



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL for RESEARCH

NEW FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME LAUNCHED: A FACT SHEET

European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin's presentation of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development (FP6) on 27 June marks a decisive step towards the involvement of Europe's research and scientific networks in the transformation of the European Union into the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world.

This fact sheet is intended as an easy reference guide for future use on the subject.

WHAT IS THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH?

The **Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)** is the Union's main instrument for the funding of research in Europe. Proposed by the Commission and adopted by the Council and Parliament in co-decision, it is open to all public and private entities, large or small.

The **overall budget** covering the four-year period 2003 - 2006 is **€17.5 billion**, representing an increase of 17% from the Fifth Framework Programme and making up 3.9% of the Union's total budget (2001), and 6% of the Union's public (civilian) research budget. There are no national quotas for FP6 funds.

Seven key areas for the advancement of knowledge and technological progress within FP6 have been chosen: genomics and biotechnology for health; information society technologies; nanotechnologies and nanosciences; aeronautics and space; food safety; sustainable development; and economic and social sciences. With a view towards achieving the biggest possible impact, over **€12 billion** is being allocated to them.

WHAT IS NOVEL ABOUT THE ADOPTION OF FP6?

Approval for FP6 was given on 3 June without having to resort to conciliation between the Council and the European Parliament and without major changes to the Commission's proposal in terms of structure, content, budget or operational arrangements.

Broad support for FP6 at the highest political, scientific and industrial levels is reflected in its adoption seven months before the date of implementation, a feat never before realised. This gives the scientific community and industry an opportunity to prepare, in the best possible conditions, for participating in activities based on a new model.

What Are The Main Differences Between FP6 And Previous Programmes?

Traditional actions under previous Framework Programmes continue (such as the active participation of SMEs). However, FP6 represents a quantum leap beyond simply funding projects.

The **main focus** of FP6 is the creation of a **European Research Area** as a vision for the future of research in Europe. It aims at scientific excellence, improved competitiveness and innovation through the promotion of increased co-operation, greater complementarity and improved co-ordination between relevant actors, at all levels.

Management methods and procedures have been simplified to promote greater efficiency and a lasting impact on the European scientific and technological landscape.

Priorities have been reduced to better focus on a progressive integration of activities.

New support instruments have been introduced (networks of excellence and integrated projects), which will give EU activities a bigger impact and bring about a stronger structuring effect on research conducted in Europe. FP6 will make it possible to assemble genuine critical masses of resources, to better co-ordinate national research efforts and to diversify support activities in key areas such as the mobility of researchers, research infrastructures and science and society issues.

The promotion of partnering and collaboration is a central commitment of the Commission. Expressions of interest will be published over the summer on a dedicated web site. An analysis of more than 15.000 ideas received after an unprecedented call for expressions of interest, will be made public in September 2002.

FOR YOUR EDITORIAL CALENDAR

Inputs from the scientific community and industry will feed into the drafting of the detailed work programmes and form the basis for the calls for proposals to be published at the end of the year.

Rules for participation are expected to be finalised in the early days of the Danish Presidency and first funds are expected to be available by the end of 2002.

A series of communications are planned during the second half of the year towards stimulating private investment in R&D and creating a favourable environment. FP6 is an important building block in the Union's drive to increase its overall research effort (at present 1.9% of GDP) to as close to **3% of GDP** as possible by 2010.

A SPECIAL MEDIA-FOCUSED EVENT

A major conference (http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html) to outline the objectives, priorities, and participation rules to be applied, and involving over 5.000 participants, is taking place at the Palais des Expositions, Brussels from 11-13 November.

The general programme includes high-profile interventions, user-friendly presentations, and input from top scientific gurus and leading industry figures.

A tailor-made media programme is being designed, including special media sessions, lunches, thematic itineraries and a social programme.

For further information and the facilitation of interviews please contact: **Michel Claessens**, Tel: +32-2-295.99.71, email: michel.claessens@cec.eu.int

For general information on FP6: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html

For general information on research: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research>

For general information on research programmes and projects: <http://www.cordis.lu>

For general information requests: research@cec.eu.int

Research DG's press releases: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press_en.html