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Cost models for FP6

There is a single family of three closely-related cost models:

- **FC:** all actual direct and indirect costs;
- **FCF:** all actual direct costs plus 20% of these direct costs (excluding subcontracting) to cover related indirect costs; and
- **ACF:** additional actual direct costs plus 20% of these direct costs (excluding subcontracting) to cover related indirect costs.

Rates of Community support

The maximum rate of Community support for FC and FCF participants is:

- 50% for RTD and innovation-related components;
- 35% for any demonstration component; and
- 100% for consortium management and training.

ACF participants will be supported at up to 100% of additional costs for all components of the project (with the exception of consortium management, for which they will be supported as under the FCF model).

A share of no more than 7% of the Community contribution will be reserved for consortium management costs reimbursed at up to 100%.

The proposal procedure

Proposals for IPs can be submitted in response to calls for proposals which will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and in various other media, such as the Europa and CORDIS websites (see later). Invitations to submit expressions of interest may be used to help focus the calls and assist in the consortium-building process. Proposals themselves will be simplified, in particular to reflect the evolutionary nature of IPs.

The evaluation procedure

Proposals will be evaluated using a peer-review system, strengthened to reflect the more ambitious character of IPs. This may involve the use of a two-stage submission process and hearings of applicants by the evaluation panel.

Key issues to be addressed during the evaluation of IPs include:

- relevance to the objectives of the specific programme;
- scale of ambition and potential impact;
- S&T excellence;
- quality of the consortium;
- quality of the project and knowledge management; and
- critical mass in terms of activities and resources.

Flexibility and autonomy in the implementation of IPs

'Flexibility' and 'autonomy' will be key elements in the implementation of IPs, as reflected in:

- The **detailed implementation plan** covering the coming 18 months, which will roll forward annually.
- The **Community contribution**, where the contract will not specify its distribution between participants nor between activities.
- The **possibility for the consortium to change**; either the consortium may itself decide to take in new participants (though *without* additional funding), or the Commission may decide to launch calls to add activities and participants (*with* additional funding) to ongoing IPs.

Monitoring

Reflecting the novel character of IPs, monitoring by the Commission will be focused on their strategic outputs. For this, the Commission envisages a reinforced monitoring system – involving high level independent experts – consisting of annual, mid-term (or milestone) and end-of-term reviews.

Other practical information

Regularly updated information on integrated projects and other FP6 instruments can be found by consulting the detailed 'working documents' which can be downloaded at the following website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/networks-ip.html>

A *Guide for Applicants* is available for prospective FP6 participants.

For a broad range of information about FP6 and ERA, consult the following websites:

Europa: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html

CORDIS: <http://www.cordis.lu/ist/home.html>

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Integrated Projects

Generating
the knowledge
to implement
the priority
thematic areas



Sixth Framework Programme 2002-2006

FP6 – A defining moment for European research

The primary mission of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) is to help realise the European Research Area (ERA), which is, in turn, a central component of the endeavour launched in March 2000 at the European Council in Lisbon to turn Europe into the world’s most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy.

New instruments for FP6

One of the key features of FP6 is the introduction of more effective instruments, notably:

- Integrated projects (IP), and
- Networks of excellence (NoE).

These ‘new’ instruments are characterised by their capacity to mobilise the critical mass of expertise needed to achieve ambitious objectives. They are also characterised by the structuring and integrating effects that they will have on the fabric of European research.

Instruments available for implementing the FP6 priority thematic areas	
New Instruments	Traditional Instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated projects (IP)• Networks of excellence (NoE)• Article 169*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific targeted research projects• Co-ordination actions• Specific support actions

*Strictly speaking, this is not a new instrument, but it has taken on new importance in FP6.

The purpose of this leaflet is to present the main features of integrated projects.

What is the objective of IPs?

The integrated projects instrument is designed to **generate the knowledge** required to implement the priority thematic areas. It will do that by integrating the **critical mass** of activities and resources needed to achieve **ambitious, clearly-defined scientific and technological objectives** of a European dimension.

*An integrated project is an instrument to support **objective-driven research** where the primary deliverable is **new knowledge**. In addition, by mobilising a critical mass of resources, integrated projects should also have a structuring effect on European research.*

What activities should an IP contain?

The activities integrated by an IP could cover the full research spectrum, from basic to applied research. An IP should contain:

- objective-driven research;
- technological development, innovation-related and demonstration components, as appropriate;
- the effective management of knowledge and, when appropriate, its exploitation; and
- a training component, as appropriate.

All these activities should be integrated within a **coherent management framework**.



What is the scale of critical mass?

The concept of ‘critical mass’ is relevant in the following areas:

• Resources

Each IP should assemble whatever critical mass of resources is needed to achieve its ambitious objectives. The value of the activities integrated may range up to several tens of million euro. However, there is no minimum threshold provided the necessary ambition and critical mass is achieved.

• Partnership

IPs need at least three participants from three different Member or Associated States, of which at least two are Member States or Associated candidate countries. In practice, however, to achieve ‘ambitious’ objectives there are likely to be significantly more partners per consortium.

• Duration

IPs are expected to last between three and five years, but can be longer if necessary.

Financial regime

The Community support to IPs will be in the form of a ‘grant to the budget’. It will be paid as a contribution to actual costs that are:

- necessary and ‘economic’ for the project;
- determined according to the normal accounting principles of each participant;
- recorded in the accounts of the participants or in the accounts of a third party based on prior agreement; and
- excluding indirect taxes, duties, interest...

Payments regime

Payments are settled annually by the Commission, each participant providing a summary cost statement for the previous 12-month period – together with a certification by an external auditor of the overall costs incurred – as well as a management-level justification of costs. The consortium also submits an activity report for the same period for Commission approval.