

## Introduction to the Community Research Policy

- 1. Background.....	1
- 2. The Framework programmes.....	1
- 3. The Specific programmes.....	1
- 4. Implementation of the programmes.....	2
- 5. How to participate in indirect actions.....	2
- 6. The Research Budget.....	2
- 7. Related links.....	2

Last updated October 2007

### 1. Background

The provisions on research were originally not very developed in the Community Treaties. Community Research was concentrated in specific sectors through the provisions of the Treaties establishing the [European Coal and Steel Community](#)<sup>1</sup> and the [European Atomic Energy Community](#). Nevertheless, the Research policy was reinforced with updated provisions in the EC Treaty by the [Single European Act](#) (1986) and by the [Maastricht Treaty](#) (1993). Nowadays, they include a real coordination of national research policies of the Member States and define projects of interest to the Community in all the fields of science and technology with the view to *strengthen the scientific and technological basis* of European industry by complementing the activities carried out in the Member States through *the implementation of framework multi-annual programmes*.

### 2. The Framework programmes

The main instruments of this policy, the Framework Programmes (FP), set objectives and priorities and provide a budget for financing projects for a period of several years<sup>2</sup>. The seventh generation of programmes (FP7) began in January 2007.

On the one hand, the FP of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) (hereinafter [FP7 EC](#)) aims to support transnational cooperation across the European Union. On the other hand, the FP of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities (2007-2011) (hereinafter [FP7 EURATOM](#)) aims to complement other Community research actions in the area of nuclear research. It specifically includes the role of nuclear energy in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, diminishing the dependence of Europe on imported energy, and a key participation on fusion energy to contribute to the realisation of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor ([ITER](#)).

### 3. The Specific programmes

The priorities of the FP are set forth in Specific Programmes developed within each activity. The FP7 EC is divided into four specific programmes: Cooperation, Capacities, Ideas and People.

- **Cooperation:** support for transnational cooperation in key areas: 1) Health 2) Food, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Biotechnology 3) Information and communication technologies 4) Nanotechnologies 5) Energy 6) Environment (including climate change) 7) Transport 8) Socio-economic Sciences 9) Space 10) Security.
- **Capacities:** enhancing research and innovation capacities and optimising their use.
- **Ideas:** support for basic research.
- **People:** support for researchers: facilitating their mobility and career development.

The FP7 EURATOM is divided into two specific parts: one covering fusion energy research, nuclear fission and radiation protection, and the other one covering the Joint Research Centre (JRC) activities in the field of nuclear energy.

## Introduction to the Community Research Policy

### 4. Implementation of the programmes

There are two main ways for the European Union to achieve the objectives of these research programmes: **Direct and indirect research actions**. The **direct actions** are research and development activities carried out by the European Commission in the institutes of the JRC. They are fully financed by the Community budget. **Indirect actions** are research projects carried out by research centres, universities or enterprises, including SMEs, with financial assistance (a grant) from the Community. Such a grant generally covers between 50% and 100% of the total research costs.

The JRC is in fact a Directorate-General of the European Commission, like the [Directorate-General for Research](#), and is governed by the [European Commissioner for Research](#). It functions as a science and technology reference centre for the Union. In that respect, it pursues direct actions that are entirely financed by the Community budget.

The [JRC](#) carries out direct research actions in a variety of scientific areas under both the [EC FP7](#) and the [EURATOM FP7](#). To accomplish these missions the JRC relies notably on [seven institutes](#):

- [IRMM](#), Geel (Belgium), for Reference Materials and Measurements;
- [ITU](#), Karlsruhe (Germany), for Transuranium Elements;
- [IE](#), Petten (Netherlands), for Energy;
- [IPSC](#), Ispra (Italy), for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen;
- [IES](#), Ispra (Italy), for Environment and Sustainability;
- [IHCP](#), Ispra (Italy), for Health and Consumer Protection;
- [IPTS](#), Seville (Spain), for Prospective Technological Studies.

### 5. How to participate in indirect actions

The programmes provide information for the European researchers and institutions that plan to undertake research in areas where the European Union offers support. Participation is open to organisations (universities, research centres, transnational companies, SMEs, public administrations) as well as to individuals. The European Commission regularly publishes [calls for proposals](#) that permit interested stakeholders to submit their projects to obtain a grant. In that respect, they should respect the conditions laid down in the [Rules for participation](#). In general, a collaborative project proposal should be submitted by a consortium of several partners (at least three legal entities) based in different Member States (or States participating in or associated with the FP). The partners, beneficiaries of the grant, will usually sign a consortium agreement organising their relationship, and a grant agreement with the European Commission if their proposal is accepted for funding (see the [model grant agreement](#)).

### 6. The Research Budget

These grants are funded through the European Union budget. Like the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#), FP7 budgets serve to make the European economy the most competitive. To achieve this goal the Legislative Authority<sup>3</sup> adopted in December 2006 a reinforced envelope of EUR 50 521 million for the EC FP7 and EUR 2 751 million for the EURATOM FP7 respectively for the 2007-2013 and 2007-2011 periods<sup>4</sup>.

### 7. Related links

[Why European Research?](#)

[Understanding the Seventh Framework Programme](#)

[More on CORDIS \(Community Research and Development Information Service\)](#)

## Introduction to the Community Research Policy

1. This Treaty expired in 2003, but its research activities continue under the Research programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel. This programme is not covered in this document, for further details see here.
2. FP1 (1984-87), FP2 (1987-91), FP3 (1990-94), FP4 (1994-1998), FP5 (1998-2002), FP6 (2002-2006).
3. The Legislative Authority is shared by the European Parliament and the Council. EC programmes are approved by the Council in co-decision with the Parliament, while specific and Euratom programmes are adopted by the Council after consulting the Parliament.
4. See the budget breakdown table for details.

The [IPR-Helpdesk](#) project is coordinated by the University of Alicante, which is supported by the Intellectual Property Law Institute of Jagiellonian University in Cracow and European Research and Project Office GmbH in Saarbrücken.

**Project Management Office**  
IPR-Helpdesk  
Edificio Germán Bernácer  
Universidad de Alicante  
P.O. Box 99  
03080 Alicante  
España

e-mail: [ipr-helpdesk@ua.es](mailto:ipr-helpdesk@ua.es)  
Tel.: +34 965 90 97 18  
Fax: +34 965 90 97 15

**Representative Office**  
IPR-Helpdesk  
98, Rue du Trône  
B-1050 Brussels

e-mail: [ipr-helpdesk@ua.es](mailto:ipr-helpdesk@ua.es)  
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 213 41 63  
Fax: +32 (0) 2 213 41 69

[www.ipr-helpdesk.org](http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org)  
[ipr-helpdesk@ua.es](mailto:ipr-helpdesk@ua.es)