

The action will focus on identifying, understanding and sharing good practices and their context. This may entail various mechanisms such as benchmarking, joint workshops, training, twinning schemes and the operation of an effective partner search mechanism across the network of NCPs. Practical initiatives to benefit cross-border audiences may also be included, such as trans-national brokerage events. The specific approach should be adapted to the nature of the theme and to the capacities and priorities of the NCPs concerned. A degree of collaboration and networking with similar projects in parallel themes – especially in the context of joint/coordinated calls will be encouraged.

Special attention should be given to helping less experienced NCPs to access the know-how accumulated in other countries and to apply it in a locally relevant and efficient manner.

Proposals are expected to include or enable the active participation of all NCPs which have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities in the EU and associated countries. In individual special cases the NCPs can decide to subcontract this activity to specialist agencies. Proposals from other organisations in the EU and Associated States are ineligible. If certain NCPs wish to abstain from participating, this fact should be explicitly documented in the proposal. The action may also involve official FP7 contacts from third countries.

The Commission expects to receive a single proposal under this heading. It is expected that the project should last for a period of three years.

Expected impact

- An improved NCP service across Europe, therefore helping to simplify access to FP7 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the quality of submitted proposals.
- A more consistent level of NCP support services across Europe.
- More effective participation of organisation from third countries, alongside European organisations, in line with the principle of mutual benefit.

Funding schemes

CSA (CA only)

Indicative budget distribution¹⁰

EUR 4 million

Call

FP7-ICT-2011-7

Objective ICT-2011.11.3: Supplements to Strengthen Cooperation in ICT R&D in an Enlarged European Union

Target outcome

The target is to reinforce the cooperation across the enlarged European Union and to strengthen the integration of the European Research Area in ICT.

Integration is characterized by the level of collaboration between relevant organizations within the Member and Associated States and by the appropriate EU-dimension brought into the proposed research results and solutions.

In view of reaching the above target, support will go to the participation of additional partners in on-going FP7/ICT projects with the aim to increase the level of expertise, broaden the scope and/or speed up developments.

Proposals must be presented by the coordinator of the on-going project. In order to ensure the widest impact across the Member and Associated States and European Research Area, the additional partners must be located in countries not already present in the existing consortium. The funding requested should represent a reasonable extension of the on-going project to achieve the goals of the objective; not exceeding 30% of the Commission funding of the existing project or EUR 1 million, whichever is the lower.

Expected Impact

- Reinforced cooperation and better exploitation of ICT R&D synergies across the enlarged European Union.
- Wider participation in EU-supported ICT research projects across all Member States.
- Paving the way for strategic partnerships in view of gaining access to knowledge, developing standards and interoperable solutions and strengthening European competitiveness.

Funding scheme

Additional funding to on-going FP7 ICT IP and STREP projects ending after June 30, 2012.

Indicative budget distribution¹⁰

EUR 10 million

Call

FP7-ICT-2011-7