Newsletter

NIS-NEST
New & Emerging Science and Technology in NIS countries

Issue 2 / January 2007

www.nisnest.gr

1 Editorial by Maria Koutrokoi, project coordinator
NIS-NEST : progress and prospects

After the kick off meeting (Read NIS-NEST Newsletter Issue 1 – October 2006), the NIS-NEST project is underway. Several tasks are in progress, especially the preparation of a database (See WP2 below). Several information days will take place in NIS partners' countries during the coming months (See WP3 below).

NIS-NEST project is organized in 5 operational workpackages (WP1 to WP5) which will be carried out over a period of 24 months. WP5 deals with the management of the project. The project came into force on 1st May 2006 and will be completed at the end of April 2008.

Workpackage 1: NIS-NEST Website and leaflet

The coordination team has developed a web site for external and internal communication (forum for discussion). The website of NIS- NEST project contains up-to-date information on the project, FP7, and related R&D news and events, related initiatives, useful links etc. The NIS-NEST leaflet (translated into both French and Russian) is available in the public area of the project website and copies of it are distributed by all partners in their premises. However, the objective of this website is not only informative. The main reason for its existence is to serve as a useful tool to find potential partners, via its Database.

Workpackage 2: Database

The Database will contain the contact details and the scientific interests of researchers and research organisations from East European countries. It will include two separate questionnaires. One will record the scientific profiles of individual researchers active in the high-risk research fields and the other one will record the profile of research institutions / laboratories / departments, etc. It will be searchable online by researchers and research organisations looking for potential partners for the project proposals.

The Database will be available on February 2007 and will support the achievement of the overall project aim to increase the participation and networking of the target group in the high risk research areas.

Workpackage 3: Information Days and Workshops

Five Information Days, aiming to create awareness of FP7 and to attract the participants from NIS countries in submitting proposals in the first three Calls of proposals under the high-risk scientific Research areas of FP7, will take place in Eastern European partner countries from February until March 2007.

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NIS-NEST : progress and prospects, *continued*

The time plan for the organisation of the Information Days is the following:

- Information Day in St Petersburg will take place St Petersburg State Polytechnical University (http://www.spbcas.ru/) on 20 February 2007.
- Information Day in Moscow will take place in M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (http://www.msu.ru/en/) on 21 February 2007.
- Information Day in Kiev will take place in Institute of Semiconductor Physics/ National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, (http://www.isp.kiev.ua/) on 23 February 2007.
- The time plan for the information days in Moldova and Belarus is under discussion.

The draft agenda and webpage for electronic registrations will be soon available in the website (http://www.nisnest.gr/html_pages/evens.htm).

Sessions of the event will include presentations about the opportunities for participation as well as the vision and expectations of EC regarding researchers from East European countries, the opportunities to meet and cultivate further collaboration with the researchers and key players from the East European countries.

Five Workshops will take place in Eastern European partner countries during the second year of the project's lifecycle.
Other events in NIS countries can be found in the project's website in the following link: http://www.nisnest.gr/html_pages/evens.htm.

Workpackage 4: Awareness and information materials and activities

NIS-NEST website, contains short descriptions and links with projects with similar objectives (such as NEST-IDEA, Russera, ADMIRE-P etc).

For instance, NIS-NEST project was presented during the IST event in Helsinki on 23 November 2006 during the session "**Spotlight on Russia in IST**" and during the Symposium on Nanobiotechnologies **"Current State and Future prospects for cooperation**" which took place on 14-16 December in the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

The St Petersburg Polytechnic University and National Documentation Centre were co-organisers of the 1st International Workshop on Nanobiotechnologies which took place on 27 -29 November 2006 in the Polytechnic State University of Saint Petersburg. Within the framework of the above International Event, Ms Koutrokoi gave a presentation (as EKT representative) entitled the "**7th Framework Programme for R&D of EU: Opportunities and Support initiatives (NIS-NEST project) for the Russian Scientific Community**".

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2 FP7 adopted and underway, by Paul Jamet

After twenty months of preparation and negotiation (The European Commission's proposal for the Seventh Framework Programme for EU research was published on April 6th, 2005) FP7 was adopted by the European Parliament on November 2006 and by the European Council on December 18th, 2006, in due time to launch the first calls before the end of 2006 and for FP7 to enter into force on January 1st, 2007 for of seven years.
On December 22nd, 2006, CORDIS News announced that "*The EU's largest ever funding programme for research, the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) has got underway with* ***the publication of 42 calls for proposals.*** *Researchers received a Christmas present of almost €4.3 billion on 22 December.* ***The total budget for FP7 is €50.521 billion****, with an additional €2.7 billion available through Euratom*".

Further readings:

- CORDIS News N° **26863** (First FP7 calls published) and **26875** (FP7 takes off)
- Press release **PRES/06/366** 18/12/2006 "**Council approves EU research programmes for 2007-2013";**
- **Green light for seventh framework research programme for 2007-2013** – European Parliament press service.

FP7 Fact Sheets – (See **Documents and links** in this issue).

Web sites :

- CORDIS – FP7: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7 - Call fiches and all documents for applicants.

EUROPA – FP7 web site: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home_en.html

3 News from NIS countries, by Paul Jamet

- **About Siberian research (see CORDIS Wire No 11357)**
- **FP7– NCPs in NIS countries, by Maria Koutrokoi, project coordinator**

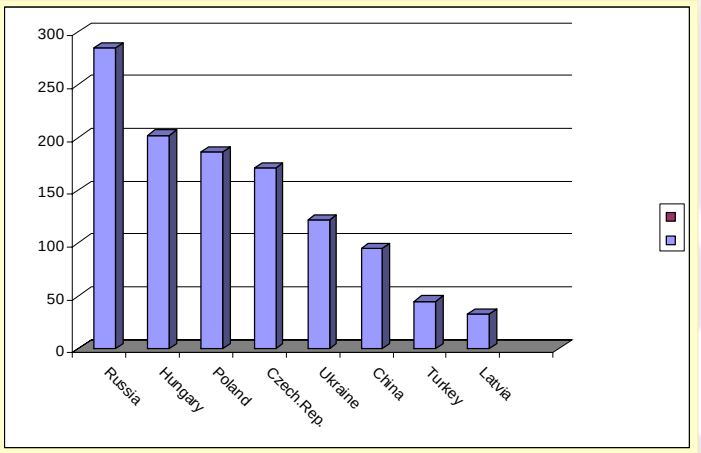
The NCP system in Europe was first conceived and materialized under FP5 (effective from March 1999). NCP system in Russia was established according to the decision of the Ministry of Science and Education of Russian Federation in 2003. At the moment there are 11 NCPs in Russia of which 9 NCPs are for 7 thematic priorities of FP6 (NCP for the Mobility and NCP for SMEs).
The Ministry of Education and Science of RF is the National Co-ordinator of the NCP system in Russia. All NCPs are located in Moscow in the Institutes of RAS. The main sources of funding are grants of the Ministry of Education and Science of RF and INTAS.
For more information on NCPs in East European countries please visit:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html
http://www.intas.be/index.asp?s=22_1&uid=

3 News from NIS countries by Paul Jamet, *continued*

EU-Russia Co-operation Agreement on Science and Technology was signed on 10th May 2001 and renewed by common agreement in October 2003 at the EU summit in Rome.
Russian organizations have participated in the EU FPs since 1994 (the 4th FP). About 600 million Euros from the general budget of the FP6 were spent for funding projects with participation of third countries, including Russia and 285 million Euros from this budget was spent for the international cooperation in the thematic areas.

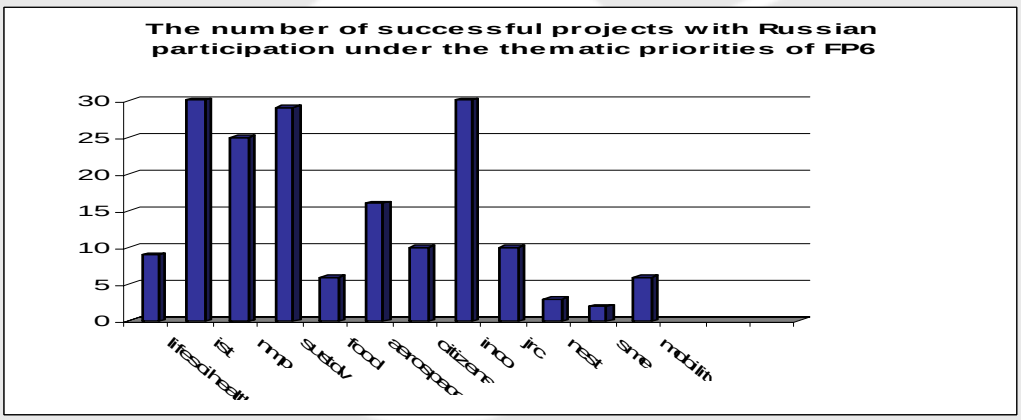
The number of successful projects with Russian Participation from FP3 to FP6 has developed in approximate numbers as follows:

FP3 (1990-1994) - 2
FP4 (1994 -1998) – 285
FP5 (1998-2002) - 118
FP6 (2002-2006) ~ 195
Source: CORDIS



RTD COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES WITHIN FP4 (1994-1998)

The number of successful projects with Russian participation under the thematic priorities of FP6 is indicated in the following diagram:



However participation can be further improved if awareness on the FP7 is raised and information on proposal writing, project administration and management is disseminated and more partner search tools are created.

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4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 (part 2), by Paul Jamet

Part 2: *Knowing the evaluation procedure and criteria to prepare a winning proposal*

This paper is the second part of a series devoted to the preparation of winning proposal for FP7. The first paper (See NIS-NEST Newsletter Issue N° 1 – October 2006) explained what scientists can do waiting for the calls.
The objective of this second part is to draw the attention on the **evaluation procedure** and especially on the **evaluation criteria** the experts-evaluators will use to mark proposals.
Avoid to waste time writing a proposal that has no chance of success.

Project holders must remember that their main objective is to prepare and to write a proposal to get it through the evaluation process successfully. Write a proposal, not a research paper.

1 – Know the Seventh Framework programme:

The first calls were launched on December 22, 2006; read CORDIS News **26863** published on 22-DEC-2006 and N° 26875 on 02-JAN-2007.

Participants have to read carefully a set of documents, so-called information package, including:

- **FP7 fact sheets** in your native or preferred language. This booklet gives an overview of FP7 and of the basic features of the different programmes;
- The **work programme** which corresponds to your field of activities; read carefully General Introduction and **pay attention to specific goals and specific requirements!**
- The **call fiche** which gives information of the call (pay attention to the deadline);

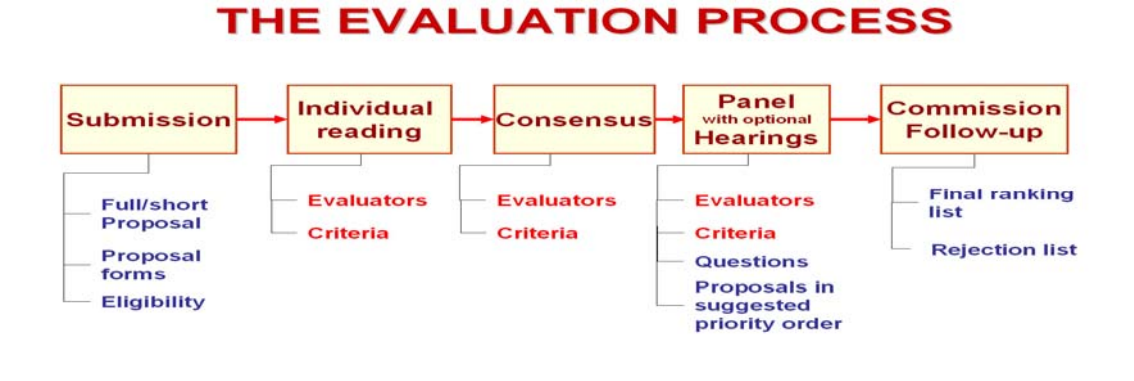
The **Guides for Applicants** relevant to the funding schemes used in this call.

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4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 (part 2), by Paul Jamet, *continued*

2 – The evaluation process

The evaluation process is generally a four step process (panel hearings are optional, mainly for big projects), as follows:



This flow chart, provided by DG Research, shows that experts-evaluators and criteria concern two or three steps: individual reading, in a meeting room in Brussels or using remote evaluation facilities via Internet, consensus when experts discussed together to prepare the Evaluation Summary Report and during panel hearings in specific cases.

"**Evaluating proposals is a serious process**" says G. Stroud to CORDIS News (See NIS-NEST Newsletter issue 1 and read CORDIS News N° 26145 published on August 4th, 2006).

This whole evaluation process for FP7 is described in details in two coming documents:

- **Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures**
- **Handbook on evaluation and selection of proposals**

The **Evaluation forms** will be available soon. These are the forms the experts-evaluators will have to fill in while reading a proposal. So, to facilitate the experts-evaluators' work, applicants have to give clear answers to these questions in their proposals.

Under FP7, proposals will be marked using mainly three evaluation criteria.

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4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 (part 2), by Paul Jamet, *continued*

3 – The eligibility and evaluation criteria

Annex 2 of the 2007 "Cooperation" and "Capacities" Work programme concerns Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria for Proposals and will apply to all calls for proposals.

- **Eligibility criteria:** to be considered eligible, a proposal must be submitted before the deadline, must be complete (all requested forms and Parts), must involve at least the minimum number of eligible and independent participants as set out in the call text/Work Programme and its content must relate to the topics and funding schemes.
- **Evaluation criteria:** (See Article 15 of the Rules for Participation). Mainly three criteria which are adapted to each funding schemes and to each thematic area:

Quality of science, i.e. scientific and/or technological excellence; takes also into account the relevance to the topics addressed by the call;
Likely impact, potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of the results.
Management of the project: quality & efficiency of implementation and management.

Electronic submission is mandatory for all the calls. So, remote evaluation will widely used. Applicants must keep in mind that remote evaluation can seek out experts-evaluators with a very narrow specific expertise.

4 - volunteer to be an expert-evaluator yourself !

The best way to change your opinion on the process, to learn about evaluation is to be on the other side of the fence becoming an expert-evaluator. On December 14th, 2006, the European Commission has published two calls for proposals for selecting independent experts (See Official Journal EU C 305 page 52 & 54):

- **Call addressed to individuals** for the establishment of a database of prospective independent experts to assist the Commission's services for tasks in connection with the Seventh RTD Framework Programme; read CORDIS News N° 26823;
- **Call addressed to organisations** to propose lists of prospective independent experts to assist the Commission's services for tasks in connection with the Seventh RTD Framework Programme; read CORDIS News N° 26822.

The registration of experts for research activities is opened; the EMM (Expert Management Module) is now available on CORDIS (https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7). We clearly encourage scientists from NIS Countries to apply, especially women.

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4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 (part 2), by Paul Jamet, *continued*

Coming up in the next issue, **Part 2:** « ***Preparing, writing and submitting a proposal for FP7*** ».

Funding scheme: it's the new terminology for collaborative project, network of Excellence, co-ordination and support actions, research for the benefit of specific groups such as SMEs.

NB: readers, especially those who have a valuable experience as experts-evaluators under FP6, are invited to send contributions, testimonies or for instance answers to the following question: « ***While reading an EU research proposal, what an expert-evaluator looks first?*** » Answers will be analysed and the synthesis published in this Newsletter. Please, send contributions to paul.jamet@jouy.inra.fr

5 Documents and links, by Paul Jamet

- **EU in the world**, a new web site. Focus on EU delegations in NIS countries
- **FP7:** tomorrow's anwers start today (factsheets, 32 pages, available in 23 languages).
- **ICT in FP7 at a glance**; a 4-page overview of ICT programme

Registration of Experts for Research Activities.The EMM (Expert Management Module) on CORDIS.

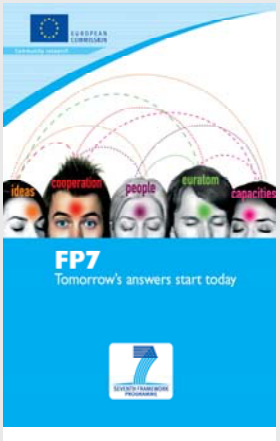
Contents, by Paul JAMET



« **CORDIS gateway to FP7,** http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7»

CORDIS has launched a new FP7 service which provides detailed information on FP7, the specific programmes and themes, participation rules and official documents related to FP7.

It also contains all the latest developments, announcements of calls and events relevant to FP7.



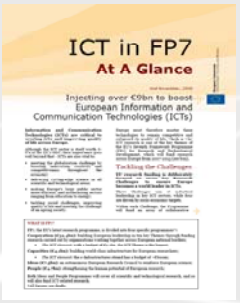
«**FP7:tomorrow's answers start today**» (Fact Sheets, 32 pages, available in 21 languages)

The "FP7 Fact sheets" will help you to answer these questions:

What is FP7?
What is its budget?
What is its overall duration?
Which research areas does it cover?
How will citizens, researchers, industry and SMEs benefit from FP7?
Where can I find more information about European research?

Available at the following URL :
http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/index.html

5 Documents and links, by Paul Jamet, *continued*



« ICT in FP7 at a glance; a 4-page overview of the ICT programme »

The objective of ICT research under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is to improve the **competitiveness of European industry** – as well as to enable Europe to master and shape the future developments of these technologies so that the **demands of its society and economy** are met.



«Registration of experts for Research Activities, The EMM (Expert Management Module) on CORDIS»

Registration of Experts for Research Activities



« EU in the world, a new web site, Focus in EU delegations in NIS countries»

http://ec.europa.eu/world/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/world/where/index_en.htm

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