

Call Title: Transnational Cooperation between Regional Research-Driven Clusters

- **Call identifier: *FP7-REGIONS-2009-1***
- Date of publication: *3 September 2008*
- Deadline: *27 January 2009, at 17.00.00, Brussels local time*
- Indicative budget: *EUR 16.15 million from 2009 budget¹*
- Topics called:

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Schemes
<i>Regions-2009-1. Transnational cooperation <u>between regional research-driven clusters</u></i>	In the 2009 call, proposals should support economic competitiveness and in particular the emergence of lead markets ² in the following sector: Enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources and of the natural and man-made environment.	<i>CSA-CA (Coordinating Action)</i>

- Eligibility conditions:
 - General eligibility criteria as mentioned in annex 2 will apply.
 - The minimum number of participants: Consortia of partners representing a minimum of three regional research-driven clusters from at least three different European 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 than the other components of the cluster; and
 - 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) and
 - 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, 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 same region than the other components of the cluster; specialised regional entities, like for example regional energy agencies, can be accepted if they are in charge of the design and/or the implementation of the relevant regional policy.

¹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

² See Commission communication, COM (2007) 860, 21/12/2007.

Where appropriate research-driven clusters may involve as well, on top of the three previous categories, other regional/local entities such as technology transfer offices, science parks, chambers of crafts, commerce and industry, financial entities (such as banks and saving banks) and also management consultants (specialised consultants active in the technological or economic sector concerned can be accepted for representing the business side of the 'triple helix').

A regional research driven cluster as a whole may be represented through one legal entity. If such a legal entity does not exist, a legal arrangement³ between the members must exist 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 all other members of the 'research driven cluster'. 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 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.

- Proposals must be submitted by and the selected projects must be coordinated either by regional research-driven clusters established as a legal entity or by regional/local authorities (or any regional entity they have mandated to implement their economic development and innovation policy) involved in the existing clusters.
 - Restrictions on participation: *As described above under 'The minimum number of participants'.*
 - The Community contribution to be envisaged for projects will be approximately from EUR 1 to 3 millions.
- 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 closure date; 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.*

³ It can be an existing legal arrangement or a legal arrangement specifically elaborated before the submission of the proposal (or at least 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.

- 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.

Indicative budget⁴ for the Regions of Knowledge activity for the 2009 Work Programmes

	Indicative budget 2009 ⁵
• Call <i>FP7-REGIONS-2008-1</i>	
• Call <i>FP7-REGIONS-2008-2</i>	
• <i>2008 Expert evaluators</i>	
• Call <i>FP7-REGIONS-2009-1</i>	<i>EUR 16.15 million</i>
• <i>2009 Experts evaluators</i>	<i>EUR 0.31 million</i>
INDICATIVE TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION	<i>EUR 16.46 million</i>

Budget figures in this work programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Following the evaluation of proposals the final budget awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals 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 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 budgets for these actions.

⁴ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The budget for the call FP7-REGIONS-2009-1 is indicative: the final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call. The final total budget awarded to 2009 Experts evaluators may vary by up to 20%.

⁵ A reserve list may be produced of projects that pass the different thresholds of the evaluation but fall below the available indicative budget of a call, in case additional budget becomes available.

