

WORK PROGRAMME 2012

CAPACITIES

PART 7

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

(European Commission C (2011) 5023 of 19 July 2011)

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7. ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Objective

To become competitive and play a leading role at world level, the European Union needs a strong and coherent international science and technology policy. The international actions carried out under the different programmes within the seventh Framework Programme will be implemented in the context of an overall international cooperation strategy.

This strategy has three interdependent objectives:

- to support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe;
- to facilitate contacts with partners in third countries with the aim of providing better access to research carried out elsewhere in the world;
- to address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

I CONTEXT

Policy context

The actions for international cooperation in the Capacities Programme will develop research and innovation policy-support projects in FP7. They will be carried out by consortia with participants from different countries and will aim at developing, adapting and using new knowledge. Such collaboration will also support the wider remit of European research policy as well as trade and industry-related policies. The production and use of scientific knowledge is also an important element for the establishment and reinforcement of the Union's relations with third countries, on a bilateral, bi-regional and/or global scale.

Complementarity and synergy will be sought with activities of the Member States, Associated Countries and other EU programmes notably those designed with a distinct geographical coverage to implement external policies.¹

Europe 2020² and its Innovation Union Flagship Initiative³ provide a new policy context putting particular emphasis on addressing global societal challenges, further increasing European competitiveness through innovation, attracting talents and investments, and implementing research-based solutions.

Approach for 2012

The 2012 activities will support the international Science and Technology (S&T) dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and Innovation Union Flagship Initiative. This will be done by promoting bi-regional and bilateral partnerships for tackling jointly societal challenges, by developing the attractiveness of Europe in the world, and by promoting the establishment of a level-playing field in research and innovation. They will also reinforce the external dimension of the European Research Area (ERA), enhance the cooperation of EU Member States and Associated Countries with third countries in the Framework Programme, contribute to the implementation of the Strategic European Framework for International S&T Cooperation⁴ and of the initiatives of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation.⁵

The 2012 activities will take into account the new policy context while ensuring continuous support to the development of the bi-regional and bilateral cooperation through the launch of new projects.⁶

¹ Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI), the Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (ICI), Asia and Latin America (ALA), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Development Fund (EDF).

² Europe 2020. A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Communication from the European Commission. COM (2010) 2020. Brussels, 3 March 2010.

³ Europe 2020. Innovation Union Flagship Initiative. Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. COM(2010) 546 final, Brussels, 6 October 2010.

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament COM(2008)588 final of 24 September 2008. Document available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com_2008_588_en.pdf.

⁵ Council conclusions concerning a European partnership for international scientific and technological cooperation, 16017/08 of 2 December 2008.

⁶ Bi-regional and bilateral projects launched previously will terminate in 2012-2013.

The new projects will support the development of more strategic and result-oriented partnerships in the context of bilateral agreements or bi-regional policy cooperation frameworks and focus on addressing societal challenges and where appropriate key enabling technologies of common interest. They will build on the experiences and results of previous and ongoing projects of this programme and will take into account and promote complementarities with activities carried out under other EU programmes notably those related to external policies.

They will also contribute to extend the cooperation beyond research to cover innovation issues of common interest.

The 2013 activities will include regions and countries not covered by the present work programme and will support the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated Countries on international S&T cooperation through ERA-NET and/or ERA-NET PLUS schemes.

II CONTENT OF CALLS

Activity 7.1. Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority-setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies (FP7-INCO-2012-1, INCO-NET)

This INCO-NET call focuses on addressing societal challenges, supporting policy dialogue, and developing cooperation on innovation.

Area

The regions targeted by the call are:

- Sub-Saharan Africa;
- Latin America and the Caribbean region;
- Mediterranean Partner Countries⁷;
- South East Asian Countries.

Technical content/ scope

The INCO-NET call aims at:

- Structuring and strengthening the bi-regional cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation;
- Supporting the institutional bi-regional policy dialogue in Science and Technology;
- Monitoring progress in the bi-regional S&T cooperation.

⁷ Including the Associated Countries of the Mediterranean region.

Proposed activities, common to all regions covered by this Work Programme

The new INCO-NET projects will:

A *Focus on major societal challenges*

The proposed projects will seek to avoid dispersion of efforts and maximise results and impact by focusing on 2 to 3 major societal challenges from those listed in the Innovation Union Communication⁸ of interest and benefit both for the targeted region as a whole and for the EU, its Member States and FP7 Associated Countries. They will:

- Take stock of the orientations resulting from the policy dialogue and of topics of mutual interest identified in previous or ongoing bi-regional initiatives in order to identify the societal challenges to be addressed in priority;
- Support the coordination of Member States and Associated Countries' research policies and programmes with the targeted region through the:
 - Identification of bilateral programmes with the countries of the region concerned which may be widened to a larger group of Member States and Associated Countries;
 - Definition and preparation of joint activities;
 - Implementation of commonly agreed objectives and joint activities by facilitating innovative programmatic approaches, including appropriate funding modalities.
- Strengthen complementarities between FP7 activities and with other EU policies and programmes;
- Promote synergies and coordination between the initiatives and projects supported by EU programmes and national programmes of the Member States and/or Associated Countries in order to optimize the leveraging effect, the cost efficiency, and the socio-economic impact;
- Design and implement initiatives (e.g. brokerage events, workshops, electronic fora, and information systems) that contribute to bridging the gap between public and private actors and the dissemination and exploitation of research results;
- Identify and support cooperation on issues related to framework conditions for research and innovation (e.g. IPR protection, standards, pre-commercial procurement) with the view to establishing a 'level playing field' and facilitate the deployment of innovative products and services.

B *Support policy dialogue*

Support the development of the bi-regional policy dialogue in Science and Technology by:

⁸ Societal challenges mentioned in the Innovation Union Communication include climate change, scarcity of resources, energy, health, impact of demographic changes, ageing, high quality affordable food, environmentally-friendly production methods and pollution reduction, land management, security, and transport.

- Providing up to date analytical evidence (e.g. key players, competences, priorities, obstacles, gaps, niches, opportunities, impact assessment, etc.).
- Monitoring and analysing the progress and results of the cooperation in R&D, including an analysis of the scope, scale and content of cooperation activities funded by FP7;
- Supporting the implementation of the dialogue recommendations.

C Strengthen cooperation

- Encourage the best research and innovation actors (organisations and scientists) to use the Framework Programme as a platform for mutually beneficial cooperation by increasing the awareness and information of its activities and results, including through user friendly web-based information systems;
- Support participation in brokerage and other networking events to facilitate the preparation of collaborative activities;
- Support, where relevant, the training and extension of the network of FP7 Contacts in the region.⁹

D Increase effectiveness and impact

- Ensure appropriate quality control of the project deliverables including through an external review panel. The cost of the panel will be covered by the EU contribution. The members of the external review panel (up to 3), will be proposed by the project consortium for approval by the Commission.
- Define and implement a proactive and comprehensive communication and dissemination plan to ensure optimal dissemination and uptake of the projects' results for the benefit of the broad Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) community in both regions.

The new INCO-NET projects will establish balanced and broad partnerships, regrouping multiple stakeholders (research, industry, government and civil society). They will build on the results of existing bi-regional initiatives, including ongoing INCO-NET projects.¹⁰ While focussing on major societal challenges, the new INCO-NET projects must have a multidisciplinary scope as well as a multi-sectoral approach and must cover more than one thematic area of the Cooperation Programme.

Region-specific considerations

In defining the objectives and content of the activities described above, proposals should take into account the state of play as well as the objectives and needs identified in each bi-regional cooperation framework for deepening and enhancing the cooperation in Science, Technology

⁹ The activities related to FP7 contacts should be carried out in synergy with the ongoing 'INCONTACT' project (www.ncp-incontact.eu/).

¹⁰ - 'CAAST-Net' for the Sub-Saharan African region (www.caast-net.org).
 - 'EULARINET', 'ENLACE', and 'EUCARINET' for Latin America and the Caribbean (www.eularinet.eu ; www.enlace-project.eu ; www.eucarinet.eu).
 - 'MIRA' for the Mediterranean Partner Countries (www.miraproject.eu/).
 - 'SEA-EU-NET' for the South East Asian region (www.sea-eu.net/).

and Innovation. Region-specific contexts and needs arising from the dialogue are provided below in a non exhaustive summary.

Sub-Sahara Africa:

Context: The launch of an Africa-EU High Level S&T Policy Dialogue at the last Africa – EU summit held in Tripoli in November 2010.

Specific needs:

- Provide active support to the implementation of the EU-Africa 8th Partnership Action Plan (2011-2013),¹¹ particularly with respect to the science priority taking into account the African S&T Consolidated Plan of Action¹² (CPA);
- Strengthen the bi-regional approach by supporting the African partners of the Sub-Sahara Regional Economic Communities, to develop/enhance multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder STI networks and facilitate the elaboration of sub-regional strategies for the development/enhancement of innovation capacities;
- Provide a user-friendly information and communication platform bringing together scientists, civil society organisations, public and private sectors to encourage knowledge-sharing between existing regional and transnational networks;
- Promote the exchange of best practices in governance and management of research and innovation programmes and projects across the region and with European Union partners.

Latin America and the Caribbean region:

Context: The 'Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012 - Towards a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion'¹³ adopted by the European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Summit at its Meeting of 18 May 2010.

Specific needs:

- Provide active support to the implementation of the roadmap of the 'Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation' (JIRI), in particular the pilot activities focusing on common major societal challenges;
- Provide a regional analysis on problems related to innovation framework conditions (e.g. IPR protection, standards, pre-commercial procurement) and identify approaches to address them;
- Promote structured interactions between industrial Research and Innovation actors including innovation agencies of both regions notably in the context of the European Technology Platforms;
- Propose a common methodology for assessing STI capacities of the Latin American and Caribbean sub-regions in relation to the thematic areas covered by the JIRI.

¹¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/118211.pdf.

¹² http://www.nepadst.org/doclibrary/pdfs/doc27_082005.pdf.

¹³ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114540.pdf.

Mediterranean partner countries:

Context: The recommendations issued by the 'Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in RTD' (MOCO) at its 14th meeting in view of implementing the objectives of the Cairo Declaration¹⁴ of June 2007.

Specific needs:

- Promote the complementarity and synergy between projects funded by the EU,¹⁵ the Member States and Associated Countries;
- Provide a user-friendly communication and information platform for stakeholders, to support networking and match-making. Encourage interactions and knowledge-sharing between existing regional and transnational networks;
- Provide a regional analysis on problems related to innovation framework conditions (e.g. IPR protection, standards, pre-commercial procurement) and identify approaches to address them;
- Carry out a regional analysis in order to evaluate research and innovation infrastructure needs as well as needs for increasing the impact of research on other policies and society and for improving the research system;
- Study the links between evolving political / socio-economic conditions and the scientific and cooperation capacity in STI.

South East Asian countries:

Context: The priority areas for stepping-up cooperation identified by the ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology (COST) – EC Senior Officials Meeting.¹⁶

Specific needs:

- Promote a structured information exchange on innovation policies and activities including best practices, and stimulate networking between and with innovation actors from the EU and ASEAN;
- Establish synergies between and with regional S&T initiatives involving all relevant actors, including the public and private sectors;
- Organise bi-regional networking and brokerage activities between excellent research institutes/laboratories to promote twinning, exchange of knowledge, joint actions and short-term visits or exchange of staff;

¹⁴ Issued at the First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research "Towards a Euro-Mediterranean higher Education and Research Area", Cairo, June 2007.

¹⁵ This is not limited to Research Framework funding, but also includes funding from other instruments such as Development Policy Instrument (DCI), the European Development Fund (EDF), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

¹⁶ Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of 20th May 2010 held in Vientiane, LAO PDR. More details available at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=asia>.

- Develop cooperation with research and innovation clusters of the two regions.

Implementation and management

- **Funding scheme(s)**

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Action' (coordinating action). The financial support from the EU will take the form of a grant. Under this scheme, no support will be provided for the research activities themselves. Each INCO-NET action should last sufficiently long to establish sustainable networking structures and practices. The EU contribution for each project can be up to EUR 4 million per region for a duration of four years.

All proposed activities should be properly described, justified and budgeted in the proposal.

A budget not exceeding 15% of the total project budget should be reserved to provide logistical and secretarial support to institutional bi-regional policy dialogues between the EU and the region of interest. These support activities will be organised on an *ad hoc* basis, and in agreement with the European Commission services and the countries targeted by the project.

- **Participants**

Participants should come from the Member States, Associated Countries and the third countries of the region targeted by the INCO-NET project. Additional countries can participate from another region if there is a clear added value to the project.

The consortium must include participants from the third countries of the targeted region.

Consortium composition and responsibilities should be balanced between European and third country participants.

The project will set up an advisory board composed of selected authorities' representatives and as relevant, of high level experts, originating from the Member States, Associated Countries and the targeted region.

The funding of participants from industrialised or high-income third countries would be allowed for this Activity if it is considered essential for the success of the projects.

The consortium should promote gender equality.

- **Areas open to this call**

Each proposal must target only one single Area covered by the call. As it is important to have as many regions covered as possible, the following scheme for selection of projects will be applied. The highest ranked proposal per region of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. If budget is remaining, this will be allocated to the other proposals according to the following criteria: the best proposal(s) in the overall ranking (considering all regions together) will be selected, if it can convincingly address a different set of societal challenges than the ones

tackled by the highest ranked proposal for the concerned region. In such case, a clustering of projects targeting the same region will be done thus avoiding duplication of activities and fragmentation of effort.

Expected impacts

The INCO-NET project will reinforce bi-regional cooperation through the focusing of activities on 2 to 3 major societal challenges. This will also lead to a reduction in the fragmentation of effort and to a more targeted use of available resources. The INCO-NET projects will support the policy dialogue and contribute to the definition and implementation of joint strategic agendas for research, development and innovation.

An increased level of cooperation through the whole research to innovation chain will be achieved via the development or strengthening of partnerships, the preparation of joint collaborative projects and programmes, and improved coherence of framework conditions for innovation.

The bi-regional relation on Science, Technology and Innovation will be made sustainable through an uptake of the coordination mechanisms by the stakeholders involved.

These actions will also result in an increased participation of the regions concerned in FP7.

The expected impact will also depend on the number of participating third countries of the region concerned and their engagement in the project.

The exploitation of the results will be enhanced through appropriate communication and dissemination actions.

Activity 7.2. Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships (FP7-INCO-2012-2, BILAT)

This BILAT call targets individual countries that concluded or are in the process of negotiating bilateral S&T agreements with the European Union.¹⁷

Areas:

The countries covered by the call are:

Area 1¹⁸: Australia, Brazil, China, India, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, United States of America.

Area 2: Argentina, Chile, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Ukraine.

Technical content/ scope

The BILAT call aims at:

- Supporting the institutional dialogue under the bilateral S&T agreement between the EU and the targeted country;
- Promoting bilateral cooperation between research and innovation actors;
- Monitoring progress in the bilateral S&T cooperation.

Proposed activities

The new BILAT projects must cover several thematic areas of the Cooperation Programme based on an assessment of the potential they offer for increasing mutually beneficial cooperation, notably in addressing major societal challenges.

Building on activities and results of previous initiatives¹⁹ the new projects will:

- Support the bilateral S&T policy dialogue and contribute to the implementation of the roadmap defined by the Joint S&T Cooperation Committee. In doing so, the project will be designed with some flexibility²⁰ to take into account new priorities defined in the bilateral policy dialogue between the EU and the country concerned;
- Promote the Framework Programme to the best scientists and organisations in the third countries concerned by increasing the awareness on FP7 opportunities;
- Monitor and analyse the evolution of the collaboration activities in the FP7 (quantitatively and qualitatively);

¹⁷ More information can be found on these agreements at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=countries>. Currently, these countries are: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South-Korea, Tunisia, Ukraine and the United States of America.

¹⁸ Industrialised Countries and BRICS.

¹⁹ Including 'BILAT' and 'ACCESS4EU' projects.

²⁰ The detailed work-plan may include options in terms of activities or topics.

- Identify and promote awareness in Europe of opportunities for European researchers to participate in third country research and innovation programmes involving National Contact Points as appropriate;
- Contribute, where relevant, to the coordination of Member States and Associated Countries' research policies and programmes vis-à-vis the targeted third country through the:
 - Identification of bilateral programmes with the third country concerned which may be widened to a larger group of Member States and Associated Countries;
 - Definition and preparation of joint activities, including relevant initiatives agreed in the SFIC;²¹
 - Implementation of commonly agreed objectives and joint activities by facilitating innovative programmatic approaches, including appropriate funding modalities.
- Promote synergies between EU policies and programmes addressing the targeted country and facilitate the coordination of research projects and initiatives supported by EU programmes and programmes of the Member States and/or Associated Countries;
- Organise and support the participation of research and innovation actors (organisations, researchers, etc.) in brokerage and other networking events to facilitate the preparation of collaborative activities and the dissemination and use of results;
- Support the implementation of a service approach for FP7 Contacts in the third country concerned, and where appropriate the training and extension of the network of FP7 Contacts;²²
- Ensure the quality-control of project deliverables including through an external review panel. The cost of the panel will be covered by the EU contribution. The members of the external review panel (up to 3), will be proposed by the project consortium for approval by the Commission.

The scope of each of these activities and resources allocated to them should take into account the state of bilateral cooperation with the third country concerned.

Additional activities for Area 1 of the call:

In addition to the activities described above, proposals targeting the countries in Area 1 should also:

- Analyse innovation measures and national innovation system profiles in the targeted country to facilitate the development of an integrated approach for bringing the results of common R&D or innovation projects to the market;
- Identify and support cooperation on issues related to framework conditions for research and innovation (e.g. IPR protection, standards, access to pre-commercial procurement)

²¹ At present, pilot initiatives have been agreed for India, China, and the U.S. for which a group of Member States are already particularly active. The projects concerned will be required to regularly exchange information to ensure coordination.

²² The activities related to FP7 contacts should be carried out in synergy with the ongoing 'INCONTACT' project (www.ncp-incontact.eu/).

with the view to establishing a 'level playing field' and facilitate the deployment of innovative products and services.

- Promote the twinning of research organisations/laboratories between on one hand Member States and Associated Countries, and on the other hand the third country concerned, through exchange of staff, sharing of good practices, and identification of future joint actions;
- Study the feasibility of bringing together representations of European research organisations in the targeted country, with the view to establish a joint liaison office.

Implementation and management

- **Funding scheme(s)**

The funding scheme that applies is the 'Coordination and Support Action' (supporting action). The financial support from the EU will take the form of a grant. Under this scheme, no support will be provided for the research activities themselves. Each BILAT project should last sufficiently long to establish sustainable networking structures and practices. The EU contribution can be up to EUR 1.5 million per country for Area 1 and up to EUR 0.75 million per country for Area 2 for a duration of three years.

All proposed actions should be properly described, justified and budgeted in the proposal.

For proposals targeting industrialised countries, matching funds from third country participants are expected. Evidence of such commitment should be provided in the proposal and this will be taken into account in the evaluation. For other countries in Area 1, a contribution from the third country concerned is encouraged.

- **Participants:**

The consortium must include participants from the targeted third country. In that context, the participation of one or more organisations from the third country concerned, which have received the necessary mandate from the national authorities, is considered essential for the project and this will be reflected in the evaluation. The funding of participants from industrialised countries would be allowed for this activity if it is considered essential for the success of the project. The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals is encouraged. The participation of European industrial and SMEs associations, innovation agencies, and research institutions linked to industry is also encouraged.

It is expected that the main participants in the projects are either public organisations or organisations with a mandate from public authorities.

The project should set up an advisory board that will be composed of representatives of authorities responsible for the S&T agreement and, as relevant, of high level experts originating from the Member States and Associated countries and the targeted third country.

The consortium should promote gender equality.

- **Areas open to this call**

In order to be eligible, the proposal must target only one country covered in the Areas of the call. One project per country will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked project for a given country will be selected.

Expected impacts

The BILAT projects will support the policy dialogue and contribute to the definition and implementation of joint strategic agendas for research, development and innovation.

An increased level of cooperation through the whole research to innovation chain will be achieved via the development or strengthening of partnerships, the preparation of joint collaborative projects and programmes, and the improved coherence of framework conditions for innovation.

Critical mass will be achieved through the commitment of a large number of Member States and Associated Countries in the coordination of policies and programmes vis-à-vis the targeted third country.

The bilateral relation on Science, Technology and Innovation will be made sustainable through an uptake of the coordination mechanisms by the stakeholders involved.

The level of cooperation with the targeted country will be strengthened in specific areas where policy intervention may yield a measurable benefit. This will result in an increased participation in FP7.

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

For description of the topics of the calls, please refer to section II 'Content of calls'

1. Call title: Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies - Activity INCO-NET

- **Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2012-1**
- **Date of publication²³: 20 July 2011**
- **Deadline²⁴: 15 November 2011, at 17 h 00, Brussels local time**
- **Indicative budget^{25,26}: EUR 16 million**

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
7.1.Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies		
7.1.1. Sub-Saharan Africa	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 4 million
7.1.2. Latin America and Caribbean Region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 4 million
7.1.3. Mediterranean Region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 4 million
7.1.4. South-East Asian Region	Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	EUR 4 million

Eligibility conditions

The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

The additional eligibility criteria that apply to this call are:

- The proposals must target only one Area covered by the call.
- The proposals must include participants from the third countries of the targeted regions.

²³ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

²⁴ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

²⁵ Under the condition that the draft budget 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

²⁶ The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals may vary:

- The final budget of the call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call; and
- Any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

- The proposals must cover more than one thematic area of the Cooperation Programme.

Minimum number of participants²⁷ as set out in the Rules for Participation:

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action)	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no two of which are established in the same MS or AC.

Evaluation procedure:

- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS. The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits. The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The following scheme for selection of projects will be applied. The highest ranked proposal per region of the work programme will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. If budget is remaining, this will be allocated to the other proposals according to the following criteria: the best proposal(s) in the overall ranking (considering all regions together) will be selected, if it can convincingly address a different set of societal challenges than the ones tackled by the highest ranked proposal for the concerned region. In such case, a clustering of projects targeting the same region will be done thus avoiding duplication of activities and fragmentation of effort.

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2012. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiation for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2012.

Consortia agreements

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

²⁷ MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated Country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

2. Call title: Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships - Activity BILAT

- **Call identifier: FP7-INCO-2012-2**
- **Date of publication²⁸: 20 July 2011**
- **Deadline²⁹: 15 November 2011 at 17 h 00, Brussels local time**
- **Indicative budget^{30,31}: EUR 16 million**

Activities called:

Activity/ Area	Funding Schemes	Indicative amount
7.2. Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships		
7.2.1 Area 1: Australia, Brazil, China, India, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South-Korea, United States of America	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 12 million
7.2.2 Area 2: Argentina, Chile, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Ukraine	Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	EUR 4 million

Eligibility conditions:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and/or minimum number of eligible participants.

The additional eligibility criteria that apply to this call are:

- The proposal must target only one country covered in the Areas of the call.
- The consortium must include participants from the country targeted in the proposal.
- The proposals must cover more than one thematic area of the Cooperation Programme.

Minimum number of participants³² as set out in the Rules for Participation:

²⁸ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

²⁹ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

³⁰ Under the condition that the draft budget 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

³¹ The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals may vary:

- The final budget of the call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call; and
- Any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Action (supporting action)	At least 1 independent legal entity

Evaluation procedure:

- A one-stage submission procedure will be followed.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS. The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits. The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).
- One project per country will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked project for a given country will be selected.
- The participation of one or more organisations from the third country concerned, which has received the necessary mandate from the national authorities, is considered essential for the project and will be reflected in the evaluation (impact criterion).
- For proposals targeting industrialised countries, matching funds from third country participants are expected and this will be reflected in the evaluation (impact criterion).
- The participation of organisations from Member States and/or Associated Countries in the proposals is encouraged and this will be reflected in the evaluation (impact criterion).

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

Evaluations are expected to be carried out during the month of February 2012. It is expected that the grant agreement negotiations for the shortlisted proposals will start in May 2012.

Consortia agreements:

Consortia agreements are recommended but not mandatory for the action.

Forms of grants:

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to this work programme.

Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website:

³² MS = Member States of the EU; AC = Associated country. Where the minimum conditions for an indirect action are satisfied by a number of legal entities, which together form one legal entity, the latter may be the sole participant, provided that it is established in a Member State or Associated country.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

i) Impact of the cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement

The objective is to perform an analysis of the impact of cooperation with countries with an S&T agreement, which are up for renewal. The countries targeted in 2012 will be South Korea, South Africa, Tunisia and USA. This activity will involve one report for each targeted country, implemented through expert contracts.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), expert contracts,³³ indicative budget EUR 0.20 million.

Indicative timeframe: to be launched in the first quarter of 2012.

ii) Study activities on the added value and impact of international STI cooperation activities

Up to 5 study activities will focus on issues such as: evaluation of the use and impact of FP modalities/instruments to promote international STI cooperation ("general opening", targeted opening, SICA, coordinated calls, "twining", S&T agreements, etc.); methodologies and indicators to evaluate the European added value (quantitative and qualitative) of EU-MS coordinated international STI cooperation activities at the level of both projects and programmes; assessment of the framing conditions for effective international STI agreements and proposals for "umbrella" agreements.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), public procurement³⁴ (service contracts) and/or expert contracts³⁷, indicative budget EUR 0.40 million

Indicative timeframe: to be launched in the first half of 2012

³³ In accordance with Article 14(c), 17 and 27(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

³⁴ In accordance with Article 14(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

V BUDGET

Indicative budget for the Activities of International Cooperation of the 2012 Work Programme³⁵

	Total (EUR million)
Call FP7-INCO-2012-1 (INCO-NET)	16.00
Call FP7-INCO-2012-2 (BILAT)	16.00
Other actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluations (EUR 0.15 million)• Monitoring and reviews (EUR 0.25 million)• Actions implemented through public procurements, expert groups and grants to identified beneficiaries (EUR 0.60 million)	1.00
Estimated total budget allocation	33.00

Budget Figures in this Work Programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. The final budgets may vary following the evaluation of proposals.

The final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary:

- The total budget of the call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call; and
- Any repartition of the call budget may also vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

For actions not implemented through calls for proposals:

- The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20% of the indicated budgets for these actions;
- The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the indicated budget for these actions.

³⁵ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

VI INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS

The activities planned for the Work Programme 2013 include:

Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies (INCO-NET)

Regions to be considered will be Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Danube region, the Pacific region, including Overseas Countries and Territories, and the Arab Gulf countries.

Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships (BILAT)

Countries to be considered will include Algeria, Canada, Egypt, Japan and Tunisia.

Supporting the transnational cooperation activities between NCPs (INCO NCP)

Supporting the coordination of national policies and activities of Member States and Associated States on international S&T cooperation (ERA-NET, ERA-NET PLUS)

Countries/regions to be considered will include India, the Mediterranean Partner Countries and Russia.

The merit of supporting other activities such as INCO-LAB, ERA-WIDE will be considered in the light of the results of the ongoing projects and the 2011 calls for proposals.