, may vary by up to 10% of the values initially foreseen.

¹⁵ Please note that, in 2010, no budget has been allocated by the Themes for ERA-NET Plus Actions.

¹⁶ Total indicative budget for horizontal support actions. Following the evaluation of proposals, the final budget of the call may vary by up to 10% the total value of the indicated budget.

¹⁷ Coordination and Support Actions (Coordinating Action)

2. FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY			
2.1 Sustainable production and management of biological resources	KBBE.2010.1.1-2	Deepened and enlarged European cooperation in the area of Molecular Plant Sciences - ERA-NET	1.0
2.1 Sustainable production and management of biological resources	KBBE.2010.1.2-6	Deepened and enlarged cooperation between phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research programmes - ERA-NET	1.0
4. NMP			
4.4 Integration of technologies for industrial applications	NMP.2010.4.0-7	ERA-NET on Nano-technologies, including Nano-toxicology	1.5
4.4 Integration of technologies for industrial applications	NMP.2010.4.0-8	ERA-NET on Manufacturing	1.5
4.4 Integration of technologies for industrial applications	NMP.2010.4.0-9	ERA-NET on Catalysis	1.5
6. ENVIRONMENT			
6.2 Sustainable management of resources	ENV.2010.2.1.2-2	ERA-Net on Water Management	2.0
6.2 Sustainable management of resources	ENV.2010.2.1.4-2	<i>ERA-NET on Biodiversity: "Towards integrated European biodiversity research strategy and programmes"</i>	2.0
6.3 Environmental technologies	ENV.2010.3.1.4-2	ERA-NET on Eco-Innovation	2.0
7. TRANSPORT (including Aeronautics)			
7.2 Sustainable Surface Transport	SST.2010.6-3	ERA-NET in Waterborne Research (MARTEC II)	2.0

Table 2 – Overview of Horizontal Support Actions in FP7-ERANET-2010 –RTD¹⁸

THEME/Activity	Topic identifier	TITLE	Budget (M€)
HORIZONTAL			
A4.2.2.3.a Support for Programme coordination and cooperation in the context of the ERA	ERA-NET.2010.1	Support Actions for assessing the impact of the ERA-NET scheme and optimising its operational modalities.	1.0
A4.2.2.3.b Support for Programme coordination and cooperation in the context of the ERA	ERA-GPC.2010.1	Actions in support of the European Union's initiative on Joint Programming in Research	

General Eligibility Conditions

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 of 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. Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions (coordinating action)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no 2 of which are established in the same MS or AC
Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	At least 1 independent legal entity.

Specific Eligibility Criteria for ERA-NET proposals

The aim of ERA-NET actions is to network research programmes carried out at national or regional level, with a view to their mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities. Such programmes shall have all of the following characteristics:

- Be strategically planned (i.e. be composed of a number of research projects focused on a defined subject area or set of problems, that are scheduled to run for a set period of time and that have a co-ordinated management).
- Be carried out at national or regional level.

¹⁸ Coordination and Support Actions (Supporting Action)

- Be either financed or managed directly by national or regional public bodies, or by structures (e.g. agencies) closely related to, or mandated by, public authorities.

The minimum number of participants in an ERA-NET consortium is **3 independent legal entities** which finance or manage publicly funded national or regional programmes. **Each of these must be established in a different Member State or Associated Country.**

Partners for ERA-NET actions eligible to satisfy the above condition are:

- Programme owners: typically national ministries/regional authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- Programme 'managers' (such as research councils or funding agencies) or other national or regional organisations that *implement* research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners.
- Programme owners (typically national ministries/regional authorities) which do not have a running or fully fledged research programme at the moment of submitting an ERA-NET proposal, but which are planning, and have committed, to set up such a programme, are also eligible if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination. As such, countries or regions which have less diverse research programmes (in particular new Member States and candidate Associated Countries) will find their involvement in the ERA-NET scheme greatly facilitated.

Please note that research organisations or universities which are not programme owners or managers are not eligible partners for ERA-NET actions.

In addition, other private legal entities (e.g. charities) which manage research programmes may enter the consortium if their participation is well justified and adds value to the overall programme coordination.

Sole participants (as referred to in Article 10 of the Rules for Participation) may be eligible if the above-mentioned specific criteria for eligible ERA-NET partners are respected. A sole participant shall explicitly indicate which of its 'members' forming a sole legal entity is either a programme owner or programme manager in the proposed action and indicate for these members, the respective national/regional programmes which are at the disposal of the proposed ERA-NET action.

Evaluation Criteria for ERA-NET proposals

For the evaluation of ERA-NET proposals, the general criteria and thresholds applicable to Coordination and Support Actions given in Annex 2, are complemented as follows:

1. Scientific and/or technological excellence - Quality of coordination (Threshold 3/5)

- The management should be supported by a suitable governance structure involving the participating organisations at an appropriate level.

2. *Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Threshold 3/5)*

- In reference to the applicable work programme, does the proposed ERA-NET / ERA-NET Plus action pool the necessary resources between national programmes and the Community and does it represent the most appropriate type of public funding for this pre-defined area?

3. *Potential impact (Threshold 3/5)*

- The participants should be the key actors within their national or regional research systems.
- The ERA-NET activities should lay the foundations for a durable cooperation between the partners involved.
- Is there a clearly identified and agreed European added value through a variable geometry approach?

A reserve list may be produced of proposals that pass the evaluation, but fall below the available budget.

- Proposal format:
 - 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. The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits. The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- Evaluation procedure:
 - The evaluation will follow a single stage procedure.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
 - Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- Indicative timetable:
 - Evaluation in February 2010
 - Opening of negotiations in March 2010
 - Selections from September 2010
 - Grant agreements from October 2010
- Consortia agreements:
 - Consortia Agreements are recommended.
- The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Cooperation work programme. This call provides 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, please refer to the relevant Guide for Applicants. 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'.

***** End of Call Fiche *****

*** Appendix to Call Fiche ***

For information purposes: overview of **ERA-NET topics**, open for other Themes in Cooperation and Parts in Capacities, **which are not included** in the **coordinated ERA-NET Call 2010** described in the previous section.

THEME/Activity	Topic identifier	TITLE	Budget (M€) ¹⁹
COOPERATION SPECIFIC PROGRAMME			
10. SECURITY²⁰			
7.0 Security Research coordination and structuring	SEC.2010.7.0-5	ERA-NET on co-ordination of national research programmes in the area of Security research	6.0
CAPACITIES SPECIFIC PROGRAMME			
1. INFRASTRUCTURES²¹			
1.3 Support for policy development and programme implementation	INFRA.2010.3.1	ERA-NET supporting cooperation for research infrastructures in all S&T fields	5.0
7. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION²²			
7.3 Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States in the field of international S&T cooperation	INCO.2010.7.3-1	ERA-NET International Cooperation with Africa	2.0
	INCO.2010.7.3-2	ERA-NET International Cooperation with Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, USA	4.0

¹⁹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

²⁰ The Security topic is included in the call FP7-SEC-2010-1, with publication date 30 July 2009

²¹ The Infrastructure topic is included in the call FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1, with publication date 30 July 2009

²² The International Cooperation topic is included in the call FP7-INCO-2010-3, with publication date 30 July 2009

A4.2.3 External expertise

Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions - Expert Contracts²³

It is foreseen to appoint groups of independent experts to carry out the following tasks:

- The evaluation of the proposals submitted to the coordinated call **FP7-ERANET-2010-RTD** and, where appropriate, the review of running projects.
- In-depth analysis of the ERA-NET Plus instrument and of the first experiences in its implementation, taking into account operational, strategic and policy related criteria.

Budget for A4.2.3: EUR 80 000

²³ In accordance with Articles 14(c), 17 and 27 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 7th Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

A4.3 SUPPORT FOR COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH AND BETWEEN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS IN THE EU, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ERA.

Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions – Expert Contracts²⁴

Intergovernmental organisations which perform and/or fund research (e.g. EIROforum and its Members²⁵), cooperation initiatives (e.g. COST, EUREKA), other representative organisations involving networks or associations of academies or research organisations as well as professional societies²⁶, are all crucial actors in EU research.

The further development and growth of ERA will therefore require stimulation and intensification of coordination and cooperation initiatives with and between these relevant organisations.

For 2010, in addition to the dedicated support to EUREKA and COST, respectively detailed in sections A4.4 and A4.5, it is envisaged to nominate a group of independent experts which will be asked to investigate practical ways for consolidating the role played by non-University Research Performing Organisations in ERA, taking into account their specific structural and operational characteristics, as well as the national and/or European settings they operate in.

Budget for A4.3: EUR 70 000

A4.4 STRENGTHENED COORDINATION WITH EUREKA

Funding Scheme: Other Actions – Subscription²⁷

The Specific Cooperation Programme will support coordination activities aimed at increasing complementarities and synergy between EUREKA and the Framework Programme in areas of common interest. The Community is a member of EUREKA and, as such, contributes to the budget of the EUREKA Secretariat: membership fees are expected to total about EUR 2 million for the duration of the 7th Framework Programme.

²⁴ In accordance with Articles 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 7th Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

²⁵ EIROforum is the partnership of Europe's seven largest intergovernmental research organisations (CERN, EFDA, EMBL, ESA, ESO, ESRF, ILL)

²⁶ Examples of such networks, associations or societies could be EuroHORCS, EARTO, Academia Europa, ALLEA, EARMA, etc.

²⁷ In accordance with Article 14(d) 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 7th Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013), and in accordance with Article 108(2)(d) of the Financial Regulation and Article 160a of the detailed rules of the implementation of the Financial Regulation.

The following activities are foreseen:

- Creating and strengthening synergies between the Framework Programme and EUREKA in order to carry out initiatives across the full spectrum of the research and innovation cycle in a complementary and/or cooperative manner.
- Continuing the exchange of technical information, mainly in the stimulation of 'brokerage events', notably for the benefit of research and innovation in SMEs and the exchange of expertise in project and impact evaluation.

Budget for A4.4: EUR 350 000

A4.5 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN COST

Funding Scheme: Coordination and Support Actions – Named Beneficiary²⁸

COST is a long-standing, bottom-up mechanism that facilitates coordination and exchanges between nationally funded scientists and research teams in a variety of research fields. During the 6th Framework Programme, COST underwent significant reforms as a result of which it can now contribute cost-effectively to research coordination within the European Research Area.

The Community's funding to COST under FP7 is specified in the Cooperation Specific Programme, whereby the Community's grant will be at least EUR 210 million and up to EUR 250 million for COST, subject to a mid-term evaluation. This grant is subject to an agreement between the Commission and the European Science Foundation²⁹, the legal entity designated by COST as its implementing agent and communicated to the Commission by the General Secretariat of the Council.

The first three instalments of the FP7 COST grant, of EUR 30 million each, covered consecutive 12-month periods spanning until 1 June 2010. Similarly in 2010, the grant agreement will be extended for a further 12 months, until 1 June 2011, with a complementary Community financial contribution of EUR 30 million.

Reinforced coordination among the activities of the European Science Foundation, COST and the Framework Programme will also be sought in areas of common interest. The partnership between the Commission and COST will be further developed.

Budget for A4.5: EUR 30 000 000

²⁸ In accordance with Article 14(a) 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).

²⁹ The European Science Foundation is established in 1 Quai Lezay Marnesia, Strasbourg, CEDEX 67080, France.

A4.6 RISK-SHARING FINANCE FACILITY

In accordance with Annex III of the Cooperation Specific Programme, the Community has provided a contribution to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for a Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), with a view to foster primarily private sector investment in research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) as well as innovation³⁰. This new financing instrument has been designed by the European Investment Bank with the support of the EC.

Private investment in research and innovation in Europe remains below the level necessary to achieve the ambitions of the Lisbon agenda and the Barcelona objective. In addition to grants, other mechanisms have proven effective in leveraging private investment by firms, thus mobilising the financial markets and diversifying funding sources for European RTD actions.

Improving access to loans for RTD actions requires public support to overcome market deficiencies for the financing of European RTD actions, which often involve a high level of risk.

A4.6.1 Approach

Within the framework of a maximum contribution of EUR 1 billion for the period 2007-2013, the Community has provided its first contributions (Coordination and Support Action) to the EIB for RSFF for an amount of EUR 420 million for the period 2007-2009³¹, EUR 350 millions of which coming from the Cooperation Specific Programme. For 2010 it is expected that the EU will transfer EUR 80 million to the EIB, out of which EUR 50 from the Cooperation Specific Programme. The Bank is the sole beneficiary of this Community action. Pursuant to a decision by the EIB Board of Directors, endorsed by the Bank's Governors on 9 June 2006, the EC contribution will be matched by an equivalent amount from the EIB (up to EUR 1 billion).

The level of the Community risk coverage for each operation shall depend on the financial risk evaluation carried out by the EIB. The level of total provisioning and capital allocation for the majority of RSFF operations is expected to fall within the range of 15%-25% of the nominal value of such operations, although in view of increasing risks reflecting the crisis, the portfolio may migrate towards the higher end of this range. In no case shall the level of total provisioning and capital allocation amounts of the Community contribution exceed 50% of the nominal loan or guarantee value. There will be risk sharing under each operation, according to the methodology established in the Agreement concluded between the Commission and the EIB. The percentage of risk covered by the Community contribution for each operation will be variable and will depend, *inter alia*, on the risk grading of such operation as well as its maturity.

³⁰ Costs related to Innovations activities may be considered as eligible EC RSFF Operations provided their compliance with the provisions set in the RSFF Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and the European Investment Bank (as stated in the article A4.6.2: Selection of Projects for Financing and the Eligibility Criteria below)

³¹ This amount includes the EUR 350 million as originally planned and EUR 70 million front-loaded from 2010 budget in response to the financial and economic crisis.

The cooperation agreement between the European Community (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) in respect of the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) – the RSFF Cooperation agreement – was approved by the Commission (Commission Decision C(2007)2181 – 25/05/2007) and signed on 5 June 2007 by Commissioner Janez Potočnik and President Philippe Maystadt and amended by the Commission (Commission Decision C(2008)8058 – 12/12/2008). The amendment entered into force on 26 February 2009

This Agreement, defines terms and conditions related to RSFF and, in particular, to the use of the Community contribution in RSFF, the risk-sharing methodology, the indicative annual budget, the reporting conditions, the governance, the rules for establishment of network of financial intermediaries in all Member States and Associated Countries and their relating conditions. The amendment seeks to simplify and harmonize the financial reporting requirements and rules for asset management with other Commission funds managed by the EIB. The entry into force of this amendment allows, *inter alia*, for the allocation to RSFF of the Third Country Appropriations.

International Co-operation

In accordance with the provisions of the Cooperation Specific Programme, the EIB may only use the Community contribution to RSFF to cover risk of operations limited to those borrowers or beneficiaries of guarantees from legal entities from Third Countries other than Associated Countries who participate in FP7 projects and whose costs are eligible for Community funding.

Dissemination actions

Since 2006 the EIB, assisted by the RSFF Designated Service, has carried out an intensive awareness raising campaign to reach stakeholders in as many Member States and Associated Countries as possible. Such awareness raising actions will continue in 2010, with special focus on the most research intensive sectors in Europe.

RSFF will involve development of financial engineering solutions adapted to the needs of European RTD actions. Such solutions will be implemented and tested by the EIB and its financing partners.

As soon as such a solution can be considered replicable, case studies of risk-sharing arrangements with financing partners and new products developed specifically for RSFF will be published on the EIB dedicated RSFF web-site.

A number of workshops for representatives of Member States and Associated Countries have been held since the launch to disseminate such financial engineering solutions and seek future co-operation opportunities. Initiatives of this kind will be continued in 2010, both at European and national level.

Contacts with potential clients

The launch of RSFF dedicated website and other awareness raising activities started in 2006 have resulted in applications for financing from promoters of European RTD actions. In parallel, the EIB loan officers have numerous contacts with highly research intensive companies explaining the existence of new financing options made possible by RSFF.

RSFF will be offered in all Member States and Associated Countries in order to ensure that all legal entities, irrespective of size (including SMEs and research organizations, including universities) in all Member States and Associated Countries, may benefit from this facility for the funding of their activities in eligible actions. This will entail the identification by the EIB of at least one financial intermediary partner active in each Member state and Associated Country and willing to offer RSFF products. The attention of the Member States and Associated Countries is drawn to the fact that, in case of difficulties in identifying financial intermediary partner interested to join EIB network for RSFF purpose, there will be a dependence on the best efforts of the Member States and Associated Countries themselves to ensure that there is no consequential damage to the interests of participants in their countries.

Addressing the financing needs of the Technology Platforms and Joint Technology Initiatives

Having identified in 2006 the most dynamic and active Technology Platforms the Commission and the EIB will continue to follow their individual development and monitor the implementation of their strategic research agendas to search for financing needs which the Bank could address. In some cases customised products, individual or wholesale, may be developed, if necessary in co-operation with other financial institutions.

The Commission and the EIB will follow the development of Joint Technology Initiatives and the initiatives undertaken by their stakeholders and advise the stakeholders on options available to optimise their financing packages. This may involve bridge financing as well as individual customised financing solutions, specifically adapted to the financing needs.

Implementation arrangements for SMEs

The EIB can only be directly involved in operations with financing requirements in excess of EUR 7.5 million. Smaller requests will be directed to financing partners established in Member States or Associated Countries with whom the EIB has or will develop risk-sharing arrangements, including Framework Facilities designed to provide intermediated financing to smaller projects, notably those promoted by SMEs.

A Framework Facility is a line of credit advanced by the EIB to banks or other intermediary institutions which on-lend the proceeds to finance small and medium-size investments.

The deployment of Risk-Sharing Framework Facilities across the EU will reflect demand and will be staged, involving, during an initial phase, a limited number of leading EIB partner banks, based in Member State or Associated Countries. In a subsequent phase, a more wide-spread coverage of EU markets will be attempted by approaching, in a systematic manner,

other interested financing partners throughout the EU, in view of setting up Risk-Sharing Framework Facilities covering respective markets.

Risk-Sharing Framework Facilities will be set up either through the introduction of risk sharing arrangements in existing credit lines or through new facilities or intermediaries. Alternative framework financing concepts could also be envisaged.

Governance

RSFF is managed by the EIB in accordance with its own rules and procedures, with due regard to terms and conditions of the RSFF Cooperation Agreement (as amended) between the Commission and the Bank. RSFF implementation and in particular the use of the Community Contribution will be supervised by a Steering Committee, consisting of at least four representatives, at the Director level, from the Commission and the Bank respectively.

The Commission will continue to closely monitor the effective use of the Community Contribution, including ex-post assessments of the successful features of the action, and to regularly report to the Programme Committee. In addition, the Commission will include main findings in this respect to the annual report on research and technological development activities which it will send to the European Parliament and the Council pursuant to Article 173 TEC.

In addition, and in compliance with the mid-term evaluation referred to in Annex II of the Framework Programme, the Commission will provide at that time a report containing information on the participation per type of legal entities, the fulfillment of the FP7 selection criteria, the kind of projects supported and the demand for the instrument concerned, the duration of the authorization procedure, the project results, and the funding distribution.

A4.6.2 Selection of Projects for Financing and the Eligibility Criteria

The EIB was recognised as a beneficiary of the Community action in the Council and Parliament decision adopting the 7th Framework Programme.

In accordance with the principles established in the Cooperation Specific Programme the EIB will use the Community contribution on a "first come, first served basis," as provisions and capital allocation within the Bank to cover part of the risks associated with its operations supporting eligible European RTD actions.

The EC contribution to RSFF may only be used to support activities which can be classified as "fundamental research", "industrial research" or "experimental development" as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation. Prototypes and pilot projects, which are part of "experimental development", may be eligible if they fulfill the conditions specified therein. Innovation activities intended to prepare the commercial use of research results within the time period of the project (such as training, technology management and transfer) are eligible if they are linked to and complementary to research, technological development activities and/or demonstration activities, the later constituting the bulk of any eligible European RTD action.

The RSFF Cooperation Agreement with the Bank comprises a list of exclusions from financing with support of the Community contribution, reflecting political agreement between the Commission; the Member States and Associated Countries as well as the European Parliament as documented in the 7th Framework Programme and the Cooperation Specific Programme.

A4.6.3 The Commission Right to Object to the Use of the Community Contribution

The Commission has a right to express its opinion on each and every financial operation proposed by the EIB to its Board for decision under Article 21 of the EIB Statutes. Where the Commission delivers an unfavourable opinion, the EIB Board may not grant the loan or guarantee concerned, unless it votes unanimously in its favour, the Commission nominee abstaining. Should the Bank proceed with financing despite the Commission's negative opinion the Community contribution to RSFF may not be used.

In accordance with Rules of Participation, the Commission may object, in duly justified cases, the use of the *Community contribution* for provisioning and capital allocation against a loan *or a guarantee* proposed by the EIB. If such a case arises the Commission may conduct an independent, internal or external, review of such a case.

A4.6.4 Community Contribution to RSFF

All Themes of this Work Programme will contribute on a proportional basis, except the Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities theme, which does not contribute to RSFF

In compliance with Annex II to the 7th Framework Programme, and reflecting demand from highly research-intensive companies, the Community financial contribution to RSFF from the abovementioned contributing Themes of the Cooperation Specific Programme will reach the amount of EUR 400 million in 2010.

The Community financial contribution to RSFF from the Cooperation Specific Programme may reach a maximum amount of EUR 800 million for 2007-2013. In line with the projected level of demand for RSFF, Article 7(2) of the 7th Framework Programme gives to the Council and the European Parliament the option to revise this amount on the basis of a report by the Commission containing information on the participation of SMEs and universities, the fulfilment of the FP7 selection criteria, the duration of the authorisation procedure, the project results, and the funding distribution.

As from 2009 the Commission proceeds annually with an equal amount of commitment and payment of the Community contributions to RSFF, based on an the EIB's activity and forecast report and its request for the amount of the contribution estimated necessary for the following year. Following mid-term evaluation, however, the payment may be made in (several) instalments to ensure the maximum match between funds paid to the EIB and used for provisions and capital allocation.

In view of the satisfactory build-up of the RSFF portfolio in 2007-9 and a promising pipeline of potential projects to be financed in 2010 the Commission has increased, in 2009, its

commitment to an amount of EUR 220³² million— with EUR 190 million coming from the Cooperation Specific Programme. In view of the limit established by the Annex II to the 7th Framework Programme the remaining amount of EUR 80 million, out of which EUR 50 from the Cooperation Specific Programme, will be transferred to the EIB for the period of 2010.

A4.6.5 Process for Recovering and Reallocating Unused Community Funds

In order to mitigate the risk of accumulation of unused funds the multi-annual planning will be adjusted on the basis of reports including pipeline report (summary of information on projects considered for financing) and demand forecasts. Amounts committed but not earmarked, blocked or paid to the EIB – i.e. not used for the operations of RSFF – will be reallocated to other activities of the contributing themes.

Notwithstanding the above and unless the Council adopting the 8th Framework programme decides otherwise the Commission will recover from the EIB any unused funds of the Community contribution (including interest and income) which on the 31 December 2013 have not been used or committed to be used or are required to cover eligible costs The mid-term evaluation will include an external assessment of the impact of the RSFF.

³² This amount includes a partial frontloading of EUR 70 million from the budget of 2010

A4.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR GENERAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

The following provides a financial overview for 2010 of the activities which are funded across the Cooperation Programme:

Activity	Funding for 2010 *
A4.1 CORDIS	EUR 7.90 million
A4.2 ERA-NET scheme (cross-thematic)	EUR 1.08 million <i>broken down as follows:</i>
<i>A4.2.2.1 ERA-NET Actions **</i>	<i>EUR 0.00 million</i>
<i>A4.2.2.2 ERA-NET Plus Actions</i>	<i>EUR 0.00 million</i>
<i>A4.2.2.3 Horizontal Support Actions</i>	<i>EUR 1.00 million</i>
<i>A4.2.3 External expertise</i>	<i>EUR 0.08 million</i>
A4.3 Research Organizations	EUR 0.07 million
A4.4 EUREKA	EUR 0.35 million
A4.5 COST	EUR 30.00 million
A4.6 RSFF***	EUR 50.00 million
EFTA credits/RSFF	EUR 1.26 million
Total:	EUR 90.66 million

* Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

** ERA-NET Actions are directly funded by the Themes.

*** This amount corresponds to primary-credit appropriations. It is complemented by an additional amount of EUR 1.26 million (corresponding to the allocation to RSFF of the EFTA credits of 2.52 %).

Budget Figures in This Work Programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. The final budgets may vary following the evaluation of proposals.

The final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary:

- The total budget of the call 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.

For actions not implemented through calls for proposals:

- 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.