

FIRST FP7 CALL FOR PROPOSALS OMC-NET LAUNCHED

The Work Programme 2007 for the FP7 – Capacities activity 'Support for the Coherent Development of Research Policies' contains a provision for a call for proposals under the OMC-NET scheme.

This call, the first OMC-NET call under FP7, has now been launched :

- Call launch date : 19 October 2007
- Call deadline : 6 March 2008
- Budget : 7.5 M€
- Participation: a minimum of five independent legal entities from five different Member States or Associated States is required. The minimum number of participants must include only public bodies being directly involved in and carrying institutional responsibility for the preparation and formulation of research policies at national or regional level. The coordinator must be chosen amongst them.
- Funding instrument : coordination and support action (coordinating)

The OMC-NET action complements the multilateral Open Method of Coordination (OMC) process, as it has been supervised in the field of research policy by CREST since 2003, **by offering to groups of Member States and/or their regions the possibility to obtain financial support for developing policy coordination activities on specific research policy issues of their common interest.**

The target audience for the OMC-NET action is primarily national and regional research policy makers, but consortia can include, where appropriate, other stakeholders such as industry, academia, European organisations or civil society organisations.

OMC-NET projects should :

- contribute to the development of more effective research policies through mutual learning and peer-review
- help assess the need for and prepare concerted or joint initiatives between groups of countries and regions in research policy areas involving a strong trans-national dimension or spill-over
- where appropriate, identify issues where actions by national and regional authorities would need to be complemented and supported by initiatives at Community level

Initiatives undertaken within the context of an OMC-NET project may cover : peer-review of national and regional policies, exchange of experience and personnel, identification of good practice, networking activities, joint consultations, evaluations and impact assessments, development of quantitative comparisons of the effectiveness of national/regional/EU policies, development of guidelines and policy recommendations, design and implementation of transferability scenarios, analysis of emerging policy issues, exploration and definition of joint initiatives, large-scale dissemination of results.

Within the context of the upcoming call, clearly focussed proposals will be invited on specific research policy issues, addressing selected aspects of the following policy areas :

- developing an appropriate R&D policy mix
- creating appropriate framework conditions for stimulating private R&D investment

- improving the cooperation and transfer of technologies between public research institutes and private enterprises, including through developing public-private partnerships
- developing and making better use of incentives to leverage private R&D
- modernising the management of universities and other research institutions
- enhancing the career development and the European, international as well as inter-sectoral mobility of R&D personnel

A pilot OMC-NET call under FP6 was launched end 2005, resulting in 10 projects being supported. For information purposes, a short summary of all projects currently running is attached.

More detailed information on the upcoming call is available in the Work Programme 2007 for the FP7 – Capacities activity 'Support for the Coherent Development of Research Policies', which, together with other supporting documents, can be found through CORDIS (<http://cordis.europa.eu/FP7/calls>).

For any questions that should remain, please feel free to contact Mr Marnix Surgeon (tel: +32 2 2997800, Marnix.Surgeon@ec.europa.eu).

Overview running OMC-NET projects

Acronym	Title	Topic	Short description
BIS-RTD	Building and Improving Support for RTD Policy and Public Spending	Policy mix	The objective of BIS-RTD is to identify critical success factors and good practices of R&D funding models, policies and instruments in the participating regions/countries, including their communication schemes. The aim is to formulate guidelines for successful target-oriented RTD funding policies and their implementation; to offer recommendations to RTD policy makers on communication tools for obtaining the funding levels necessary for 'competitiveness-minded' research.
REACT	Regional Empowerment in Actions and Concepts for Policy Development and Technology Transfer	Technology transfer	REACT aims at improving the environment for public research and to foster the technology transfer between research and industry. This will be realized by working on concrete objectives to help the participating regions improve their research activities and to enhance the technology transfer both within and between the regions.
COGNAC	Coordination of R&D&I policies and their coherence with other policies in NAC countries	Policy mix - SMEs	COGNAC will support the regional dimension of the ERA by increasing the effectiveness and coherence of the R&D and innovation policies with a special focus on the new Member States. The proposal focuses on the public research spending and policy mixes with a specific focus on SMEs and the usage of structural funds for supporting R&D activities.
ERID Watch	European Infrastructures Development Research Watch	Research Infrastructures (public procurement)	ERID-Watch will focus on improving the public investment efficiency for European Research Infrastructures (RIs) and on developing public/private partnerships (PPP) for constructing and operating RIs. It will investigate new approaches for the construction and upgrades of RIs through public procurements policies and RI's governing rules as well as how to stimulate knowledge and technology transfers linked to the market of procurements.

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ForTransRIs	A new transregional foresight model for the regional innovation strategies	Foresight	The main and general objective of the ForTransRis is to develop and apply a "Trans-Regional Foresight" methodology, as an essential tool for motivating a new Regional Innovation System model in the EU, based on trans-regional cooperation and knowledge and technology transfer. The incorporation of the trans-regional foresight process can help to increase the integration of the R&D regional policies under the EU framework and improve Regional Innovation Strategies.
OMC-PTP	Public procurement as a strategic innovation policy mix instrument	Public procurement	OMC-PTP aims to establish a network of policy actors aiming at exchanging information and policy learning on public technology procurement procedures and their implementations. The project will develop common methodologies (toolbox/manual) for the alignment/coordination of relevant policies.
EUROPEER SME	Best practices to bring research and innovation in European SME through the "peer review" method	SMEs	The main objectives of EUROPEER SME are to foster mutual learning and elaborate best practices on national and regional RTD support programmes for SMEs; to optimise the exchange of best practices by identifying conditions for transferability and developing transfer schemes; to diminish overlap and strengthen the co-ordination of RTD policies directed to SMEs. The peer-review method will be utilized and a sustainable network will be established.
CERT-TTT-M	CERTIFIED NATIONAL TRANS-TT-MANAGER" - Building up a framework to qualify TT-Managers on a trans-national level and with mutual recognition	Technology Transfer	CERT-TTT-M aims at building technology transfer awareness and training activities coordinated at the EU level; to develop specific courses and programmes on technology transfer and to ensure that they are accessible at a national level; to promote the accreditation of technology transfer professionals on a EU-wide basis; to facilitate the exchange of personnel and experience, and promote mobility.
R4R	Regions for Research	Technology	R4R aims at developing models for knowledge transfer in the management

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		Transfer	of research policies at regional level. It will identify best practices, their success factors and pre-conditions. It will define transferability scenarios and guidelines for the adoption of those models in specific contexts.
SupPolicy	Support policy making through innovative assessing tools	governance	SupPolicy aims at supporting the sub-national and national research and innovation policy actors by providing a methodology to translate the results produced by innovation assessing tools into concrete policy making decisions. The aim is also to improve the effectiveness of the policy-cycle in order to increase the impact of public interventions through the creation of an effective and coherent national and regional policies framework