

# The Work Programme FP7-Science-in-Society -2009-1

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Note:** The text of the Work Programme remains the only legal basis

### **Topic SiS-2009-1.1.2.1. Privacy and emerging fields of science and technology: ethical, social and legal aspects**

The funding scheme for this topic is Collaborative Project (small or medium-scale focused research project). The additional eligibility criterion is that the maximum EC contribution is **EUR 1,000,000**. A proposal which requests an EC contribution more than EUR 1,000,000 will be considered **ineligible**. Please refer to the Call Fiche, pages 23 – 25 and the Introduction to the work programme, pages 4 - 5.

### **Topic SiS-2009-2.2.3.1. Supporting and coordinating actions on innovation in the classroom: dissemination and use of inquiry based teaching methods on a large scale in Europe**

- Can a proposal focus exclusively on primary schools?

According to the Work Programme "This topic will support actions to promote the more widespread use of problem and inquiry based science teaching techniques in primary and/or secondary schools", so the focus can be on either or **both** primary and secondary schools.

- Can a proposal be based around a particular discipline or subject (biology or chemistry or physics or mathematics) or should it deal with general science?

The focus of the Call is not on subject matter, but on the techniques used to teach it. IBSE techniques can be used in a number of settings. It is important that the utility of this technique is brought out in the proposal (so that teachers could use it in other settings for example) rather than an activity which is simply aimed at raising awareness of a particular discipline focusing on learning output rather than learning processes.

- Since there will be a central information provider for dissemination of best practice, with linguistic adaptation, can the project be in English only?

The objective of the central information provider is to provide inter alia linguistic services for dissemination of best practices **beyond** the projects and is intended to complement project activities. The proposal should therefore take into account where appropriate, linguistic adaptation for dissemination **within** the project and its identified target communities .

- Should special interest groups (e.g. parents' associations, teachers' networks, curricula developers, and policy-makers) be part of the consortium?

The impact of the Call clearly states "to bring about change in the way that science is taught in schools". The presumption is that existing expertise is not being shared and disseminated as widely as possible. In consequence the focus of the activity is on transfer of practice and understanding. So the consortium composition must reflect knowledge and experience of IBSE, but also allow for its more widespread uptake in the classroom. The proposal should include an effective mechanism for engaging these actors in implementing this change on a large scale.

- Is it possible for new teaching techniques activities to be funded?

The call focuses on inquiry and problem based science teaching techniques and this should be the focus of proposals received. Furthermore, the specific actions proposed shall already have proven their efficiency and efficacy and evidence of this should be presented in the proposal.

- Can a proposal focus on dissemination of IBSE without teacher training? Can one assume that the chosen methods are gender neutral?

The Call clearly states "the actions ... must include teacher training activities" and that "the education methods are equally appropriate to girls and boys and that they contribute to reducing gender stereotypes". If some of the requirements of the Call text are not complied with in the proposal, it may not be scored at the highest by the external evaluators.

- What is the "element of independent evaluation"?

Throughout the activity and on its completion (end of funding) the project must include an element of independent evaluation , which will assess progress and results of the project . This could mean a separate work package, recourse to external reviewers , etc. Clearly the evaluation function must be distinct from implementation in order to have an objective view on the progress being made. It is advised to check for conflict of interest between the independent evaluation element and the proposed activities. The degree of independence of the chosen independent evaluation method will be assessed in the evaluation of the submitted proposals.

## **Topic SiS-2009-2.2.3.2. - International dimension of research on science education**

What is the maximum budget allowed under the SICA funding scheme ?

The funding scheme for this topic is SICA Collaborative Project (small or medium-scale focused project). The additional eligibility criterion is that the maximum EC contribution is **EUR 1,000,000**. A proposal which requests an EC contribution more than EUR 1,000,000 will be considered ineligible. Please refer to the Call Fiche, pages 23 – 25 and the Introduction to the work programme, pages 4 - 5.

Can you clarify what type of activity is intended in this topic?

The topic is a collaborative research project, so the main objective is to fund research activities, with the objectives indicated in the Work Programme: " The object of this action is to understand better, and analyse how, the involved countries are addressing this issue, taking into account cultural diversities and traditions. It will also contribute to facilitate the cultural integration among groups whose origins lie in the partner countries. Projects supported under this topic will consolidate and advance knowledge on innovative approaches in teaching and learning science including activity-based and learner-centred approaches in primary and/or secondary schools. (..) . Please refer also the expected impacts section.

Is it necessary to have a partner from Latin America and one from Asia?

The eligibility criteria for participation are: " at least 4 independent legal entities. Of these, 2 must be established in different Member States or Associated Countries and the other 2 must be from International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC): at least one of these partners must be from Latin America or Asia."

The geographical distribution of the partnership must make sense in terms of research objectives of the project. Projects that look as though they might be two different projects brought together for the purposes of submission are likely to be criticised by the evaluators.

- What does the following mean: "... It will also contribute to facilitate the cultural integration among groups whose origins lie in the partner countries..."

A better understanding on how some countries outside EU address the issue of science education taking into account their cultural specificities and traditions, could lead to suggestions on how to take into account such cultural specificities and traditions in the EU for a more effective science teaching and learning in schools where the presence of immigrants is high.

### **Topic SiS-2009-5.3.0.3 - Encouraging a European dimension at science events targeting the public**

- Can a proposal be made by a single network covering all Europe?

Regarding the minimum participation, the requirement is to have at least three independent legal entities, as set out in the text of the topic and the call fiche. The reference to legal entities is made only because the minimum standard here is greater than the normal one of one legal entity for a CSA Supporting action. Therefore a proposal with a **single network is not eligible**.

- Is a network of regional authorities (not cities) suitable to submit a proposal under this topic, together with other appropriate partners?

A network of regional authorities can be a partner if it is a registered legal entity.

The topic is "aimed at networks representing ... other possible actors involved in the promotion of scientific culture and dialogue with the citizens on scientific issues, including technology and innovation". If the network corresponds to this definition, it is suitable for submission.

- Can a national organisation be a partner or is the call only open to European associations?

National organisations are eligible to submit as long as they are registered legal entities.

However, the text highlights the additional evaluation sub-criterion which is imposed: "the largest possible European coverage in relation to the proposed action". Therefore, the evaluation must consider this aspect in addition to the three blocks of scientific and technical excellence, implementation and impact.

The evaluation, following these four aspects, must therefore consider whether the applicants do indeed perform the functions of 'networks' since this is discussed in the topic text where the preferred type of actor is described. The text says that 'this topic is aimed at networks representing, at European level, the science and technology museums, the organizers of science events, the cities and other possible actors involved in the promotion of scientific culture and dialogue with the citizens on scientific issues, including technology and innovation. Furthermore, whether the networks have a 'European identity' or a 'broad membership' would also be taken into account in the evaluation.

Can one create a new European organisation for the purpose of the Call?

The call text says that "European level networks means organisations with a European identity involving a broad membership across Europe". 'Organisation' would suggest an already existing, single body with membership. Therefore, the topic is aimed at this type of body.

- As indicated in the Call, the consortium members are European level networks. However, it is often their member organisations, not the European network entity, that will carry out the work. How can one ensure that payment will reach the member organisations?

If the member organisations of the European network are registered legal entities, they should be mentioned in the proposal as "**third parties**". The proposal should indicate a breakdown of tasks and budget for each third party in Part B of the proposal. Third parties do not appear in Part A of the proposal. Third parties are linked with one of the proposal partners prior to the submission of the proposal. Please refer to page 35 of the Guide to Financial Issues for more details.