



FP 7- specific programme « CAPACITIES »

1.	Research Infrastructures	1715 M€
2.	Research for the benefit of SMEs	1336 M€
3.	Regions of Knowledge	126 M€
4.	Research Potential	340 M €
5.	Science in Society	330 M€
6.	Coherent Development of Policies	70 M€
7.	International Cooperation	180 M€





Increased research capacitiy of European Regions

Aim:

- to intensify role of RTD in economic development
- to invest in research

Actions:

- to improve links between stakeholders
- to foster transnational cooperation
- · to enhance mutual learning of regional actors
- to exchange experience and best practice
- to develop joint action plans





Two lines of action

... but NO funding of (« hands on ») research

« Regions of Knowledge »

- · for ALL European Regions
- to encourage and support the development of « <u>regional</u> <u>research driven clusters »</u>
- · Pre-defined topics

« Research Potential »

- for <u>Convergence & Outermost</u> regions
- · to unlock and develop their research potential
- to help researchers to successfully participate in research activities at EU level
- All scientific topics covered by EC FP 7
- International cooperation (special calls)





FP7 and the Structural Funds: more synergies

- FP 7 has a new regional dimension, under "Capacities"
- ... while Structural Funds will reinforce R&D investment
 - R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship as the first priority in Convergence regions
 - Innovation and the knowledge economy as the first priority for the competitiveness and growth objective
 - Earmarking: at least 60% or 75% of funds for Lisbon priorities
- Complementary funding where possible
 - ... but no double funding



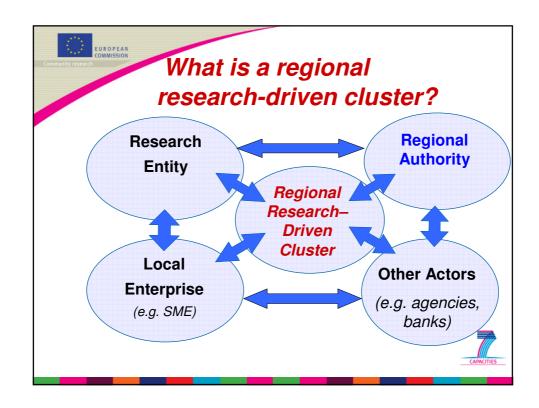


The "Regions of Knowledge" initiative responds to a need to increase the overall capacity of regional players to enhance science and technology for economic development of all European Regions

Expected Outcome

- improve links between stakeholders and local business community
- * foster transnational / cross-border cooperation
- * enhance mutual learning of regional actors
- * exchange experience and best practice







I - Expected impact

- Regional economic growth and competitiveness through the definition of strategies integrating research
- Response to the needs of regional business communities
- Mobilisation of local, national and community funds (including SF) to implement defined regional action plans in support of regional economic development
- Increase in and more effective investment in R&D
- Inclusion of more regions into the ERA





RoK: Main activities

Two calls in 2007 and 2008... along two common **thematic priorities**, which were

- > for 2007,
 - Bringing the benefits of research to SMEs
 - Research and rural economies (incl. Maritime regions)
- > for 2008,
 - Maximising the benefits of research infrastructures for regional economic development
 - Regional contributions to the reduction of CO2 emissions





I - Main changes introduced for 2009

- Strategic repositioning of the targeted clusters
 - Focus on mature clusters, incl. cluster organisations
 - At least three RDCs involved from 3 countries
 - Focus on a few networks: bigger budget per project (1 to 3 M €)
- Alignment of thematic priorities with the Commission's ones, e.g Lead Markets Initiative
- Mentoring as a compulsory activity
- Two-step approach:
 - From analysis to JAP
 - Accompanying the implementation of the JAP
- Internationalization activities allowed





I – 2009 Call for proposal

One call, REGIONS-2009-1, targeting the transnational cooperation of regional research driven clusters

- for a total of 16,1 M €

Participants

Consortia of at least 3 regional research-driven clusters from 3 different Member States or Associated countries

- Possible representation by one member under conditions
- Compulsory description of the full cluster

➤ Coordinator: either a regional authority or a fully fledged RDC (with legal entity)



I - Thematic priorities

Enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources and of the natural and man-made environment, covering

four themes:

- Water management,
- Forest management
- Soil and land management
- Waste management

... in support of the Lead Markets Initiative





I - REGIONS-2009-1

Transnational cooperation of RDCs

Activities

- > Analysis, development and implementation of research agendas
- Mentoring of regions with a less developed research profile for capacity building (compulsory)
- ➤ Initiatives to improve **integration**: definition of **joint action plans** (**JAP**), together with **business plans** following SWOT analysis and definition of RTD needs
- Measures towards the implementation of the JAP
- > International cooperation activities (optional)
- > **Dissemination** activities

Beware: Neither the implementation of the JAP nor any research can be funded under Regions



I - Expected outputs

Expected outputs

- > Inventory of RTD offer and demand
- Analysis (incl. SWOT) from an economic and R&D perspective
- ➤ Analysis of complementarities with potential other partners (mentoring and international cooperation)
- Regional strategy for research-based economic development
- Joint Action Plan (JAP) with its financing plan ... and with indicators for the foreseen measures





I - Funding scheme overview

<u>Funding scheme:</u> CSA –CA, coordinating action

Duration: up to 36 months

- the JAP being finalized during the first half of the project

Community contribution: approx. 1 to 3 M €

Financing rate: up to 100 % of eligible costs





II - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Two objectives for **CONVERGENCE & OUTERMOST** regions only:

- to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential by unlocking and developing the research potential in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions
- to *strengthen the capacities* of their researchers to success fully participate in research activities at EU level





FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL 2 Calls in 2009

• *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

Unlocking and developing the *research potential* in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions

• <u>FP7-REGPOT-2009-2</u>

International Cooperation with the MPCs (*Mediterranean Partner* Countries)





FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL Call FP7-REGPOT-2009-1

Participants

- •The project must be proposed by a <u>single public</u> or private research entity of <u>significant size</u> (e.g. University Depart., Faculties or specialized research institutes) established in the convergence & outermost regions of EU/AC*
- 3 or more experienced and knowledgeable partner organisations should participate in the proposal.

(*) Associated Countries with equiv. to 'Convergence' regions : Albania, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia & Turkey; all at countrywide level





FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL Call FP7-REGPOT-2009-1

Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions

This activity will support the implementation of an *Action Plan*:

- ✓ defined by the *highest quality* or promising research entities established in the eligible regions
- derived from a **SWOT** analysis of the applicant's research entity
- ✓ in the thematic priorities domains of the EC FP7





FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL Call FP7-REGPOT-2009-1

The Action plan <u>must</u> include a set of *5 coherent* measures:

- ✓ Exchange of know-how and experience with at least 3 or more experienced and knowledgeable partner organisations elsewhere in the EU/ACs
- Recruitment by the selected research entities of incoming experienced researchers
- Acquisition, development, maintenance or upgrading of research equipment
- Organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate knowledge transfer at national and international level
- ✓ Dissemination and promotional activities

Optionally the selected research entities can apply for an international independent expert evaluation of their overall research quality and capability (including management and infrastructure) – 6 additional months





FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL Call FP7-REGPOT-2009-1

Synergies between Action Plan and related actions supported through the cohesion policy

Applicants should explain the *synergies* between measures set out in the *Action Plan* and related actions supported (or planned) through the *Cohesion Policy* programmes -specifically through the European Regional Development Fund - whether in terms of human resources, the acquisition, development or upgrading of research equipment or activities for knowledge transfer





RESEARCH POTENTIAL

FP7-REGPOT-2009-2 – International Cooperation

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote closer S&T co-operation opportunities between Europe and the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)¹
- Develop partnerships through twinning actions with centres of excellence in Europe
- ➤ Improve participation of MPC research entities in the RTD Framework Programme
- > Improve scientifc relationships and networking
- > Development of S&T Human Potential
- Favour brain gain environments through trans-national two way exchanges of research staff
- Upgrade S&T research capacities of highest quality and/or promising research entities in MPC
- Adjust MPC research entities' policy, boost their research potential and develop links between their scientific communities and those of Europe
- 1 Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Syrian Arab Republic, Palestinian-Administered Areas and Libya





FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

FP7-REGPOT-2009-2 – International Cooperation

Funded activities: Action plan based on coherent set of measures for:

- Exchange of know-how and experience through trans-national two-way secondments of research staff, Training in Member States or Associated Countries for MPC researchers, short stays in laboratories abroad
- Recruitment of incoming experienced researchers, for teaching, training and/or joint research activities; and hiring of new young researchers to reinforce the human potential of the MPC research entities
- Acquisition, development, maintenance, upgrading and/or renewal of S&T research equipment for the selected MPC research entities
- > Organisation of workshops and conferences; participation at international conferences or short term training events, for knowledge sharing network building
- Dissemination and promotional activities to increase visibility of the selected research entities

NOTE: Beware that REGPOT is a capacity building programme and does not finance common research projects



RESEARCH POTENTIAL

FP7-REGPOT-2009-2 - International Cooperation

Call data:

Date of publication: 24 October 2008

Deadline: 13 February 2009, at 17.00 h Brussels local time

Topics: Any research topic covered by the EC FP7

Indicative Budget: EUR 8 million

Project size and duration: up to 36 months and 1 million € community contribution

Particular requirements for participation: At least one research entity from a

Mediterranean Partner Country, one from a convergence or outermost region

in a Member State or Associated Country and one from another Member

State or Associated Country

Funding scheme: CSA-SA (Supporting Action)



 Less than 75 % of EU25 average GDP or outermost territories according to article 299§2 of the EC treaty





Conclusions:

- Both initiatives well perceived by target clients
- Wide geographical and technological coverage
- Bridging excellence (RTD) and cohesion (REGIO) and competitiveness (ENTR) approaches
- Promising projects identified for funding
- High political interest
- But: oversubscription and increased communication needs

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