



Supporting the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level

“ERA-NET” Scheme

*European Commission - DG Research Unit B2
Christine Simon*



EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

**The creation of a European Internal market for
research to:**

- avoid fragmentation**
- encourage cooperation and coordination**
- facilitate integration**





Strengthening the foundations of ERA

➤ **Coordination of research activities (programmes)**

➤ **at national level** → ERA-NET

➤ at international level

270 M€

➤ Coherent development of Research and Innovation policies

50 M€



“ERA-NET” Scheme

is aimed at supporting the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level





Research activities: Definition

- **Programmes, part of programmes or other similar initiatives**
- **Strategically planned at national or regional level in the Member States or Associated States**



Objective

To step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and Associated States through:

- **The networking of research activities conducted at national or regional level,**
- **The mutual opening of national and regional research programmes.**



Fields of research

➤ **Research Activities may be carried out in all fields of science and technology. In other words:**

➤ **A bottom-up approach*, without giving preference to one research topic over another.**

* Examples given in the EP and Council’s Decision concerning FP6: health, biotechnology, environment, energy



Participants

➤ **bodies which finance or manage national or regional research activities**

At least 3 MS or AS are involved of which at least two are MS or candidate AS.

➤ **a sole participant (EEIG or any similar structures)**

The main actors are programme managers and programme makers.





Activities to be covered by an ERA-NET

- **Networking of research activities at national and regional level, including the mutual opening of national or regional research programmes.**
- **Unified management framework of an ERA-NET**



Networking of research activities

**Step by step but Ambitious !
At least the first 2 steps**

- **Systematic exchange of information**
- **Strategic activities**
- **Implementation of joint strategic activities**
- **Implementation of a transnational research activities**



Instruments

> Coordination Actions

- to implement an ERA-NET:
- on average : 3 M€ max ; 5 years max.

> Specific support actions

- to prepare ERA-NET proposals
- an average : 200.000 € max ; 1 year max

**Costs are limited to additional activities up to 100%
excluding the costs directly linked to research.**



Indicative Budget and timetable

- > 148 M€ (2002- 2006);
- > Open call for proposals :
 - > 1st cut-off date : 3 June 2003, budget 24M€;
 - > from March 2004, cut-off dates every 6 months up to October 2005.





Evaluation

- **Principle** : a single stage procedure based on “peer review”
- **Criteria** :
 - Relevance to the objectives of the programme;
 - Quality of the coordination;
 - Potential impact (durable cooperation);
 - Quality of the consortium;
 - Quality of the management;
 - Mobilisation of resources.



ERA-NET

INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

- **Network of Coordination NCPs:** www.cordis.lu/fp6/ncp.htm
- **Helpdesk:** rtd-coordination@cec.eu.int
- **Website:** www.cordis.lu/fp6/coordination.htm