

ICT PSP

instruments / funding schemes

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Overview

- Who can participate
- The instruments
- Funding mechanisms

Who can participate?

- The programme is open to **all legal entities** established in the EU Member States
- Legal entities established outside the EU may participate **on equal terms with Member States** on the basis of and in accordance with the conditions laid down in the **association agreements**
 - EEA (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway) + Croatia
 - Turkey should join in 2009, Israel?
- Other third countries may participate on a case-by-case basis but will not receive any funding

Instruments overview

Three complementary instruments based on combined approaches:

Building on initiatives in member states / associated countries → **Pilots Type A**

*Stimulating **innovative use of ICT** in public & private sector* → **Pilots Type B**

***Mobilisation/Exchanges** between practitioners & policy makers* → **Thematic Networks**

One “transitory” instrument, reserved for “digital library” theme:

Combining consensus building / awareness raising / large scale implementation → **BPN**
(Best Practice Network)

*Implementation through **Call for Applicants***

ICT-PSP Info Day, Brussels, 26/01/09 slide 4

Rationale & implementation

Main features of Pilots Type A

- Focus on **interoperability** and building on Member States solutions
- Member States - Lead actors (Industry key role in the Implementation)
- The outcome should be an **open, common interoperable solution** with results widely disseminated and available to all Member States

Scale and participants

- Legal minimum of **6 Member States** (=national administrations or competence centres acting on their behalf) or associated countries participating in the consortium.

Duration and Funding

- Duration is typically up to **36 months** with a pilot service operating for 12 months.
- The EU contribution is limited to the **costs for achieving interoperability**. The indicative Community contribution available is **5-10M€ / pilot**

Main features of Pilots Type B

- The goal is to carry out a **implementation** of an ICT based innovative service carried out under realistic conditions. Replication and wide validation of best practices can be specified in objective.
- The emphasis is on **fostering innovation** in services → the pilot may need to take-up completed R&D work, may extend already tested prototype services or may combine / integrate several partial solutions to realise a new innovative approach
- Proposals will be evaluated against the published evaluation criteria. **One or more** proposals will be selected on quality for each Pilot Type B defined in the work programme.

Scale and participants

- Legal minimum of **4 legal entities** from 4 different Member States or associated countries.
- Consortia are expected to engage the **complete service value chain**, including relevant public authorities (sustaining partners), service providers, industrial stakeholders & users

Duration and funding

- Duration is typically **24-36 months** with a pilot service operating in real setting for a significant period in line with the requirements of the specific objective of the work programme.
- The indicative Community contribution available is **2-2,5 M€ / pilot**

Main features of Thematic Networks

- The goal is to bring together relevant stakeholders, expertise and facilities to **explore new ways of implementing ICT based solutions.**
- The network may initiate **working groups, workshops and exchanges of good practices** with the aim of creating the necessary conditions and consensus on **action plans, standards and specifications** in view to ensure the widest future replication and co-deployment of innovative solutions.
- The expected outcomes of Thematic Networks must be **clearly defined and measurable**, and the results shall be in the public domain.
- Proposals will be evaluated against the published evaluation criteria. **One or more proposals** will be selected on quality for each Thematic Network defined in the work programme.

Scale and participants

Legal Minimum is **7 key stakeholders (legal entities) from 7 different Member States or associated countries.**

Duration and funding

- Duration between **18-36 months.**
- EC contribution is **300-500 K€/network** funded through **lump sums** according to the following scheme:

Coordinator

*Lump sum per year for **coordinating** the network (depending on number of network members)*

Other beneficiaries

*Lump sum per year for **implementing** the network*

ALL

*Lump sum per year for attending **meetings and events***

Rationale & implementation

Main features of Best Practice Network (BPN)

- Only for the **digital libraries** theme, only for a transition period up to 2011.
- Promote the adoption of respective standards and specifications by **combining** the "**consensus building and awareness raising**" function of a network with **large-scale implementation** on a **sufficient mass of content**.
- The commission can organise "Clustering meetings" in order to **achieve broad consensus and create the conditions for the widest possible uptake** of the recommendations of the BPNs.

Scale and participants

- Legal minimum of **7 legal entities** from 7 different Member States or associated countries.

Duration and funding

- The indicative Community contribution available is **3 - 5 M€** per BPN

Grant Agreement - principles

Simplification

- Single type of participant – the 'beneficiary'
 - No members
 - No third party participation except for subcontractors
- Threshold for certificates on financial statements for payment requests equal to or superior to 325.000€ by beneficiary

Built on experience

- Experience from eTEN, eContent+, Alignment with FP7 Grant Agreement

Comply with Financial Regulation Implementing Rules

Funding mechanisms

For Pilot Type A and B

- 50% funding of:
 - Direct cost – actual as recorded in accounts
 - Indirect cost – flat rate of 30% of personnel cost

For Best practice Networks

- 80% of direct cost
- No funding of indirect cost

For Thematic Networks

- Use of lump sums

Pilot Type A, B and BPNs – Community Financial Contribution

- Eligible and non-eligible costs
 - Eligibility conditions include necessity, actually incurred during the duration of the project, recorded in the accounts
- Direct cost
 - **Personnel**
 - Be directly hired by the beneficiary, under sole technical supervision, be remunerated in accordance with normal practices
 - **Subcontracting**
 - To be awarded according to the principle of best value for money under conditions of transparency and equal treatment
 - **Other specific direct costs**
- Indirect costs
 - 30% flat rate for Pilot A and Pilot B
 - No indirect cost for BPN

Pilot Type A and B – Reporting and Payment conditions

The consortium has 60 days after the end of reporting period to submit reports and the Commission has 105 days to pay

Payment

- Pre-financing – typically to cover 18 months
- Interim
- Final - payment of the balance

Payments upon approval of reports and deliverables

Certificates on financial statements for payment

- Mandatory for requests equal to or superior to 325.000€ by beneficiary

Special case – Pilot Type A

- Intellectual property – publication and free accessibility of results
- Possibility to subcontract co-ordination task
- Reservation of budget for extension of consortium at application stage (budget to be set aside in the budget of the co-ordinator - should typically not exceed 15% of the total budget of the pilot)
- Possibility for launching competitive calls for participation
- At contracting stage a consortium agreement needs to be concluded

Thematic network – Community financial contribution

- The implementation will be using a lump sum approach

	<i>Lump sums 'Coordination costs'</i>	<i>Lump sum 'Implementation costs'</i>	<i>Lump sum 'attendance of meetings costs'</i>
<i>Coordinator</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3.000€ per year and per beneficiary for the first 10 beneficiaries (incl. the coordinator); - 2.000€ per year and per beneficiary from the 11th beneficiary on. - No additional funding from the 21st beneficiary on. 		Costs for attendance of networks meetings and network related events are financed by a lump sum of 5.000€ per year per beneficiary
<i>Other Beneficiaries</i>		3.000€ per year per beneficiary	

Thematic network - example

- 2 years thematic network involving a total of 15 participants (including the coordinator)

	<i>Lump sums 'Coordination costs'</i>	<i>Lump sum 'Implementation costs'</i>	<i>Lump sum 'attendance of meetings costs'</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Coordinator</i>	[(10 x 3.000€) + (5 x 2.000€)] x 2 years = 80.000€		5.000€ x 2 year = 10.000€	90.000€
<i>Other Beneficiaries</i>		(14 x 3.000€) x 2 years = 84.000€	(14 x 5.000€) x 2 year = 140.000€	224.000€
<i>Total</i>	80.000€	84.000€	150.000€	314.000€

Thematic Network - advantages

- Simplification
 - No definition of eligible cost
 - No actual cost reporting
 - No justification of costs
 - No provision of certificates
 - No budget transfers
- Focus on results - networking

Where to get Information

Documents available on
http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp e.g.:

- Model grant agreement
- Financial guidelines
- Guidelines for legal and financial validation
- Communication guidelines
- Guidelines on certification

Helpdesk: infso-ict_psp@ec.europa.eu