

**Call title: Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters**

- **Call identifier: FP7-REGIONS-2011-1**
- Date of publication: 20 July 2010
- Deadline: 9 December 2010 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time<sup>1</sup>
- Indicative budget: EUR 18.66 million from 2011 budget<sup>2</sup>
- Topics called:

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Schemes
<i>Regions-2011-1. Transnational cooperation <u>between regional research-driven clusters</u></i>	In the 2011 call, proposals should support economic sustainable development by boosting the competitiveness of transport-related economy.	CSA-CA (Coordinating Action)

- Eligibility conditions<sup>3</sup>:

- 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

- The minimum number of participants: Consortia of partners representing a minimum of three regional research-driven clusters from at least three different EU Member States and/or Associated Countries. Research-driven clusters must be composed of at least three types of legal entities (so called 'triple helix'), namely:

- legal entities conducting research (universities, research organisations and research for-profit bodies); national entities conducting research can be accepted if their organisational structure is broken down at regional level and if the regional structure involved is located in the same region as the other components of the cluster;
- business entities (large enterprises and SMEs as defined in the EC recommendation 2003/361/CE of 6 May 2003, OJ L 124/36, 20/05/2003) or their local groupings;
- regional/local authorities (local and regional government, regional development agencies); national entities can be accepted to represent regional authorities either in small Member States made up of only one NUTS II region (plus Slovenia which has two NUTS II regions), or if their organisational structure is broken down at regional level and their regional representation is located in (or is effectively in charge of) the

<sup>1</sup> The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

<sup>2</sup> Under the condition that the draft budget for 2011 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

<sup>3</sup> A pre-proposal eligibility check will be offered for the Regions of Knowledge call by Commission services in relation to the eligibility criteria of the call. It shall be operational from the publication of the call until 9 November 2010 at 17:00. Requests for pre-proposal checks shall be sent to the following address : RTD-PRECHECK-REGIONS-2011@ec.europa.eu

same region as the other components of the cluster; specialised regional entities, like for example regional transport agencies, can be accepted if they are in charge of the design and/or the implementation of the relevant regional policy.

Where appropriate research-driven clusters may involve, in addition to the three previous categories, other regional/local entities such as technology transfer offices, chambers of crafts, commerce and industry, financial entities (such as banks and saving banks), as well as management consultants (specialised consultants active in the technological or economic sector concerned can be accepted as representing the business side of the 'triple helix'). A science park is considered as an additional actor as well, unless it is established in the proposal that it represents a regional research-driven cluster.

The clusters in the consortium submitting a proposal shall be mature research-driven clusters. The selected projects shall be coordinated only either by regional research-driven clusters established as a legal entity or by the regional/local authorities (or any regional entity they have mandated to implement their economic development and/or research and innovation policy<sup>4</sup>).

The cluster as a whole may be represented through one legal entity; the proposal shall demonstrate that it conforms to the definition of a regional research-driven cluster.

If such a legal entity does not exist, two possibilities are proposed:

- a) a legal arrangement<sup>5</sup> between the members exists for one member of the cluster to be allowed to legally represent all the others and the envisaged representative must have a clear mandate to represent and act on behalf of all other members of the 'research driven cluster'. Or,
- b) in cases where no legal entity can represent the cluster as a whole nor a representative can act on behalf of the other members, at least one legal entity conducting research, one business entity and one regional/local authority being part of the cluster shall be direct partners of the project consortium.

In any case each member of the cluster directly involved in the project's activities should be clearly identified in the proposal.

Clusters involved shall demonstrate in their proposal their maturity and current state of play in terms, for example, of membership (business and research entities), workforce (including researchers), number of students, turnover or GDP generated, foreign direct investment, R&D expenditure, collaborative projects, spin-offs, start-ups and patents generated, as well as services offered to their members and their financing. Partner entities conducting research have to be already and demonstrably involved in RTD activities supported by national, regional or European programmes that are closely linked to the economically relevant technological or scientific areas.

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<sup>4</sup> Or specialised regional agencies in charge of the design and/or implementation of the regional policy relevant for the project (see footnote n° 1).

<sup>5</sup> It can be an existing legal arrangement or a legal arrangement specifically elaborated before the submission of the proposal (or before the entry into force of the grant agreement) but its scope can not be limited to the participation and the duration of the project and must cover other activities implemented by the cluster.

The clusters involved shall also indicate in their proposal the potential for growth and competitiveness foreseen in the targeted sector through the proposed cooperation. Furthermore the proposed project shall address the topic set out in this work programme

“Regions of Knowledge” will support consortia of partners representing at least three regional research-driven clusters from at least three different EU Member States and/or Associated Countries.

- Restrictions on participation: *As described above under 'The minimum number of participants'.*

- Evaluation procedure:

- The evaluation criteria (including weights and thresholds) and sub-criteria together with the eligibility, selection and award criteria, for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.
- The evaluation will follow a single stage procedure.
- Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

- *Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable: Evaluation results are estimated to be available within 4 months after the deadline; grant agreement signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to a call will come into force 9 months after the closure date.*

- *Consortia agreements: Participants are encouraged, but not required, to conclude a consortium agreement.*

- The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities 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: [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/flat-rates-subsistence\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/flat-rates-subsistence_en.pdf).