

WORK PROGRAMME 2010

CAPACITIES

PART 4

RESEARCH POTENTIAL

(European Commission C(2009)5905 of 29 July 2009)

Capacities Work Programme: Research Potential

The work programme presented here provides one call for proposals on '*Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities established in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions*'.

Besides this, there will be a specific call for proposals on '*Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions*'.

In addition, three other actions are dedicated for the organisation of two conferences under the Spanish Presidency and for the setting up of an Expert Group on synergies between the Framework Programme, the Structural Funds and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

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4. RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Objective

Stimulating the realisation of the full research potential of the enlarged Union by unlocking and developing existing or emerging excellence in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions¹, and helping to strengthen the capacities of their researchers to successfully participate in research activities at Community level.

I CONTEXT

Europe is not making the most of its research potential and resources located in less advanced regions remote from the European core of research and industrial development. Indeed, the Convergence and Outermost regions research actors may find difficult to play their role and find their place in the ERA, because they are facing problems of brain drain, infrastructure, economic and institutional organisation or lack of appropriate access to finance. This action will allow research entities² in these regions – whether in the public or private sector - to reinforce their excellence and creativity while taking advantage of the knowledge and know-how existing in leading research organisations of Europe. Hence, they will contribute actively to the regional or European economy and social welfare and will become dynamic actors of the European Research Area (ERA) within the enlarged Union.

Approach for 2010

The action aims at strengthening the potential of *research entities established in the Convergence and Outermost regions of the European Union* (EU) that need new knowledge and support to realise their development. It will help to enhance the capacity of their researchers to successfully participate in research activities at EU level. It will therefore tackle a variety of challenges such as 'brain gain' through networking with other European world class research players and industry, upgrading of relevant RTD infrastructure, recruitment of experienced researchers and institutional mobilization as well as dynamic contribution to the regional or European sustainable socio-economic development.

¹ Convergence regions are listed in the C(2006) 3475 and are defined as those regions having a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of less than 75 % of the average GDP of the EU-25. Subject to international instruments associating third countries to the 7th EC Framework Programme, other regions may become eligible for participation; the modalities for the identification of eligible regions will be defined in these international instruments. All regions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey are eligible for participation.

Outermost regions are defined according to the article 299§2 of the EC Treaty: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion (the four French overseas departments), the Canaries (Spain), and the Azores and Madeira (Portugal).

² Research entities are for the purpose of this action defined as research centres and universities.

On the grounds of the past experience, the *Research Potential* action will focus on **high quality research entities of significant scientific size**³ to ensure the highest impact of the Community intervention. These research entities, public or private, should demonstrate a high quality of human, material and organisational capacity, allowing hosting several new experienced researchers and engineers from the country concerned and abroad. Their research potential increase will be realised in **close cooperation with at least 3 European outstanding research 'partnering organisations'** in the same S&T domain or in a complementary field. The '*partnering organisations*' should be established in at least 3 different Member States or Associated Countries, other than that of the applicant. From the European perspective, it will be crucial to put more emphasis on linking these beneficiaries to larger interdisciplinary communities as well as to the regional/national or European sustainable development needs. At the end of the project an optional ex-post evaluation activity by independent experts can be foreseen.

During the implementation of the selected projects, a strong engagement of the applicant's parent organisation (e.g. typically a large traditional University structure, a Research Institute or organisation or an Academy of Science), national science bodies or ministries, regional authorities and when appropriate, funding agencies, should be envisaged, especially in order to ensure synergies with local, regional or national policies or programmes. Such an approach will increase the sustainability of the Convergence and Outermost regions RTD players. It will also enhance the up-scaling of their potential and will allow them to become dynamic "innovation engines" capable of sustaining regional or national growth and employment.

Such a strategy will permit to:

- Establish and expand networks across Europe to support high quality research, exchange know-how and experiences and ensure technology and knowledge transfer so that leading-edge research can thrive in the Convergence and Outermost regions;
- Increase the participation of beneficiaries in any scientific field covered by the EC FP7.
- Attract, develop and retain the best research professionals in the Convergence and Outermost regions research centres;
- Up-grade and extend the laboratory equipment and research performance of the Convergence RTD actors to improve the research environment and ensure leadership;
- Increase the visibility of excellence in S&T research of the Convergence and Outermost research centres and ensure the setting-up of long-lasting strategic partnerships whilst developing the research skills of the future leaders in the concerned thematic domains;
- Demonstrate responsiveness to society and regional or European development concerns with involving relevant regional or national authorities at an early stage of the projects;

This mono-applicant action will support projects carried out by individual research entities established in the eligible regions. The projects must have a multi-partner approach involving cooperation with at least 3 outstanding research '*partnering organisations*' established in at least 3 different Member States or Associated Countries, other than that of the applicant.

³ Such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers

Research and technological development joint projects are not eligible for funding under this programme.

The applicant research entities will be qualified in any scientific and technological field within the scope of Community research eligible under the EC FP7.

Cooperation with Western Balkan Countries

The participation of the regions of the Western Balkan Countries⁴ research institutions in the FP7 is hampered by the particularly low research intensity in these countries. In the context of the current financial and economic crisis, the support to their research capacity, in synergy with the actions provided by the Pre-Accession Instrument (IPA), is crucial to enable them to better integrate into the European Research Area.

The consultation process

Expert Groups' contributions have been taken into account and an FP7 Expert Advisory Group for "Regional aspects", composed of senior experts from ministries and research entities has also contributed to the preparation of this action.

Modalities of implementation

The 2010 Work Programme will be implemented through two calls for proposals: one on '*Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities established in the EU's Convergence regions and Outermost regions*'; another one on '*Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions*'. In addition, three other actions are dedicated to identified beneficiaries; two conferences under the Spanish Presidency on the efficiency of the Structural Funds investments for RTD and also, to highlight the outcome of 'Research Potential'; and an action dedicated to the setting-up of an Expert Group on future relations between the FP, the SF and CIP. The applicable Funding Scheme for the above calls and actions is 'Coordination and Support Actions' (**Support Action (CSA-SA)**).

The 2010 Work Programme will cover the following activities:

- Exchange of know-how and experience
- Recruitment by the selected research entities of experienced researchers
- Upgrading, development or acquisition of research equipment
- Organisation of workshops and conferences
- Dissemination and promotional activities
- Evaluation facility (optional)

⁴ Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions: All regions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia

II CONTENT OF CALLS

Area: 4.1. Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities established in the EU's Convergence Regions and Outermost regions

Indicative available budget: EUR 31 million.

Topic: FP7-REGPOT-2010-1

This Activity will enable *highest quality* or *most promising research entities* of significant size (such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers) in the eligible regions, qualified in any S&T field within the scope of Community research eligible under the EC FP7, to become actively integrated in the ERA.

In the proposal, the applicant research entities have to *provide evidence of their excellence in research* and *of their leadership potential in the scientific fields of their competence*. They should include a clear description of their main research activities and demonstrate a promising track-record of achievements; self-assess their research accomplishments to demonstrate their potential and expertise; describe the organisation of their entity (who is doing what, short description of available research facilities in terms of staff and durable equipment); provide short CVs of the most important researchers of their entity, list of most recent and significant publications or patents, number of PhD's and/or post-PhD fellows hosted by the applicant entity, collaborations with other RTD entities in the country or elsewhere, possible participation in research programmes or activities funded by the EC, other national or international organisations or the private sector (SMEs, industry, end-users), etc.

A complete *SWOT analysis* (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the applicant's research entity should be included in the proposal. On this basis, the applicant should propose in the proposal an *Action Plan* based on a coherent set of measures given below with the aim to further develop or strengthen their S&T research potential and capacity. It will be realised by supporting and mobilising their human and material resources; by developing strategic partnerships with other outstanding research 'partnering organisations' elsewhere in the Union and - wherever appropriate - with SMEs or industry; by disseminating scientific information as well as the results of their entity's research; by facilitating the communication between research entities having similar or complementary scientific interests and by improving their contribution to the socio-economic needs of the country.

The strategy presented in the *Action Plan* will be implemented in cooperation with the research 'partnering organisations'. A Steering Committee for research strategy might be foreseen with top class scientists (can be representatives of the 'partnering organisations'). Regional authorities, representatives of the national research bodies, end-users (SMEs, industry, etc) will also participate if appropriate. The Steering Committee will target the sustainability of the Action Plan and the applicant's research agenda beyond the project's end.

Research and technological development joint projects are not eligible for funding under this call. The project's activities shall respect fundamental ethical principles⁵. Applicants should indicate whether the proposed activities raise sensitive ethical questions.

In this way, the activity supports capacity building for improving the selected research entities' participation in European research cooperation, in particular in the FP7.

Topics: Any research topic covered by the EC FP7⁶.

Participants

Any public or private research entity (**as a single proposer**) established in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions of significant size such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers. These research entities must not be a subsidiary or branch of another legal entity established in a different country.

Type of activities/work

This Activity will support the implementation of an **Action Plan** defined by the applicant, derived from its **SWOT** analysis. The Action Plan must include the following set of **five coherent measures**:

- **Exchange of know-how and experience** through trans-national two-way secondments of research staff between the applicant and three or more knowledgeable and experienced 'partnering organisations' established in at least 3 other different EU Member States or Associated Countries. Return mechanisms for these seconded staff should be described in the proposal. Additionally, partners from the applicant's country can be added, including when appropriate, stakeholders like enterprises, SME, hospitals, etc.
- **Recruitment by the applicant of experienced researchers**, including research managers. In this context the return of nationals having left the country is particularly encouraged.
- **Upgrading, development or acquisition of research equipment** for the applicant. **Maintenance** expenses could also be foreseen in this context. This measure should not account for more than 30% of the total project budget. Only in duly justified cases where the equipment is capital to increase the applicant's research capacity, it may be up to 45 % of the total project budget.
- **Organisation of workshops and conferences** to promote knowledge exchange at European and international level. Workshops targeting the research excellence reputation and the visibility of the applicant could be envisaged. Active participation of the applicant's

⁵ The opinions of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies will be taken into account.

⁶ DECISION No 1982/2006/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), published in the Official Journal 30.12.2006 L 412

research staff at international conferences, for knowledge sharing, network building and to expose them to a more international environment and short term training events are equally eligible.

- **Dissemination and promotional activities** to ensure increased visibility of the applicant's excellence and know-how, its activities within the EU and elsewhere as well as to promote the outcome of the project.

In case where one or more of the above mentioned 5 measures of the Action Plan are considered not to be appropriate (either because the measure is already realised or because it is not relevant for the selected research entity), justification should be provided in the proposal.

Evaluation facility: In addition to the above listed 5 measures, the applicant research entity can optionally apply for an international independent expert evaluation of its overall research quality and capability (including management and infrastructure). This evaluation will take place after the end of the implementation of the Action Plan, over a period of up to 6 months and it will be carried out by high-level, independent international experts nominated by the Commission. The results of this evaluation should be discussed jointly with the representatives of the national research ministry and regional authorities to determine the most appropriate ways and methods to preserve the applicant's 'excellence' and to explore its contribution to the regional sustainable development.

This activity should be developed in a separate work package which eligible costs should not exceed EUR 150 000 €.

Research entities involved in the **Research Potential action** should explain the synergies between the measures set out in their Action Plan and related actions supported or to be supported 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.

Duration

Projects will last up to 36 months. In the case the optional evaluation facility is requested, projects will last up to 42 months.

Funding Schemes that apply:

The applicable Funding Scheme is 'Coordination and Support Actions' (**Support Action (CSA-SA)**).

The Community contribution envisaged for Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action (CSA-SA)) will be up to EUR 4 million.

The Community financial contribution may reach a maximum of 100 % of the total eligible costs.

Expected impact:

- Better integration of the selected research entities in the European Research Area as a whole (partnership, including twinning with research groups elsewhere in Europe);

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- Upgrading the RTD capacity and capability (human potential: number of new researchers and training of research staff, improvement of research management, scientific equipment) as well as the quality of research carried out by the selected research entities;
- Improved research capacity for increased contribution to regional economic and social development;
- Improvement of the potential of the selected research entities to participate in FP7 projects.

Area: 4.2. Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence Regions

Indicative available budget: EUR 8 million⁷.

Topic: FP7-REGPOT-2010-5

This Activity will improve the Western Balkan Countries' (WBC) participation in the 7th Framework Programme, will favour brain-gain environments through trans-national two-way exchanges of research staff between research entities established in the WBC and elsewhere in EU and the Associated Countries, and will help them to reinforce their research infrastructure/equipment.

It will enable *highest quality* or *most promising research entities* of significant size (such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers) in the regions equivalent to the convergence regions of the WBC, qualified in any S&T field within the scope of Community research eligible under the EC FP7, to become actively integrated in the ERA.

In the proposal, the applicant research entities have to *provide evidence of their excellence in research* and *of their leadership potential in the scientific fields of their competence*. They should include a clear description of their main research activities and demonstrate a promising track-record of achievements; self-assess their research accomplishments to demonstrate their potential and expertise; describe the organisation of their entity (who is doing what, short description of available research facilities in terms of staff and durable equipment); provide short CVs of the most important researchers of their entity, list of most recent and significant publications or patents, number of PhD's and/or post-PhD fellows hosted by the applicant entity, collaborations with other RTD entities in the country or elsewhere, possible participation in research programmes or activities funded by the EC, other national or international organisations or the private sector (SMEs, industry, end-users), etc.

A complete *SWOT analysis* (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the applicant's research entity should be included in the proposal. On this basis, the applicant should propose in the proposal an *Action Plan* based on a coherent set of measures given below with the aim to further develop or strengthen their S&T research potential and capacity. It will be realised by supporting and mobilising their human and material resources; by developing strategic partnerships with other outstanding research 'partnering organisations' elsewhere in the Union and - wherever appropriate - with SMEs or industry; by disseminating scientific information as well as the results of their entity's research; by facilitating the communication between research entities having similar or complementary scientific interests and by improving their contribution to the socio-economic needs of the country.

The strategy presented in the *Action Plan* will be implemented in cooperation with the research 'partnering organisations'. A Steering Committee for research strategy might be foreseen with top class scientists (can be representatives of the 'partnering organisations').

⁷ This budget will be provided by third countries appropriations. It has no impact on the total budget dedicated to the Research Potential Programme under FP7.

Regional authorities, representatives of the national research bodies, end-users (SMEs, industry, etc) will also participate if appropriate. The Steering Committee will target the sustainability of the Action Plan and the applicant's research agenda beyond the project's end.

Research and technological development joint projects are not eligible for funding under this call. The project's activities shall respect fundamental ethical principles⁸. Applicants should indicate whether the proposed activities raise sensitive ethical questions.

The resulting cooperation will be based on a mutual benefit approach within the perspective of further integration of the Balkan region into the European Research Area (ERA) and therefore the European RTD activities and networks.

Topics: Any research topic covered by the EC FP7⁹.

Participants

Any public or private research entity (**as a single proposer**) established in the WBC's regions equivalent to convergence regions of significant size such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers. These research entities must not be a subsidiary or branch of another legal entity established in a different country.

Type of activities/work

This Activity will support the implementation of an **Action Plan** defined by the applicant, derived from its **SWOT** analysis. The Action Plan must include the following set of **four coherent measures**:

- **Exchange of know-how and experience** through trans-national two-way secondments of research staff between the applicant and *three or more knowledgeable and experienced 'partnering organisations' established in at least 3 other different EU Member States or Associated Countries*. Return mechanisms for these seconded staff should be described in the proposal. Additionally, partners from the applicant's country can be added, including when appropriate, stakeholders like enterprises, SME, hospitals, etc.
- **Recruitment by the applicant of experienced researchers**. In this context the return of nationals having left the country is particularly encouraged.
- **Upgrading, development or acquisition of research equipment** for the applicant. **Maintenance** expenses could also be foreseen in this context.
- **Organisation of workshops and conferences, dissemination and promotional activities** to promote knowledge exchange at European and international level. Activities to ensure

⁸ The opinions of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies will be taken into account.

⁹ DECISION No 1982/2006/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), published in the Official Journal 30.12.2006 L 412

increased visibility of the applicant's excellence and know-how as well as to promote the outcome of the project are encouraged.

In case where one or more of the above mentioned 4 measures of the Action Plan are considered not to be appropriate (either because the measure is already realised or because it is not relevant for the applicant research entity), justification should be provided in the proposal.

Research entities involved in the **Research Potential action** should explain the synergies between the measures set out in their Action Plan and related actions supported or to be supported through the IPA programmes.

Duration

Projects will last up to 36 months.

Funding Schemes that apply:

The applicable Funding Scheme is 'Coordination and Support Actions' (**Support Action (CSA-SA)**).

The Community contribution envisaged for Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action (CSA-SA)) will be approximately from EUR 1 to 2 million.

The Community financial contribution may reach a maximum of 100 % of the total eligible costs.

Expected impact:

- Better integration of the Western Balkan Countries research entities in the European Research Area and in the FP7;
- Accelerate the setting up of sustainable partnerships between the most competitive RTD entities established in the Western Balkan Countries, Member States and Associated Countries whilst boosting regional cooperation contributing to socio-economic needs;
- Upgrading the RTD capacity and capability (human potential: number of new researchers and training of research staff, improvement of research management, scientific equipment) as well as the quality of research carried out by the selected research entities.

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

Call title: Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions

- Call identifier: *FP7-REGPOT-2010-1*
- Date of publication: *30 July 2009¹⁰*
- Deadline: *17 December 2009 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time¹¹*
- Indicative budget: *EUR 31 million¹²*
- Topics called:

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Schemes
<i>REGPOT-2010-1. Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions</i>	<i>Any research topic covered by the EC FP7</i>	<i>CSA-SA (Support Action)</i>

- Eligibility Conditions:
 - The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable
 - Particular requirements for participation: The projects must be proposed by a single public or private research entity of significant size such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers which is established in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions. These research entities must not be a subsidiary or branch of another legal entity established in a different country. The projects must involve compulsory cooperation with at least 3 outstanding research 'partnering organisations' established in at least 3 different Member States or Associated Countries, other than that of the applicant.

¹⁰ *The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.*

¹¹ *The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.*

¹² *Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, , may vary by up to 10 % of the total value of the call.*

- Restrictions on participation: EU Convergence regions and Outermost regions. Subject to international instruments associating third countries to the 7th EC Framework Programme, other regions may become eligible for participation; the modalities for the identification of eligible regions would be defined in these international instruments. All regions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey are eligible for participation.
- The Community contribution envisaged for Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action (CSA-SA)) will be up to EUR 4 million.
- Evaluation procedure:
 - The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria together with the eligibility, selection and award criteria, for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
 - The evaluation will follow a single stage procedure.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
- Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable: *it is estimated that evaluation results will be available within 4 months after the closure dates; grant agreement signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to a call will come into force 9 months after the closure dates.*
- Consortia agreements: *No consortium-agreement is required for this call.*
- The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme.
- Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

Call title: Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions

- Call identifier: *FP7-REGPOT-2010-5*
- Date of publication: *30 July 2009*¹³
- Deadline: *15 October 2009 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time*¹⁴
- Indicative budget: *EUR 8 million*^{15&16}
- Topics called:

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Schemes
<i>REGPOT-2010-5. Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions</i>	<i>Any research topic covered by the EC FP7</i>	<i>CSA-SA (Support Action)</i>

- Eligibility Conditions:
 - The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.
 - Particular requirements for participation: The projects must be proposed by a single public or private research entity of significant size such as University Departments, Faculties, specialised Research Institutes or important size research laboratories with at least 10 permanent experienced researchers which is established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions. These research entities must not be a subsidiary or branch of another legal entity established in a different country. The projects must involve compulsory cooperation with at least 3 outstanding research 'partnering organisations' established in at least 3 different Member States or Associated Countries, other than that of the applicant.

¹³ *The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.*

¹⁴ *The Directorate-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.*

¹⁵ *Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call may vary by up to 10 % of the total value of the call.*

¹⁶ *This budget will be provided by third countries appropriations. It has no impact on the total budget dedicated to the Research Potential Programme under FP7.*

- Restrictions on participation: Applicants should be established in the Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions. All regions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia are eligible for participation
- The Community contribution envisaged for Coordination and Support Actions (Support Action (CSA-SA)) will be approximately from EUR 1 to 2 million.
- Evaluation procedure:
 - The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria together with the eligibility, selection and award criteria, for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
 - The evaluation will follow a single stage procedure. A remote evaluation approach will be used.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
- Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable: *it is estimated that evaluation results will be available within 4 months after the closure dates; grant agreement signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to a call will come into force 9 months after the closure dates.*
- Consortia agreements: *No consortium-agreement is required for this call.*
- The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme.
- Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

IV.1. REGPOT Conference

Identifier: FP7-REGPOT-2010-2

Technical content / scope

This conference is meant to be both a dissemination event and a stocktaking exercise for this new initiative within FP 7, in the context of the rotating presidency of the Union.

All projects funded from 2007 to 2009 should be taking part to identify and display best practices in terms of:

- Effectiveness of the exchange of know-how and practices
- Difficulties faced and solutions implemented/proposed
- Upgrade of the RTD capacity and capability (human potential: number of new researchers and training of research staff, improvement of research management, scientific equipment) as well as the quality of research carried out by the selected research entities
- Improvement of the potential of the selected research entities to participate in ERA and in FP7 projects.
- And potential synergies with Structural funds, CIP and any other sources of funding.

To be effective, such an event should be open as well to research entities that are not (yet) direct partners to Research Potential projects in order to raise their awareness to such approaches.

This conference will be held in conjunction with a similar conference on the Regions of Knowledge action (see call FP7-REGIONS-2010-2).

This conference will be part of the **European week of innovative regions** which will be composed of these two conferences and of a conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and innovation, including their synergies with the FP and the CIP (see action FP7-REGPOT-2010-4).

The 3 conferences may share some activities where appropriate.

The combined duration of the three events should be at most 5 days and they will be held in Granada.

Participants: Spanish presidency event; the beneficiary will be the *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación*, Calle Albacete, 5, E-28027-Madrid.

The general eligibility, selection and award criteria are those set out in annex 2 to this work programme.

Schedule: March 2010

Funding scheme: CSA-SA¹⁷

The rate of co-financing will be up to 100% for a maximum EC funding of EUR 150 000.

Expected impact:

This conference will help to raise awareness among regions about the benefits of getting involved into the ERA and more especially in Research Potential which expressly targets the regional level, as well as about the help it can bring in promoting potential synergies between FP 7 and the SF in supporting research and innovation. This shall be all the truer owing to the parallel organization of two other Spanish Presidency conferences, dedicated respectively to the funding of research and innovation through the Structural funds and to results of projects funded under Regions of Knowledge.

This event should also help to draw conclusions on the effectiveness of Research Potential to unlock the research potential of research entities located in convergence/outermost regions

IV.2. Expert group on synergies between FP 7, CIP and the Structural funds

Identifier: FP7-REGIONS/REGPOT-2010-3

Technical content/scope

An Expert group will be set up to further explore the synergies between FP 7, the Structural Funds and CIP, based on the Commission's communication of 16/8/2007¹⁸ and the ensuing Practical guide on synergies, as well as the report from CREST from May 2007¹⁹.

Schedule: first semester 2010

Funding scheme: CSA-SA²⁰ Expert group

Expected impact:

This Expert group should advice on the most appropriate ways to ensure synergies between the European programmes to best support research and innovation, including through the identification and promotion of best practices.

It should draw up recommendations regarding best ways for achieving efficient and effective synergies in the future; in particular it should provide recommendations for the future of Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge activities.

Budget:

¹⁷ See Articles 14a of the EC Rules for Participation

¹⁸ COM(2007) 414 on "Competitive European regions through research and innovation".

¹⁹ Guidelines on Coordinating the Research Framework Programme and the Structural Funds to support research and development, 7/5/2007 (CREST 1203/07).

²⁰ See Articles 14c) and 27 of the EC Rules for Participation

The work of this group is of relevance for both Research Potential and Regions of Knowledge activities. Therefore, the estimated costs of the group will be shared between both activities. Research Potential will contribute for an amount of EUR 100,000 €.

IV.3. Conference of the Spanish Presidency on the effective and efficient use of budget for RTD and innovation in the Structural Funds

Identifier: FP7-REGPOT-2010-4

Technical content/scope

A *conference* on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and innovation, including their *synergies with the FP and the CIP*, to be organised in 2010 by the Spanish presidency, will receive funding from the Research Potential action.

In the context of the EU's cohesion policy, within the national and regional operational programmes, Europe's regions have earmarked some €86 billion Euros for research and innovation (including entrepreneurship) during 2007-2013 to be funded by the EU Structural Funds (SF). Structural Funds allocated to research and innovation, in the narrow sense, amounts to nearly € 50 billion, which equals roughly what is going to be spent on FP7 and is a very significant increase on what was invested during 2000-2006 through the SF.

Obviously, the organisation of regional policy issues at the central (national) level, the management of national and regional operational programmes (OP) funded by SF, the way the RTDI dimension has been taken into consideration at the national level and in the OPs, the role of Managing Authorities (MA), the level of regional funds, beneficiaries, thematic allocations, dissemination/information vectors, etc. varies from one Member State to another. Exchange of experience and information between Member States on synergies between the three instruments as well as on good practices regarding the efficient and effective use of these funds for RTDI purposes, would be very useful in view of the amounts involved.

This conference will be part of the **European week of innovative regions** which will be composed in addition to this conference of two other events:

- A conference on the state of the art of the implementation of the Regions of Knowledge actions (dissemination event and stocktaking exercise for this new initiative within FP 7 – see action FP7-REGIONS-2010-2);
- A conference on the state of the art of the implementation of the Research Potential actions (dissemination event and stocktaking exercise for this new initiative within FP7 – see action FP7-REGPOT-2010-2)

The 3 conferences may share some activities where appropriate.

The combined duration of the three events should be at most 5 days and they will be held in Granada.

Participants: Spanish presidency event; the beneficiary will be the *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación* , *Calle Albacete, 5, E-28027-Madrid*.

Policy makers all over Europe, authorities managing research and innovation, as well as entrepreneurs compose the targeted audience.

The general eligibility, selection and award criteria are those set out in annex 2 to this work programme.

Schedule: March 2010

Funding scheme: CSA-SA²¹

The rate of co-financing will be up to 100% for a maximum EC funding of EUR 300,000.

Expected impact:

This conference will help to identify good practices as well as difficulties in order to ensure the most efficient use of available budget for R&D&I in Europe at EU, national, regional and local levels.

²¹ See Articles 14a of the EC Rules for Participation

INDICATIVE BUDGET²² for the Research Potential Activity for the 2010 work programmes

	Indicative budget 2010 ²³
• Call <i>FP7-REGPOT-2010-1</i>	<i>EUR 31 million</i>
• Call <i>FP7-REGPOT-2010-5 (Western Balkan Countries' regions equivalent to convergence regions)</i>	<i>EUR 8 million²⁴</i>
• Action <i>FP7-REGPOT-2010-2 (REGPOT Conference) - European week of innovative regions</i>	<i>EUR 0.15million</i>
• Action <i>FP7-REGIONS/REGPOT-2010-3 (Expert group on synergies between FP 7, CIP and the Structural funds)</i>	<i>EUR 0.10 million</i>
• Action <i>FP7-REGPOT-2010-4 (Conference of the Spanish Presidency on the effective and efficient use of budget for RTD and innovation in the Structural Funds) - European week of innovative regions</i>	<i>EUR 0.30 million</i>
• <i>2010 Expert evaluators</i>	<i>EUR 0.52 million</i>
INDICATIVE TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION	<i>EUR 40.07 million</i>

²² Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budgets for the call FP7-REGPOT-2010-1 and FP7-REGPOT-2010-5 and the actions FP7-REGPOT-2010-2, FP7-REGIONS/REGPOT-2010-3 and FP7-REGPOT-2010-4 are indicative: the final total budget awarded to each call, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call. The same potential variation will apply to the actions FP7-REGPOT-2010-2, FP7-REGIONS/REGPOT-2010-3 and FP7-REGPOT-2010-4. The final total budget awarded to 2010 Experts evaluators may vary by up to 20%.

²³ A reserve list may be produced of projects that pass the different thresholds of the evaluation but fall below the available indicative budget of a call, in case additional budget becomes available.

²⁴ This budget will be provided by third countries appropriations. It has no impact on the total budget dedicated to the Research Potential Programme under FP7

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. The final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call

For actions not implemented through calls for proposals:

- The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20 % of the indicated budgets for these actions;
- The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10 % of the indicated budget for these actions.

V INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS

In 2011, similar activities should be addressed to research legal entities in convergence and outermost regions of the EU in the Area of "Unlocking and developing the research potential of research entities in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions".