

7th framework programme for European research

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The Framework Programme (FP) is the European Union's main instrument for funding research and development. The FP is proposed by the European Commission and adopted by Council and the European Parliament following a co-decision procedure. FPs have been implemented since 1984 and cover a period of five years with the last year of one FP and the first year of the following FP overlapping. The current FP is FP6, which will be running up to the end of 2006.

It has been proposed for FP7, however, to run for seven years. It will be fully operational as of 1 January 2007 and will expire in 2013. It is designed to build on the achievements of its predecessor towards the creation of the European Research Area¹, and carry it further towards the development of the knowledge economy and society in Europe.

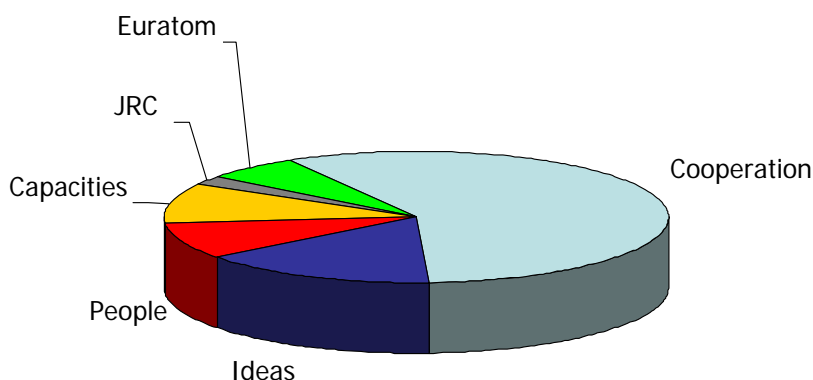
The proposed Seventh Framework Programme will be organised in four programmes corresponding to four basic components of European research:

- **Cooperation**
Support will be given to the whole range of research activities carried out in trans-national cooperation, from collaborative projects and networks to the coordination of national research programmes. International cooperation between the EU and third countries is an integral part of this action. This action is industry-driven and organised in four sub-programmes:
 - **Collaborative research** will constitute the bulk and the core of EU research funding
 - **Joint Technology Initiatives** will mainly be created on the basis of the work undertaken by the European Technology Platforms
 - **Coordination of non-Community research programmes**
 - **International Cooperation**
- **Ideas**
This programme will enhance the dynamism, creativity and excellence of European research at the frontier of knowledge in all scientific and technological fields, including engineering, socio-economic sciences and the humanities. This action will be overseen by a European Research Council
- **People**
Quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human resources in research and technology in Europe by putting into place a coherent set of Marie Curie actions.
- **Capacities**
The objective of this action is to support research infrastructures, research for the benefit of SMEs and the research potential of European regions (Regions of Knowledge) as well as to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential (Convergence Regions) of the enlarged Union and build an effective and democratic European Knowledge Society.

Each of these programmes will be the subject of a Specific Programme. In addition, there will be a Specific Programme for the Joint Research Centre (non-nuclear activities) and one for Euratom nuclear research and training activities.

In the preparation of budget proposals, the Commission took into account the views expressed during a very broad consultation with other EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament, and the Member States, as well as by the scientific community, industry and all stakeholders in European research.

Indicative Budget Breakdown



FP7 presents strong elements of continuity with its predecessor, mainly as regards the themes which are covered in the Cooperation programme. The themes identified for this programme correspond to major fields in the progress of knowledge and technology, where research must be supported and strengthened to address European social, economic, environmental and industrial challenges. The overarching aim is to contribute to sustainable development.

The nine high level themes proposed for EU action are the following:

1. Health
2. Food, agriculture and biotechnology
3. Information and communication technologies
4. Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
5. Energy
6. Environment and Climate Change
7. Transport and Aeronautics
8. Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
9. Space and Security Research.

In addition, two themes are covered by the Euratom Framework Programme:

- Fusion energy research,
- Nuclear fission and radiation protection.

In the case of particular subjects of industrial relevance, the topics have been identified relying, among other sources, on the work of different "European Technology Platforms".

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