

ICT PSP instruments and grant agreement

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Overview

- Who can participate
- The instruments
- Grant agreement principles and implementation issues

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
 - Discussions with Israel and Turkey
- 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:

*Support to **EU level ICT solutions** → **Pilots Type A***

- Large Scale Pilots focused on **Interoperability**
- Key actors: **Member States** - Lead actors (**Industry** key role in Implementation)
- Strong political dimension

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

- Implementation of **ICT based innovative services** through Pilots
- Key actors: **Full service value chain** (providers, users, public authorities)

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

- Development of **new policy implementation schemes** through exchange of experiences and best practices

*Implementation through **Call for Applicants***

ICTPSP Info Day, Brussels, 23th April 2008 : slide 4

Rationale & implementation

Main features of Pilots Type A

- Focus on **interoperability** and building on Member States solutions
- 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 **36 months** with a pilot service operating for 12 months.
- The EU contribution is up to **50% of costs for achieving interoperability**. The indicative Community contribution available is **5-10M€ / pilot**
- Proposals will be evaluated against the published evaluation criteria. **Only one proposal** is expected to be selected on quality for each Pilot Type A defined in the work programme.

Main features of Pilots Type B

- The goal is to carry out a **first implementation** of an ICT based innovative service carried out under realistic conditions.
- The engagement of a **complete value-chain of stakeholders** is expected.
- 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 for 12 months.
- EU contribution is up to **50% of eligible costs** of the pilot (including personnel costs, travel and accommodation and other specific costs)
- The indicative Community contribution available is **2-3 M€ / pilot**

Main features of Thematic Networks

- The goal is to bring together relevant stakeholders, expertise and facilities to **support the implementation of Information Society policies using ICT**
- The work of the Thematic Networks should be focused on **develop new policy implementation schemes** through working groups, workshops and exchanges of good practices.

Examples: , facilitating replication of innovative solutions, development of common cross border strategies, preparation of future pilot activities etc.

- 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**. Networks must be open.

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***

Grant Agreement - principles

- Simplification
 - Single type of participant – the 'beneficiary'
 - No members
 - No third party participation except for subcontractors
 - For Pilot Type A and B
 - A single cost model (Full cost) - single reimbursement rate of 50%
 - Option to use of flat rate for charging indirect costs
 - For Thematic Networks
 - Use of lump sums – to be reimbursed at 100%
 - Threshold for certificates on financial statements for payment requests equal to or superior to 325.000€ by beneficiary
- Built on experience
 - Align with Framework Programme 7 Grant Agreement
- Comply with Financial Regulation/Implementing Rules

Pilot Type A and B – 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
 - Costs which cannot be identified as directly attributed to the project but incurred in direct relationship with the eligible costs
 - Option to charge real indirect costs or 30%* flat rate

* To be confirmed ICTPSP Info Day, Brussels, 23th April 2008 : slide 11

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

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 actual cost reporting
 - No justification of costs
 - No provision of certificates
- Focus on results - networking

Where to get Information

Documents available on

http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp e.g.:

- Workprogramme 2008
- Model grant agreement
- Financial guidelines
- Guidelines for legal and financial validation

Helpdesk: infso-ict-bsp@ec.europa.eu