

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7)

What is FP7?

Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development are the EU's main source of support and funding for research.

The current programme (FP7) will run from 2007 to 2013. FP7 is open to a broad range of organisations (public and private) and individuals including university research groups, companies intending to innovate, small and medium-sized enterprises and researchers.

How Does FP7 Work?

FP7 is divided into the following four key areas:

1. Co-operation Programme

Funding under this section is for **research activities involving collaboration between partners from different countries** under ten themes:

- Health
- Space
- Energy
- ICT
- Security
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
- Environment (*including climate change*)
- Transport (*including aeronautics*)
- Socio-economic sciences and humanities

2. Ideas Programme

Aim is to have researchers identify new opportunities for research, rather than politicians.

- Research can be carried out in any area of science or technology including engineering, socio-economic sciences and the humanities.
- No obligation for cross-border partnerships.
- The programme is managed by the new European Research Council (ERC)

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3. People Programme

- aims to encourage the take-up of research careers
- encourage researchers to stay in Europe
- attract more researchers from outside Europe, via the existing 'Marie Curie' actions

4. Capacities Programme

Aims to:

- Optimise use and development of research infrastructures
- Reinforce the innovation capacities of SMEs and their ability to benefit from research
- Unlock research potential in the EU's outermost regions

How to access FP7

1. The European Commission publishes annual 'Work Programmes' which include the schedule of 'Calls for Proposal' to be published during the year.
2. All Calls are announced in the EU's Official Journal and are published on the FP7 section of CORDIS, the website dedicated to EU supported research (see below).
3. Each Call usually covers specific research areas.
4. You respond to a Call by submitting your proposal.

Participate in FP7	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/participate_en.html
Find a Call	http://www.enterpriseeuropesw.org.uk/swr/services/Open_FP7_calls.asp?ContentID=095&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage=
Register your organisation	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/pp_en.html
Preparation and submission of proposal – EPSS	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage
Get support	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html
Find a project partner (2 European partners are required)	http://www.enterpriseeuropesw.org.uk/swr/tech/How_we_can_help.asp?ContentID=0110&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage=
Find a project	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html
Find a document	http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html

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What about Funding?

The basic principle of funding in FP7 is co-financing. In other words, the European Commission does not buy research services but **contributes a percentage of the overall costs by giving grants to projects**. The maximum reimbursement rates for a project depend on the funding scheme used, the legal status of the participants and the type of activity.

Further Information

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UK National Contact Point - FP7UK

<http://www.fp7uk.dti.gov.uk/default.cfm>

Help for prospective applicants to access funding under FP7. Aims to provide a single, centralised, one-stop shop for information and advice covering all aspects of FP7.

CORDIS

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

Website providing FP7 information including the calendar or Calls for Proposals, the text of the Calls, FAQs, information updates etc.

European Commission DG Research

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm

Website includes FAQs, downloadable booklets and leaflets.

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