

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CALL

What does the "Researchers' night" consist of? What are its objectives?

- The Researchers' night has been launched at European level for the first time in the frame of the "Researchers in Europe 2005" Initiative, of which it constituted one of the cornerstones. Due to the success of the events organised on the basis of the concept, a call for proposals was launched in 2006, which led to the funding of 30 proposals distributed amongst 22 European countries.
- The main objective of the Researchers' night consists of bringing the researchers closer to the large public, allowing for direct exchanges, meetings, interactive activities, and presenting the researchers as "normal people" to which the public can identify itself; this will also help convincing more young people to embark on scientific careers.
- The European Commission would intend, whether possible according to the quality of the proposals submitted, to select at least one "Researchers' night" per Member Associated State and Candidate Country.

What characteristics should have the projects to be funded?

- Researchers' nights regard events of one night duration (for example from 6.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.), all taking place on 28 September 2007, with the exception of Israel;
- The activities organised during this period of time must contribute to the above objective and could consist of (non exhaustive list)
 - Hands-on experiments conducted by researchers
 - Scientific demonstrations realised by researchers with public participation
 - Guided visits of labs, research institutions, musea...usually closed to the public particularly at night
 - "Real" scientific experiments to be handled by the public
 - Workshops for children (realise a robot, realise a real experiment, help a researcher in solving a problem...)
 - Competitive activities (scientific quizzes, enigma's...)
 - Drawing competition (amongst the schools of the area concerned)

What specific types of activities are expected to be proposed?

First of all, whichever the very type of activities proposed during the Researchers' night itself, all proposals should include the three following phases:

- **Awareness campaign:** addressed to the large public, undertaken sufficiently early before the event as to reach as large a target as possible, and relayed by the most efficient communication means (written press, announcements, posters, radio, TV)
- **Activities during the night itself** (see above)

- **Impact assessment activities:** addressed to the public attending, to the organisers themselves and also to the participating researchers; this should allow a reliable assessment of the actions' impact regarding the public image of researchers and their recognition, and the determination of the most efficient activities in this purpose. Such analysis should furthermore be based on a previous assessment of the researchers' image amongst the large public in order to allow comparisons.
- "Academic activities" (such as debates, seminars...) should remain exceptional and be duly justified by a high attractiveness towards the public of the theme chosen and/or the speaker(s) foreseen.
- Being organised on a Friday night, during which most people feel like to relaxing and having fun, the activities should have a primary festive character likely to convince "ordinary people" to join and enjoy and use the most relevant communication means therefore;
- All activities should imply a direct public involvement, rather than academic lectures and debates and a "fun" aspect should always be present;
- Possible interactions between scientific work and other cultural activities (theatre, music films, and literature) can also be taken into consideration.

Are there activities indispensable for the qualification as "Researchers' night"?

As a rule, applicants determine themselves the activities they wish to implement on the basis of their specific activities or likely interests of the public targeted, provided that the activities planned fit the Researchers' night concept as defined above.

However, all proposals should plan:

- The direct involvement of **researchers having benefited** from a European support (Marie curie fellowships, Marie Curie Awards...);
- The setting up of a **European stand** corresponding to the requirements described in a separate document accompanying the call for proposals ("specific requirements");
- The organisation of a **drawing competition** "draw a researcher" (minimum requirements included in the document "specific requirements accompanying the call).

What is the nature of the call?

The call is an open call for proposals with a fixed deadline (**20 March 2007**), launched and implemented under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7). This specific call is related to FP 7 "Coordination and support actions (support)" (see guide for applicants: <http://cordis....>)

What type of instrument is to be used?

The actions will take the form of Coordination and Support Actions (Support).

Who can participate?

All legal entities, identified either as natural or legal persons considered under national, Community or international law, established in an EU Member or Associated State or Candidate Country in FP7 having legal personality and being entitled to have rights and obligations of any kind in its own name. This might include researchers, research organisations, academia, companies, including SMEs, public authorities, schools, science museums, parents /teachers associations, private organisations, foundations, and the media.

What is the minimum number of participants?

Coordination and Support actions-support (CSA) may be implemented by a single legal entity. However consortia composed of different stakeholders and in particular involving industrial representatives are welcome. **The involvement of the major actors of the local/regional/national research community will be considered an asset.**

Do the projects require a multinational partnership?

A multinational partnership is not necessary. The call concerns projects to be undertaken by legal entities established in one or several countries of the European Union and Associated countries (Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) or Candidate Countries (Croatia). Proposals can include partners from third countries, provided that the minimum participation requirements are respected.

What is the overall budget for this call?

€ 3,000,000.

What is the average estimated allocated budget to each selected proposal?

Minimum and maximum figures cannot be provided because of the very open nature of the activities that can be organised in the frame of this call. However, it may be estimated that the typical funding for a selected proposal would range between € 20,000 and € 80,000, considering the overall call budget and the number of potentially participating countries.

What percentage of funding may be requested?

In the frame of Coordination and Support Actions(Support), the Community grant may amount up to 100 % of the eligible costs. The amount of the grant will depend on the total eligible costs involved in the project.

(For a detailed overview of the limits applicable, please see the guide for applicants, on the CORDIS website).

The European Commission **however** warmly encourages the financial active involvement of local/regional/national stakeholders. As a consequence, **adequately co-funded** projects demonstrating support by national, regional or local authorities or organisations **may be given preference during evaluation.**

In which language should the proposals be submitted?

Proposals may legally be submitted in all European official languages (except for the abstract referred to in the guide for applicants, part A, which has to be in English). However, for the sake of evaluation and in order not to lengthen the processing delays, it is **warmly recommended to submit the proposal in English**.

How will the proposals be evaluated?

The overall evaluation criteria for Specific Support Actions activities under the specific programme "People" apply, e.g.: scientific and/or technological excellence, quality and efficiency of the implementation and management and potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results. These criteria will of course be applied in direct relationship with the objectives of the call (see first question above). The evaluation will be carried out by the European Commission assisted by external independent experts.

When will the "Researchers' nights" take place?

All "researchers' nights" should take place during the **evening of 28 September 2007** in order to ensure a strong consistency between all the events organised in a common purpose throughout Europe.

Clearly the core of the activities has to take place during the 28th September evening. However, some activities that should for major reasons (need of daylight, activities addressed to young children, open-air activities...) be offered during the afternoon could be considered eligible provided that their close link with the Researchers' night is proven.

Furthermore, **proposals regarding Israel** will be considered eligible provided that they regard events that will be organised on a date as close as possible to the 28th September (given the fact that they could encounter difficulties in targeting a large audience on a Friday night).

What should be the geographical coverage of each proposal?

The European Commission would intend to fund at least one Researchers' night per country covered by the present call. The geographical area covered by the actions will be defined by the proposers. Clearly the European Commission encourages proposals including events taking place in different locations within the same country or amongst various countries as being likely to have a larger impact than the more limited ones.

How many proposals could be selected per country?

As earlier mentioned, the European Commission would intend to fund at least one Researchers' night per country covered. However, more than one proposal could satisfy the evaluation criteria for the same country. In such cases, depending on the remaining budget after one proposal is funded for each country, and within the limits of the available financial resources attached to the call, the European Commission could decide to fund only the proposal having gathered the highest ranking, or to fund more than one proposal in the same country.

Would several proposals be selected for the same country, they would be requested to ensure a certain coordination level between them, in such a way that an external observer can easily notice that they are part of the same global initiative.

How will the European dimension of the Researchers' night appear towards the public?

The European dimension will have to be pointed out at two different stages of the projects.

First of all, the awareness campaigns will include, at project's level, the launching of a drawing competition amongst the schools of the area concerned (pupils aged 6-12 and 12-15); the 3 best drawings will be selected during the nights themselves, and these winning drawings will be transmitted to the European Commission after the night in order for the best 3 to be selected and awarded at European level. The award, that would be attributed in the presence of Commissioner Potočnik, will include :

- A few days visit to Brussels for the family of the winner(s)
- The printing of his/her drawing under the form of a poster that would be used for European events linked to researchers' image's promotion;
- A guided tour of an important scientific institution;
- An article in the RTD-Info magazine

Furthermore, all proposals are expected to foresee a "European stand", aimed at illustrating the European dimension of the events. Such stand should be foreseen in the main location of the event concerned, and offer sufficient space for the supply of informative and promotional material, a large flat screen to display the video material that will be provided by the European Commission, and also allow the organisation of some promotional activities (scientific quiz for example).

Could proposals not selected for funding benefit from "logistic support" from the European Commission as it was the case in the frame of the 2005 Researchers in Europe initiative for associated events?

Based on the 2006 experience, events corresponding to the main Researchers' night features, which would not benefit from an EU-funding for whatever reason (late submission of the proposal, absence of submission, no funding due to budgetary constraints...) could benefit from logistical support (promotional material) and be allowed to use the European "Researchers in Europe" logo provided that the mention "associated event" would appear.

The Commission services will grant the "associated event status " on the basis of the information contained in a form to be filled by the candidates (which will be available on due time on the website <http://ec.europa.eu/researchersineurope>)

Could researchers directly involved in the events get a financial compensation that would be considered an eligible cost?

Researchers directly involved in the actions could possibly get a financial compensation for their potential extra hours, which could be considered as an eligible cost according to the arrangements applying to the participant's cost model. However, the amount of this compensation should remain strictly limited.

How are the proposals to be submitted?

For this call, proposals will have to be submitted in **paper version, accompanied by CD (allowing the uploading of the data for the evaluation session)**. This derogation

to the general rule of electronic submission results from the fact that the necessary electronic systems are not yet available at this very start of a new Framework Programme.

Where can further information about the call be found?

CORDIS site: <http://fp6.cordis> ...

Researchers in Europe website: <http://ec.europa.eu/researchersineurope>

Examples of previous actions in the frame of Researchers' night 2005 and 2006:
<http://europa.eu.int/researchersineurope>

Marie Curie actions website: <http://europa.eu.int/mariecurie-actions>

Contacting the call coordinator: Colette Renier, European Commission, Directorate General for Research, phone ++ 32 2 299 88 76, mail: colette.renier@ec.europa.eu or researchersineurope@ec.europa.eu