



EUROPEAN COMMISSION / Research & Innovation / Science in Society

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You are a research organisation, a business or a civil society organisation ready to collaborate with other actors on responsible research and innovation in the area of:

- Synthetic Biology
- 'Human Enhancement' technologies
- Healthy and active aging

We invite you to submit a Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plan to the Science in Society call for proposals. Closing date: 22 February 2012.

Mobilisation and Mutual Learning (MML) Action Plans on Societal Challenges

Call for proposals - Science in Society Work Programme 2012



Publications Office



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Mobilisation and Mutual Learning (MML) Action Plans on Societal Challenges

Call for proposals - Science in Society Work
Programme 2012



The Science in Society Work Programme 2012 contains a call for proposals aimed at financing Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plans (MMLAP) on Societal Challenges.

An MML Action Plan aims to create mechanisms to :

- Address Societal Challenges where science and technology are involved
- Bring together a wide range of actors
- Pool partners' knowledge and experience
- Develop mutual understanding and joint solutions

Thus an MML Action Plan leads to new ways of doing research and developing technologies encompassing societal needs and concerns.



The MML Action Plan partners select a science and technology related Challenge among the three presented in the call for proposals. They are complex and give rise to conflicting opinions. There are various ways that science and technology can contribute and they will gain from being connected, discussed and put into context.

The partners build their MML Action Plan on the basis of the questions they want to address. The questions raised by research organisations are likely to differ from those raised, for example, by city authorities; civil society organisations might give priority to an issue which is of lower importance for businesses. Some will be more concerned by ethics and others by the gender perspectives or the reaction of the younger generation to the world we are preparing for them.

There are various ways that science and technology can contribute and they should be connected, discussed and put into context. All partners have a role to play, knowledge to share and benefits to gain from their engagement in the MML Action Plan.



MML Action Plan Activities:

The MML Action Plan has a minimal duration of three years and includes activities such as:

- Involving citizens and civil society organisations at different stages of research,
- Making accessible the various types of knowledge concerned,
- Capacity-building and training,
- Exploring ethical issues,
- Developing expertise in support of policy-making,
- Analysing how gender issues intervene,
- Promoting the participation of young people,
- Promoting guidelines for responsible research and innovation

Activities may take place at local, regional or national level and must have a European dimension with transnational exchanges.

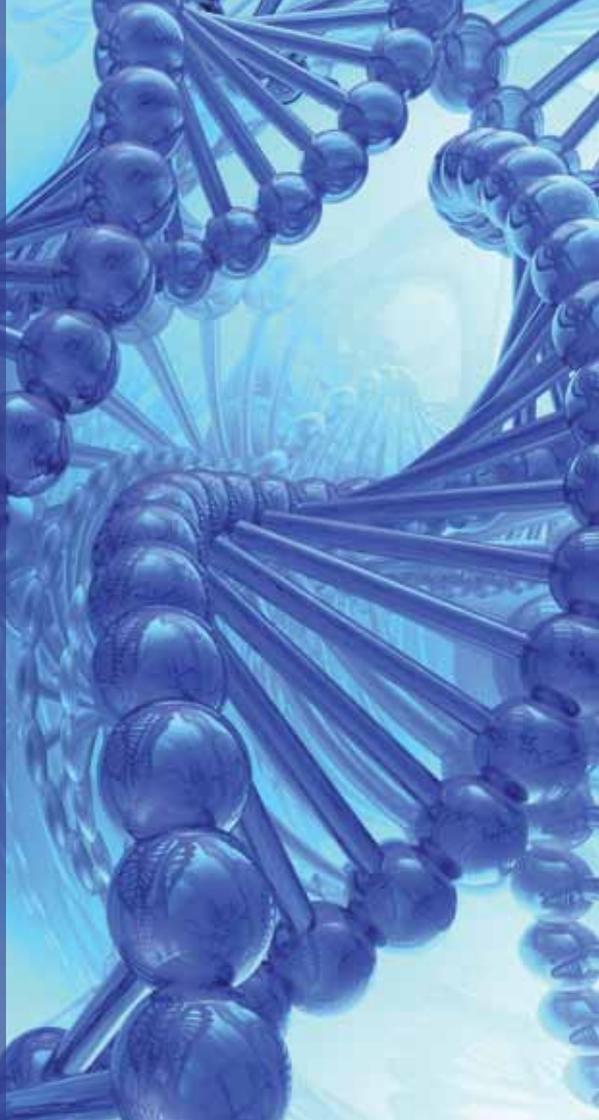
Expected results

- Collectively built responses to the various questions raised by a societal challenge and by the research and technologies that are used to address them
- Incorporating Science in Society aspects (public engagement, ethics, gender perspectives, young people's participation, etc.) in research and developing innovations that encompass societal needs and concerns.



Specific Challenge 1:

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in Synthetic Biology

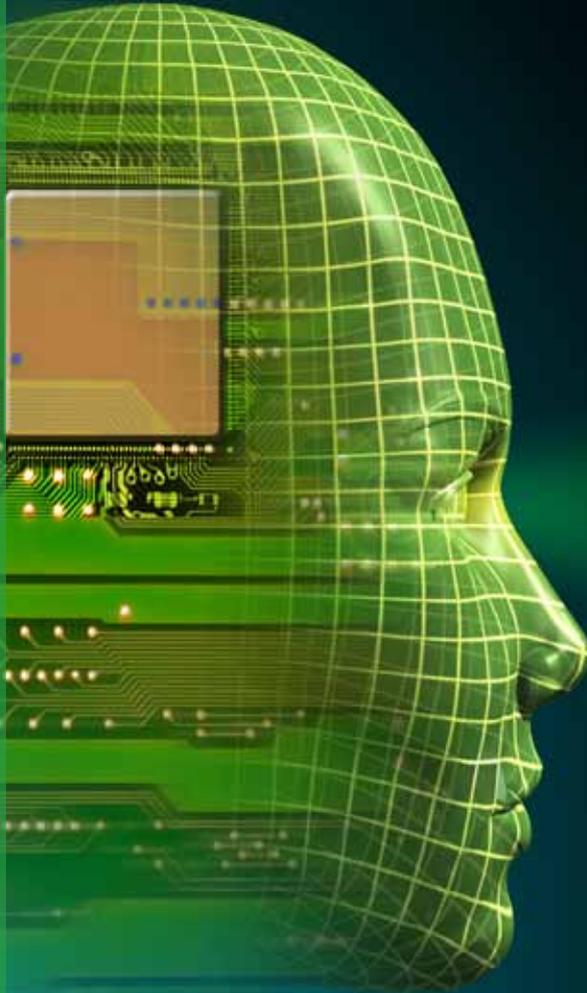


Synthetic biology holds significant promise for new vaccines, drugs and biofuels, as well as for designing novel organisms with completely new functions. However, many challenges pertain to this field. The public is not yet much aware of this field and regulatory challenges include for example new risk assessment needs, biosecurity and dual use monitoring and intellectual property rights. It is essential to establish open dialogue between stakeholders, to understand public concerns and ensure collaborative shaping of the field, aligned with societal needs and expectations.



Specific Challenge 2:

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in Human Enhancement



Using the insights coming from the cognitive sciences, as well as from robotics, the life sciences and ICT, human enhancement technologies are being developed to not only enhance the physical abilities of humans, but also their cognitive and emotional abilities and performance. To what extent is society ready and prepared to accommodate the transformative impacts that the envisaged developments may have? The MML should elaborate on a European research agenda and explore policy issues that will need to be addressed in order to ensure that this field develops in accordance with fundamental values such as human dignity, equality, individual freedom and solidarity.



Specific Challenge 3 :

Healthy and active ageing



By 2025, more than 20% of Europeans will be 65 or over and the number of citizens over 80 will increase particularly rapidly. This major demographic trend will affect all Member States in many policy areas, from pensions' reform to disease prevention and social care. At the same time, the ageing population has to be seen as a productive section of society and as an active and demanding consumer force. At the European level this requires the coordination and coherence of efforts among various actors in order to facilitate social innovation and maximize the impact of the efforts undertaken. Frameworks of collaboration need to be established that function as incubators of responsible innovation and explore new market opportunities for the development of products, models and services in response to the needs of older people.



Funding scheme:

Supporting Actions

2012 Indicative budget:

12 million € to fund three proposals

Deadline:

22 February 2012

For more information, please consult :

- Capacities → Science in Society at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/fp7calls>
- National Contact Points:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html

Notice for applicants:

Only the text of the call for proposals has legal value for submitting a proposal. Please refer to the Science and Society Work Programme 2012.