Newsletter

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

Issue 3 / April 2007

www.nisnest.gr

1 Editorial

The NIS-NEST project aims to inform and assist potential partners from the Eastern European countries in FP7, its objectives, rules and mechanisms for participation, and support them in proposal preparation and partner identification.
Four information days were held in the Russian Federation , Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova by each of the NIS-NEST partners in order to inform individual researchers, research organisations and policy-makers from the above countries about the relevant opportunities and procedures. For more information please see below or visit:
http://www.nisnest.gr/html_pages/evens.htm.

2 Information Days on FP7 in Russia, Ukraine and Moldova

More than 500 representatives of the academic, research and business community attended the international workshops on the 7th Framework programme of the European Commission, that took place in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, in the framework of the NIS-NEST project (Opening up the European Research Area in the NIS countries). The workshops were organized on 20, 21, 23 February and 30 March 2007, in Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and Chisinau respectively.

In the information days participated and delivered presentations, officials from Scientific and Political community of the Eastern European Countries, such as: the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, State Directorate of Russian Federal Goal-oriented Science and Technology Programme, Committee of Science and High School-Government of St Petersburg, St Petersburg Scientific Centre of Russian Academy of Science, St Petersburg State Polytechnic University, St Petersburg State University-High School of Economy, Euroscience section in Russia, etc

Representatives from other Member States such as France Coordinator of National Contact Points for FP7 in France, Austria (National Contact Point of INCO in Austria - The Austrian Research Promotion Agency, FFG), Greece (National Documentation Centre) as well as from the General Representation of Greece in Brussels briefed on the research fields, implementation methods and rules of financial participation in FP7. Practical advice on the involvement of research bodies from these countries in the 7th Framework Programme, on proposal preparation, partner identification- European partner search and support networks were presented as well. Presentations and photographs from the event are available on the following link: **http://www.nisnest.gr/html_pages/evens.htm**

All participants expressed considerable interest in opportunities of participation in FP7 specific programmes and collaboration with EU scientists and research organizations from EU Member States. A number of training sessions is planned to be organized during fall 2007 in all above mentioned countries, where all participants will receive more personalized and up to date information on participation in FP7.

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2 Information Days on FP7 in Russia, Ukraine and Moldova (cont.)





1 | 2
3 | 4





1 –Photo from the Information Day in Moscow (from left to right): Dr Marina K. Melkonyan (NMP NCP), M. Koutrkokoi (Coordinator of NIS-NEST project, EKT, Greece) Prof. Svetlana Mamakina (Deputy Vice Rector of M.V. Lomonosov University), Prof. Vladimir Belokurov (MSU Vice– Rector)
2 - Photo from the Information Day in St Petersburg (from left to right) : Dr Sergey Kozyrev (Director of Centre for Advanced Studies), Mr Bernd Braun (General Consul of Germany in St Petersburg)
3 - Photo from the Information Day in Kiev: participants of the information day
4 - Photo from the Information Day in Chisinau (from right to left) : Prof. Ion Tighineanu (Vice- President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Academician Gheorghe Duca (President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova), Mr Paul Jamet (Co-ordinator of the NCP for FP7 in France), Ms Maria Samara (EKT, Greece)

3 The NIS-NEST database, An overview

The NIS-NEST database will be a tool for identifying the active researchers and research organisations active in the FP7 areas and sub-areas in the Eastern European countries. The database will include two separate questionnaires, one to record the scientific profiles of individual researchers and the other to record the profile of research institutions / laboratories / departments, etc. More specifically:

- Researchers will be given the ability to include or fill in into the database detailed information regarding research organisations as well as individual researchers in the Eastern European countries. Update operations will also be available.
- Visitors will be able to selectively retrieve data from the database on the basis of search criteria they specify. The application will also give users capability to contact (send email to) any researcher or organisation that appears in the search results.

The whole application will be integrated in the NIS-NEST web site in the middle of April 2007 and exclusively provided to web users through it.

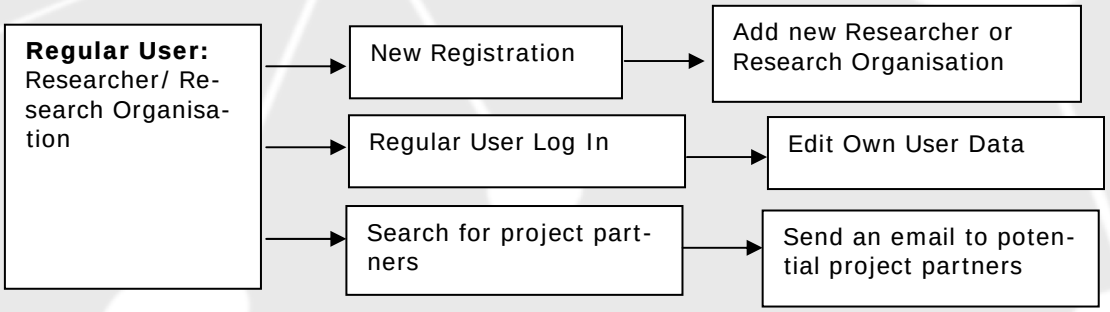
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3 The NIS-NEST database, An overview (cont.)

The access and use of the the NIS-NEST database will include the following phases:

- **Registration Phase:**
  Enter your profile as researcher
  Enter your profile as research organisation
- **Enter your partner search**
  Search for researchers and research organisations based on certain criteria
- **Access Phase:**
  After registration or Log In process the Regular User, either registered researcher or registered research organisation, will be allowed to modify their record and have access to search, retrieval and message sending capabilities.

The NIS-NEST database flow for Regular Users either Researchers or Research Organisations will be as follows:



4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 by Paul Jamet

« ***Preparing, writing and submitting a proposal for FP7*** » - Part 3a : **All you need to prepare a proposal**

FP7 is open to participation from any country in the world. Cooperation with third countries is explicitly encouraged, especially for countries belonging to the group of International Cooperation partner Countries (*e.g.* Russia and other Eastern European countries).

Scientists working in research organisations from NIS (New Independant States) can participate to this new European Framework Programme; they are entitled to receive funding under the same conditions as EU Member States (MS) or Associated States (AS). Nevertheless, they have to join a consortium which has the required minimum number of participants from MS or AS. The challenge is to find a coordinator in a MS or an AS.

The objective of this paper is to present **suggestions and advices for finding partners** in MS or AS.

1 - Selecting the relevant strategy for FP7: who are your key partners in EU?

How to find partners? To answer this common question, remember there are several ways of finding partners in MS or AS.

The first one is to contact your current project partners in EU, if any, in order to discuss with them an idea for a new proposal.

4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 by Paul Jamet (cont.)

The second one is to use CORDIS facilities. CORDIS web site offers several facilities:

- CORDIS partner search (see below and §4)
- Current project data bases as CORDIS Projects (See §4)
- EoI data base (Expression of Interest - launched at the beginning of FP6) – (See §4)
- CORDIS NCPs' database (See §4) and soon:

- NIS-NEST database (see above)
- NCPs' networks (projects will be submitted in the coming weeks).



CORDIS Partners Service

The Partners Service is a free on-line service, tailor-made to help you to find the best research partners for your projects, either in the context of EU-funded Research and Development projects or within a broader search for technology-orientated partnerships. The service includes details on thousands of active partnership requests from companies, research institutions and universities across Europe and around the world.

http://cordis.europa.eu/partners-service/home_en.html

Commission events or brokerage events organised in Europe in your area allow to meet potential partners (read CORDIS News and CORDIS Wire, item Events). You can also promote your research activities using CORDIS Wire.



CORDIS Wire

The innovation & research exchange on CORDIS.
CORDIS Wire gives you access to information sent by European innovation and research stakeholders.
For more information on CORDIS Wire go to :

http://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm

2 – Key documents

Before contacting potential partners, we strongly recommend:

- to read carefully a set of key documents on FP7; See NIS-NEST News letter, issue N° 2, §1 and §2.
- to answer the following question: **does the subject or the idea fit in a work programme of an open call under FP7?**

4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 by Paul Jamet (cont.)

- to prepare a short presentation of the project (two-page document, see below §3);
- to take care and to **protect your idea**; see §4

There are plenty of documents available on FP7. Several have been prepared by the DG Research - Information and Communication Unit, especially for beginners.

Then, when a call is identified, it is necessary to read carefully the set of documents so-called the « information package » and **pay attention to specific goals and specific requirements!** All information packages are available on CORDIS FP7 web site.

For each call, such a set of documents is available. What will you find in the information package?

- **Text of the call** (published in Official Journal of the EU, announced via CORDIS News – See §4 below)
- **Call fiche -** the official announcement of the call - (also part of the WP)
- **WP - Work programme** (**annual document** including General introduction & General annexes)
- **Guide for applicants**: **one** per **call** and **funding scheme**

We also strongly recommend to read two other documents (available soon on CORDIS!):

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

Work programme	Guide for applicants

• Annual document
Structure:
  • General Introduction
  • Chapters – for Themes/Parts
  • Annexes – ICPC, Evaluation Criteria, Forms of the Grant/ Reimbursement Rates
  • Cooperation WP – Annex on General Activities (CORDIS, ERA-NET, Eureka, RSFF)
• Provides further details of the topics
• Expected impact statements at the level of the topic or research area
• Details of funding scheme(s) to be used
	• First section completely generic
	- General principles, basic rules, how to apply
	• Written with newcomers in mind
	- Includes a glossary
	• All call-specific information is found together in annex
	- No need to hunt around for important details
	• Includes the evaluation criteria and procedure
	- Formerly 'guidance notes for evaluators'

4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 by Paul Jamet (cont.)

3 - Can you answer clearly to these questions?

To convince your potential partners to prepare a proposal with you, write a short presentation of the project you have in mind; such a presentation (*i.e.* a template with the essential elements of a project idea) will give clear answers at least to the following questions.

3.1 - Who is proposing the project and why?

- Is the project proposed by a scientist, a research team, a research organisation, a university, etc.? Why?
- What are the scientists' qualifications and their time commitments for the tasks?

Will they operate a part of the project? (tasks, workpackages);

3.2 - Rationale and project description:

- Why is this project being proposed?
- What are the research questions to be answered? How do they meet FP7 objectives?
- Excellence of the proposed research; state of the art;
- What is/are the objective(s) of the project?
- Why is the proposed approach the best way forward?

What are the risks? Do alternative approaches exist?

3.3 - Potential impact of the project:

- What will be the impact of the results on EU competitiveness?
- Why is the project important ? For EU? For research community in the field? For other stackeholders as industries, citizens?

This template could also be used to check the eligibility of the proposal with the Commission; there are two testing types, pre proposal check (when available) and project officers direct contact. **Remember, always do it in time!**

Work programmes 2007 already contain Information on future topics – as basis for future consultations. New calls will be published during fall 2007; **it's now due time to contact partners**. Invite or visit them during the coming summer.

Coming up in the next issue, **Part 3b:** « *Writing and submitting an EU research proposal* ».

4 – Links to find reference documents

Where to find documents on FP7? Two main URL's:

FP7 on EUROPA web site: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/

- **Official documents**: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=documents
- **Brochures**: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=publications
- Multipliers events – **speakers presentations**: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=event-070207-prog

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4 How to prepare a winning proposal for FP7 by Paul Jamet (cont.)

FP7 on CORDIS web site: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

- CORDIS **Partner search** : http://cordis.europa.eu/partners-service/home_en.html
- CORDIS **Projects database** : http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?dbname=proj
- **EoI** data base (expressions of interest): http://cordis.europa.eu/eoi/search_form.cfm
- CORDIS **NCPs**' database: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html
- CORDIS – FP7 – **Find a call** : http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm

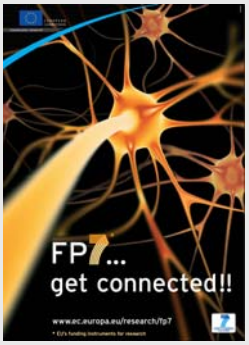
Other relevant URL's:

- IPR-Helpdesk document: **Protection of an idea or a concept** http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/documentos/docsPublicacion/pdf_xml/8_ProtectionConcept%5B0000004263_00%5D.pdf
- Eur-Lex - Online editions of the **Official Journal** (pdf format): http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en
- CORDIS News: http://cordis.europa.eu/news/home_en.html
- CORDIS Wire: http://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm

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, write to paul.jamet@jouy.inra.fr

5 Documents and links

- **Launching FP7 Conference for Information Multipliers**, *Brussels, 7-8 February 2007*
- **A New Approach to International S&T Cooperation in the EU's 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013)**
- **ISTC & STUC** – Cooperation & Innovation in the Life Sciences
- **ISTC & STUC** - Excellent research opportunities in biotechnology



Launching FP7 Conference for Information Multipliers
More than 90 presentations on FP7 available on EUROPA
(Architecture, programmes, implementation)

On **7 & 8 February 2007**, DG Research organised in Brussels two information days for information multipliers. Six hundred participants or so received a complete kit of information. A detailed programme, with the **speakers presentations** is available on EUROPA at the following URL:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=event-070207

5 Documents and links (cont.)

A New Approach to International S&T Cooperation in the EU's 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013)



This publication outlines **how the new approach to international cooperation is intended to work in FP7**, with particular focus to the first two years of the programme's implementation:

- The **Cooperation Programme** enables research cooperation to take place between different global research partners in collaboration with European researchers.
- The **Capacities Programme** will support a range of activities to strengthen research capacity in the European scientific community and other regions of the world.
- The **People Programme** meets the need to foster both incoming and outgoing international mobility of researchers.

The **Ideas Programme** supports excellence in frontier research and enables individual top international researchers to participate in Europe-led teams.

This publication (pdf, 22 pages) is available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/newapproach_en.pdf

Cooperation and innovation in the Life Sciences
International Science and Technology Center **ISTC and STCU** Science and Technology Center in the Ukraine



The ISTC and the STCU guide potentially interested clients to relevant research groups. "Regular projects" are proposed by researchers to the ISTC and STCU. Condition for EU support is to have a collaborator from the EU demonstrated by a supporting letter. This can be industry or another interested research client. For selected projects, the applicants will receive funding for up to three years. Typically the research team will have between 20 to 40 scientists in one or more institutions.

This publication (pdf, 24 pages) is available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/biotech_brochure_en.pdf

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Excellent research opportunities in biotechnology
in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Central Asia



The **International Science and Technology Centre (ISTC)** in Moscow and the **Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine (STCU)** in Kiev are inter-governmental organizations that are funded by the European Union, the USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and Norway. The ISTC and STCU support the downsizing of military research capacities in the CIS countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and the non proliferation of sensitive scientific knowledge. It does so by redirecting scientists working with Weapons of Mass Destruction towards civilian applications.

This leaflet (pdf, 2 pages) is available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/biotech_leaflet_en.pdf

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