Questions for the FP7 Interim Evaluation

The approach should take into account the overall strategic context for Community actions and in particular the partnership for jobs and growth. Of crucial importance is the need for effective coordination between FP7 and other major policies such as those for regional development and for innovation.

On this basis, the evaluation should address notably the following questions:

**How far has FP7 achieved its general objectives, including those of the specific programmes?**

The evaluation should provide a first look at progress against objectives differentiated across the main research lines of FP7, including early evidence of impacts (socio/economic, policy, environmental, knowledge).

**How can the impact of FP7 and future Framework Programmes on shaping the European Research Area and other major policies be improved?**

- Are FP7 objectives regarding the ERA and/or other major policies – including those of the Work Programmes- adequately specified and clearly understood?
- Are FP7 research activities likely to achieve their objectives as regards the ERA and other major policies?
- Is the current level of FP7 funding sufficient and is the internal breakdown of funding adequate in order to achieve its objectives towards the ERA? Do these objectives need to be revisited in light of recent developments, such as the economic crisis?
- How effective is FP7 in engaging with and leveraging public and private research programmes and activities of the Member States?
- Is FP7 effective in supporting the development of world class research infrastructures in Europe?
- Is FP7 effective in terms of knowledge dissemination? Are the FP7 activities sufficiently visible to the public?

**Does FP7 play an adequate role in positioning Europe on the global map of science and technology?**

- Does FP7 attract the best and most appropriate researchers and research organisations from all geographical areas of the EU, with an effective balance between the academic, industrial (including SMEs) and research organisation sectors?
- Are the "success rates" in FP7 calls adequate to safeguard a sustained participation from excellent researchers?
- What has been done and could further be done to ensure that the world's best researchers are involved in FP7?
- Does FP7 adequately stimulate the participation of women and young researchers?
– Does FP7 support and nurture European centres and clusters of research excellence?

– Is FP7 perceived as flagship of research excellence by so-called third countries and what more could be done in this respect?

– Does FP7 provide the appropriate tools to foster S&T International Cooperation?

Are the novel measures (such as European Research Council, Joint Technology Initiatives, Article 169, ERA-NET plus, Risk Sharing Finance Facility) efficient with respect to reaching their intended objectives?

– Were the objectives of the novel measures clearly specified and have these measures been implemented according to plan?

– What are the main strengths and weaknesses of these new initiatives?

– What has been the level of demand, take-up and use of the novel measures?

– What is the early evidence of their effectiveness?

– What can be done to improve their effectiveness?

How can the impact and added value of collaborative research that cuts across scientific disciplines, industrial sectors and policy fields be further enhanced with a view to better address large societal challenges?

– Has FP7 been effective in supporting truly cross-disciplinary research and how does it compare with other major research funding programmes?

– Has sufficient attention been given to large societal challenges?

– Is the FP7 structure, its FP7 funding instruments, implementation modalities in particular joint calls, as well as mechanisms for knowledge dissemination and exploitation well adapted to supporting cross-disciplinary research? Are any major changes required?

– Has the ERC been effective in supporting cross-disciplinary research?

– How adaptable is FP7 to changing research needs and policy priorities and how are stakeholders from science, industry and policy involved in identifying these needs and shaping the priorities?

– How effective has FP7 been in ensuring that research outcomes support policy initiatives regarding large societal challenges by communicating research results to stakeholders and policymakers and by establishing interactions between researchers and stakeholders within research projects?

To what extent have simplification measures been effective?

– Is there an adequate understanding of the meaning of simplification including how it can be measured, is understood by and affects the different stakeholder groups, notably SMEs?
– What are the barriers to real change and what is and can be done within the existing framework and rules to address these and which barriers can only be overcome through adaptation of the framework and rules?

– What are the respective roles of the key actors, including the Institutions, in securing change?

– Have the simplification measures taken been effective?

– Is there overall an adequate balance between risk taking and cost of control?

– Are there different approaches which could deliver better results?

What progress has been made under FP7 concerning the major issues which were highlighted in the FP6 evaluation report as needing further analysis, notably the participation, role and achievements of industry (including SMEs) in the Framework Programme?

This interim evaluation covers all research programme activities under FP7. The exercise should provide substantive answers to the evaluation questions listed above and come up with recommendations for the future implementation of FP7, clearly distinguishing between those to be realised within the existing legal framework and those requiring a new framework to be adopted by codecision procedure.

The FP7 interim evaluation also assesses the follow-up and implementation of recommendations from previous evaluations.