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Regional Dimension of the 7th Framework Programme

**Regions of knowledge/
Research Potential/
Synergies with Structural Funds**

Ciaran DEARLE
(DG RTD- B.4)





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FP7 2007 - 2013

Cooperation – Collaborative research

Ideas – Frontier Research

People – Human Potential

Capacities – Research Capacity

+

JRC (non-nuclear)

JRC (nuclear)

Euratom



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FP 7- specific programme « *CAPACITIES* »

- **1. Research Infrastructures**
- **2. Research for the benefit of SMEs**
- **3. *Regions of Knowledge (RoK)* € 126 mill**
- **4. *Research Potential (RP)* € 340 mill**
- **5. Science in Society**
- **6. Coherent Development of policies**
- **7. Activities of International Cooperation**





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Before Regions of Knowledge in FP 7

- **Pilot Action in 2003**

- ✓ Objective: implementing the Lisbon strategy at regional level, stressing the central role of knowledge for regional development
- ✓ Instrument: networks of European regions, including universities, research entities and enterprises.
- ✓ 14 projects financed for € 2,5 M

- **Call for proposal in 2004**

- ✓ Objective: promote more and better regional investments in research – devise policy recommendations
- ✓ Instrument: mutual learning, coordination and collaboration between regional policies and initiatives through foresight, benchmarking, networking and coordination activities
- ✓ 18 projects financed for € 9 M





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Regions of knowledge Policy context

The *"Regions of Knowledge"* initiative responds to a **need to increase the overall capacity of regional players to foster science and technology-based economic development**, by better integrating research to their regional strategies

- ✓ Within the framework of the **Lisbon strategy** for a performing knowledge-based economy
- ✓ To help reach the **Barcelona objectives**





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Regions of Knowledge

Two objectives for all European regions:

Strengthen their capacity for investing in RTD and carrying out research activities

Produce research strategies that contribute to regional economic development

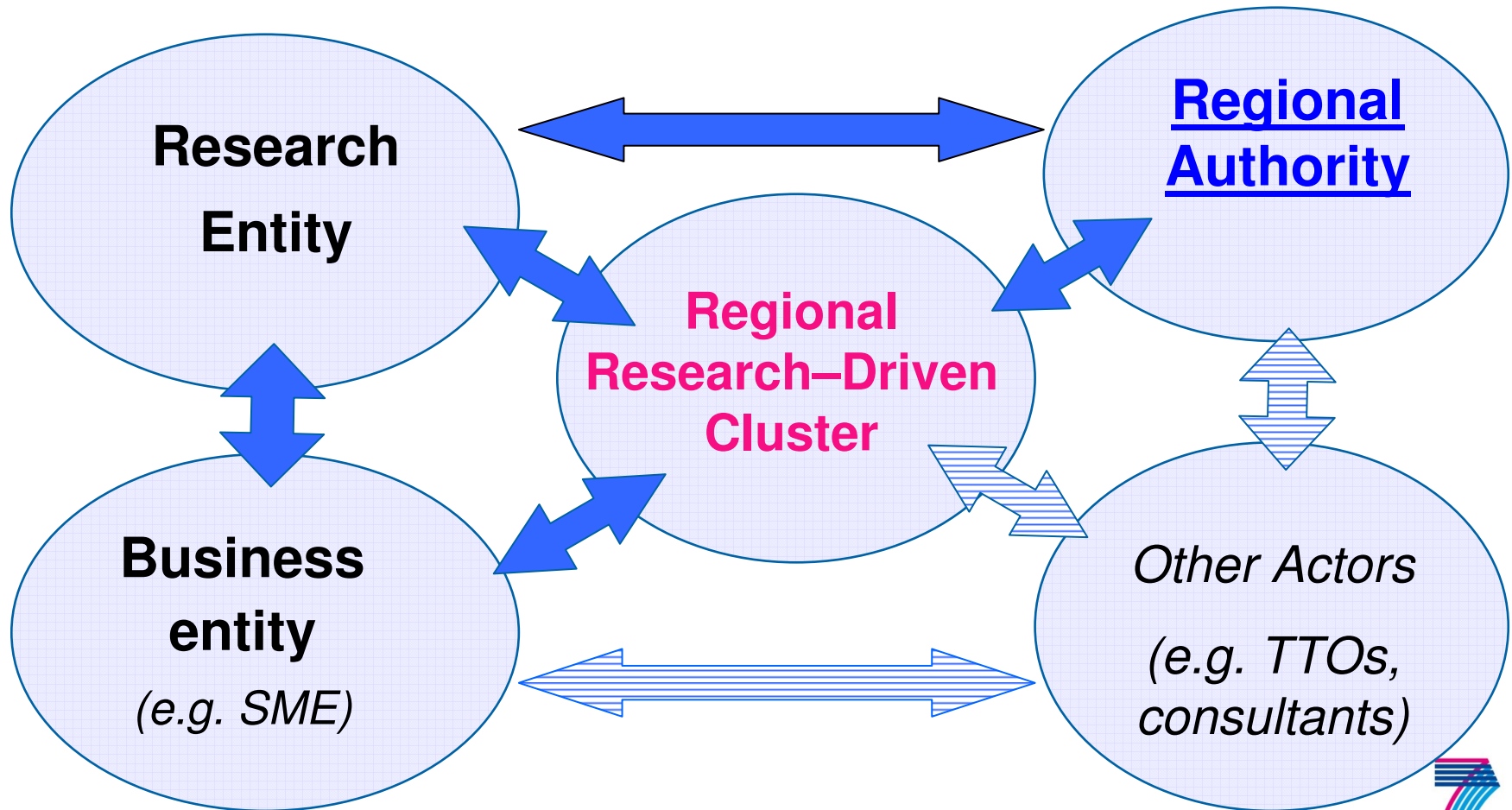
Through the development of regional 'research-driven clusters'

Associated and candidate countries are also eligible





What is a Regional Research-Driven Cluster?





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Funding scheme overview

Budget 2007-13: € 126 million

Funding scheme: CSA –CA, coordinating action

Duration: up to 36 months

Community contribution: approx. 1 to 3 M €

Financing rate: up to 100 % of eligible costs





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Regions of Knowledge

- **REGIONS-1** for the development of existing clusters is the main call every year. So far three calls have been published (2007, 08 & 09) and have attracted approx 200 proposals.
- Total funding allocated for 2007 & 2008 was 18 M € with which it was possible to fund 20 projects.
- For 2009, total funding 16 M € and about the same number of projects as in previous years.
- For 2007 & 2008, there was also REGIONS-2 call concerning setting up of clusters with a budget of 0.8 M € each year (now integrated in the main call with compulsory mentoring).





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Lessons learned from first 2 years of implementation

- Risk of **low impact on European Competitiveness** due to
 - Many **small and/or locally oriented projects**
 - Lack of involvement of **regional authorities**
 - Difficulty to involve **business entities** directly
- Projects with a **clear thematic focus** more effective
- Distinction between **existing and new clusters** not always clear: no precise birth date
- **Mentoring activities** rarely taken up as an opportunity
- Often just vague ideas for **implementation and sustainability** of the clusters, as well for synergies





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Main changes introduced for 2009

- **Strategic repositioning of the targeted clusters**
 - Focus on **dynamic clusters**, incl. cluster organisations
 - At least **three RDCs** involved from 3 countries
 - Focus on **a few networks**: bigger budget per project (1 to 3 M €)
- Alignment of **thematic priorities** with the Commission's ones, e.g Lead Markets Initiative
- **Mentoring** as a compulsory activity
- **Two-step approach** :
 - From analysis to Joint Action Plan
 - **Accompanying the implementation** of the JAP
- **Internationalization** activities allowed





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REGIONS-2009-1

Activities

- **Analysis**, development and implementation of research agendas
- **Mentoring** of regions with a less developed research profile for capacity building (compulsory)
- Initiatives to improve **integration**: definition of **joint action plans (JAP)**, together with **business plans** – following SWOT analysis and definition of RTD needs
- Measures **towards the implementation of the JAP**
- **International cooperation** activities (optional)
- **Dissemination** activities

Beware: Neither the implementation of the JAP nor any research can be funded under Regions





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2009 Call for proposal

One call, REGIONS-2009-1, targeting the **transnational cooperation** of regional research driven clusters
- for a total of 16,1 M €

Participants

- Consortia of **at least 3 regional research-driven clusters** from 3 different Member States or Associated countries
 - Possible representation by one member - under conditions
 - Compulsory description of the full cluster
- **Coordinator** : either a regional authority or a fully fledged RDC (with legal entity)





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2009 Thematic priorities

Enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources and of the natural and man-made environment, covering four themes:

- Water management,
- Forest management
- Soil and land management
- Waste management

... in support of the Lead Markets Initiative





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FP7 – REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE 2009 Calls - Results

	<u>FP7-REGIONS-2009-1</u> (Core Call)
<i>Submitted proposals</i>	29
<i>Non-eligible proposals</i>	1 (3 %) (thereof 0 « out of scope »)
<i>Evaluated proposals</i>	28 (97 %)
<i>Over the thresholds</i>	15 (52 %)
<i>Under the thresholds</i>	13 (45 %)





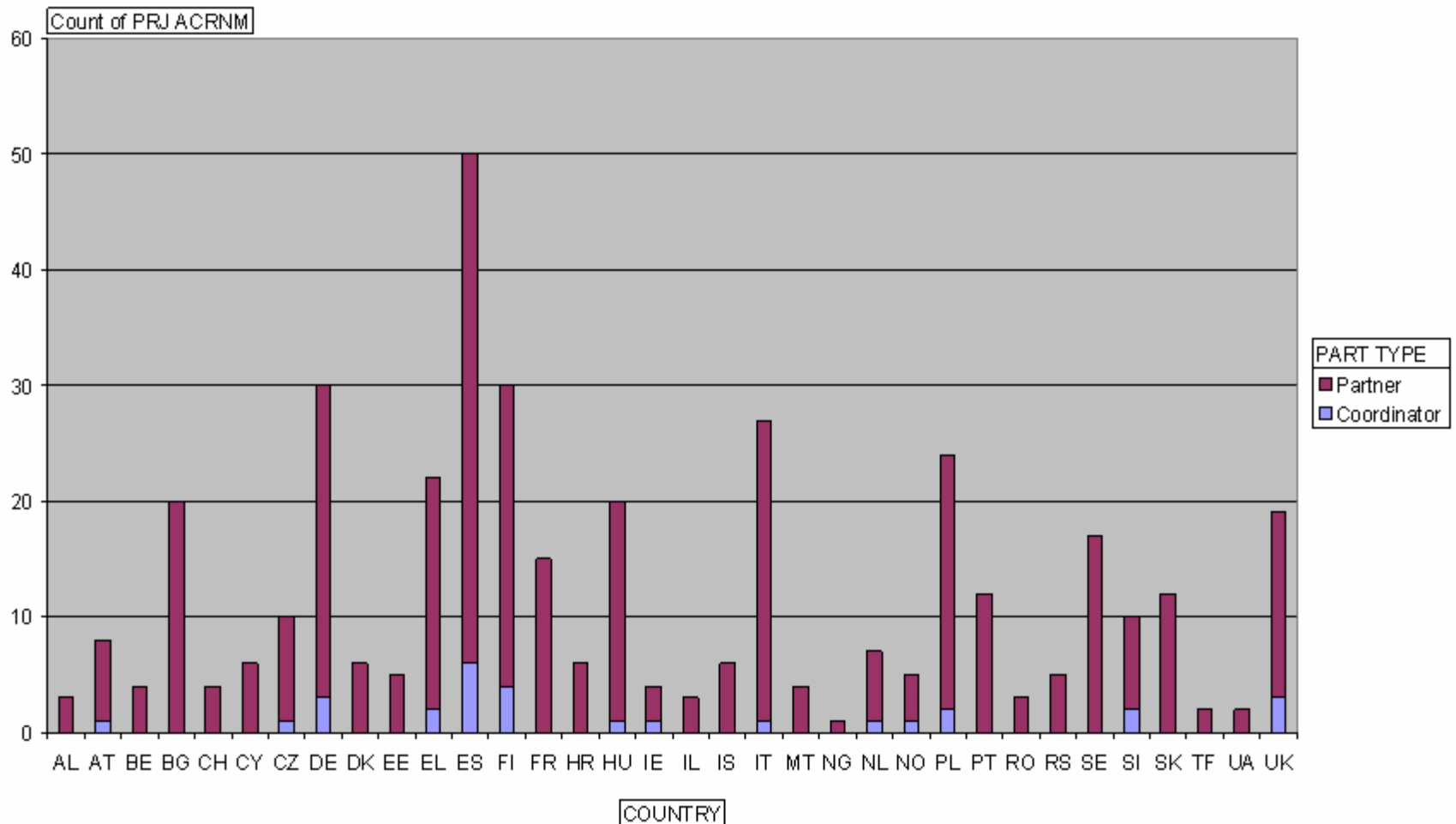
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FP7 – REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE REGIONS-2009-1

Geographical spread of Submitted Proposals

CALL|FP7-REGIONS-2009-1|YEAR|2009





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2010 call

- **Same basic structure**
- **Theme of Health (incl e-health)**
- **Calls launched later this year**





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL Objectives

For **CONVERGENCE** & **OUTERMOST** regions

- To stimulate the realisation of the **full research potential** of the enlarged Union by unlocking and developing the existing or emerging research potential in the EU's convergence and outermost regions
- To strengthen the **capacities** of their **researchers** to successfully participate in research activities at EU level & in **FP7**





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Research Potential

- **REGPOT-1 is the main call every year. So far three calls have been published (2007, 08 & 09) and have attracted more than 1000 proposals!**
- **Total funding allocated for 2007 & 2008 is 53.5 M € with which it was possible to fund 56 projects.**
- **For 2009, total funding of 31 M € but fewer projects expected to be funded due to larger size.**
- **For 2007 & 2008, there was also REGPOT-2 concerning evaluation of research facilities with budget of 1 M € each year (now integrated in the main call).**
- **Finally, special actions in 2007 & 2009: REGPOT-3 West Balkans in 2007 & REGPOT-2 Mediterranean in 2009 (8 M € each). Multi-partner approach.**





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

2 Calls in 2009

- ***FP7-REGPOT-2009-1***

Unlocking and developing the *research potential* in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions

- ***FP7-REGPOT-2009-2***

International Cooperation with the MPCs
(*Mediterranean Partner Countries*)





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions

This activity will support the implementation of an *Action Plan*:

- ✓ defined by the *highest quality* or promising research entities established in the *eligible* regions
- ✓ derived from a *SWOT* analysis of the applicant's research entity
- ✓ in the *thematic priorities*' domains of the *FP7*





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

The **Action plan** must include a set of *5 coherent* measures:

- ✓ *Exchange of know-how* and *experience* with at least **3 or more** experienced and knowledgeable partner organisations elsewhere in the EU/ACs
- ✓ *Recruitment* by the selected research entities of incoming experienced researchers
- ✓ Acquisition, development, maintenance or upgrading of *research equipment*
- ✓ Organisation of *workshops* and *conferences* to facilitate knowledge transfer at national and international level
- ✓ *Dissemination* and promotional activities





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

Evaluation facility

In addition to listed 5 measures, the applicants can optionally apply for an *international independent expert evaluation* of their overall research quality and capacity. The evaluation:

- ✓ will take place after the end of the implementation of the *Action Plan* (over a period of up to 6 months)
- ✓ should be developed in a *separate work package* which eligible costs should not exceed 150 000 €





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

Participants

The project must be proposed by a *single* public or private research entity of *significant size* (e.g. University Depart., Faculties or specialized research institutes) established in the convergence & outermost regions of EU/AC*

3 or more *experienced* and *knowledgeable* partner organisations should participate in the proposal.

(*) Associated Countries '*Convergence*' regions : Albania, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia & Turkey; All at country level





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

Synergies between Action Plan and related actions supported through the cohesion policy

Applicants should explain the *synergies* between measures set out in the *Action Plan* and related actions supported (or planned) through the *Cohesion Policy* programmes - specifically through the European Regional Development Fund - whether in terms of human resources, the acquisition, development or upgrading of research equipment or activities for knowledge transfer





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-1*

Expected impact

- ✓ *Better integration* of the selected RTD entities *in the ERA*
- ✓ **Upgrading the RTD capacity and capability** (human potential: number of new researchers and training of research staff; improvement of research management; scientific equipment) and the quality of research carried out
- ✓ Improved research capacity for increased contribution to *regional economic and social development*
- ✓ Improvement of the potential to *participate in FP7* projects





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-2*

International cooperation between Europe and
Mediterranean Partner Countries*

- ✓ **Promote closer S&T cooperation opportunities between EU/AC - particularly its convergence regions - and the MPCs**
- ✓ **Proposals should include at least *3 participants*: one from a *convergence* or *outermost* region in the EU/AC, one from another *MS/AC* and one from a *MPCs***

(*) *Mediterranean Partner Countries*: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-Administered Areas and Syrian Arabic Republic





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-2*

Measures

- ✓ *Exchange* of know-how and experience
- ✓ *Recruitment* by the MPC selected research entities of incoming experienced researchers
- ✓ Acquisition, development, maintenance, upgrading and/or renewal of *research equipment* for sole the selected MPC research entities
- ✓ Organisation of *workshops* and *conferences* to facilitate knowledge transfer at national and international level
- ✓ *Dissemination* and promotional activities





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Call *FP7-REGPOT-2009-2*

Expected impact

- ✓ Accelerate the setting up of *sustainable partnerships* between the most competitive RTD centers in regions concerned to create networks with the MPCs
- ✓ Improving and/or enlarging the *RTD capacity of Mediterranean Partner* research entities of excellence in terms of the research entities' S&T capacity
- ✓ *Improved participation* of MPCs in FP7 networks and RTD projects





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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL 2009 Calls - Schedule

	<u>FP7-REGPOT-2009-1</u> (Core Call)	<u>FP7-REGPOT-2009-2</u> (Coop. with MPCs)
<i>Publication</i>	24/10/2008	24/10/2008
<i>Deadline</i>	13/02/2009	13/02/2009
<i>Calls budget</i>	31 M€	8 M€
<i>Financial Instr.</i>	CSA (Support)	CSA (Support)
<i>Project Budget</i>	Up to 4 M€	Up to 1 M€



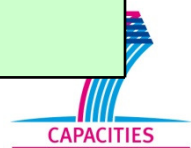


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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL 2009 Calls - Results

	FP7-REGPOT-2009-1	FP7-REGPOT-2009-2
<i>Submitted proposals</i>	312	84
<i>Non-eligible proposals</i>	8 (2,5 %) (thereof 3 « out of scope »)	5 (6 %) (thereof 2 « out of scope »)
<i>Evaluated proposals</i>	307 (98 %)	81 (96 %)
<i>Over the thresholds</i>	134 (43 %)	26 (32 %)
<i>Under the thresholds</i>	170 (54,5 %)	50 (62 %)



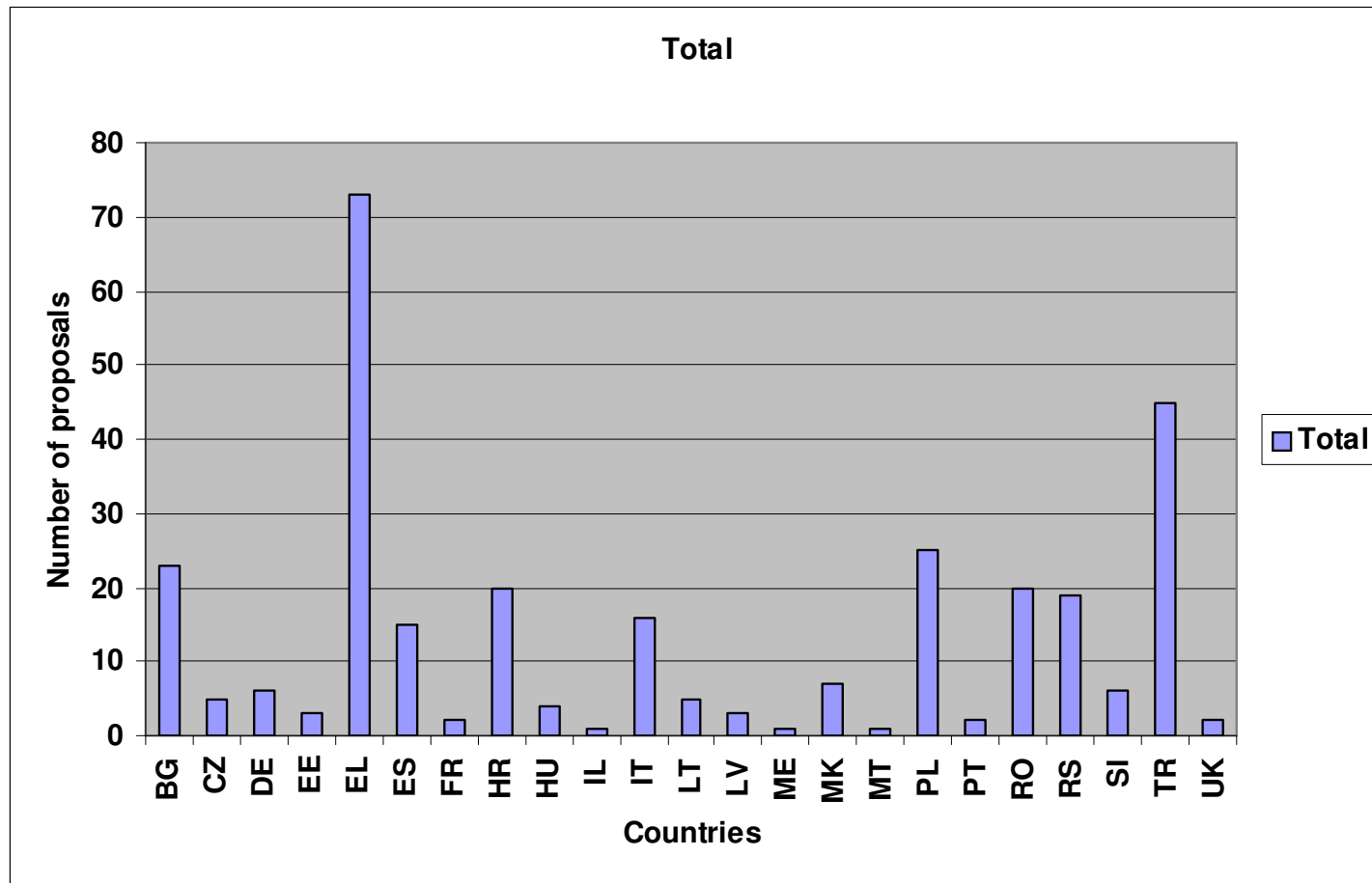


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FP7 - RESEARCH POTENTIAL REGPOT-2009-1

Geographical spread of Submitted Proposals





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FP7 regional actions and the Structural Funds: more synergies

- **FP 7 has a new regional dimension, under “Capacities”**
- **... while Structural Funds will reinforce R&D investment with support of € 50 billion; equivalent to FP**
 - **R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship as the first priority in Convergence regions**
 - **Innovation and the knowledge economy as the first priority for the competitiveness and growth objective**
 - **Earmarking: at least 60% or 75% of funds for Lisbon priorities**
- **Complementary funding where possible... but no double funding**
- **“Practical guide on synergies” now available on CORDIS**





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Introduction

The knowledge economy – with its emphasis on education, research, technological development, innovation and entrepreneurship – is at the heart of the renewed Partnership for Growth and Jobs, a programme to develop Europe's economy and guarantee quality of life for its population.

In an open global economy, competitiveness lies in the capacity of businesses to create high value-added goods and services. A move towards innovation-based sustainable growth is therefore at the heart of the EU's response to globalisation. Research and innovation can also offer solutions to overcome the great challenges that face our continent and the whole world, challenges such as energy security, climate change, environmental degradation, exclusion of vulnerable groups, ageing population and disabilities, global health threats, and demographic developments.

At the Community level, the Union possesses three key funding instruments to support research and innovation: Cohesion policy which is funded through the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund; the Research Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme. In 2007 the European Commission published its ideas on 'Competitive European Regions through Research and Innovation' ¹ and called on Member States and regions to make more effective use of the available funding instruments. The issues to be addressed in achieving this aim cut across many domains of European Commission policy, such as economic affairs, employment policy, energy, transport, agriculture, environment and information society, going beyond the programmes under our responsibility. With all our colleagues, we hope that the ideas put forward will see a change in approach, with much greater attention to the optimal use and combination of the different EU funds. For this to happen, we rely on the active cooperation of the Member States and regions.

This Practical Guide was conceived in order to help potential beneficiaries of our programmes find their way through the three funding instruments and identify the most appropriate funding scheme for them. It provides a concise description of the three funding sources, explains how they can in practice be combined and provides policy makers with advice on setting up mechanisms at the national and regional levels to foster co-ordinated access to them.

It has been produced with the full collaboration and support of our fellow Commissioners Mrs Mariann Fisher Boel (Agriculture and rural development), Mrs Viviane Reding (Information Society and Media), Mr Andris Piebalgs (Energy), Mr Joe Borg (Fisheries and maritime affairs), Mr Vladimír Špidla (Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) and Mr Antonio Tajani (Transport), who are jointly responsible with us for the funding instruments covered by the guide. Together, we hope that this guide, above all else, proves to be practical and user-friendly. Its aim is to provide potential recipients of EU funding for research and innovation with the basic information they need to access this funding.



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Checklist for EU innovation and research funding

In order to determine which programme or funding source is the most relevant to support your idea, **6 key questions** have been identified that will guide you to the relevant funding opportunities:

- Step 1 Am I eligible for a given programme or funding source?
- Step 2 Is my type of research, innovation or enterprise development activity eligible?
- Step 3 What about my timeframe?
- Step 4 What type of financial support can I obtain?
- Step 5 Who else is involved in the project?
- Step 6 Can I apply for funding in my location?

For each of the three funding sources, the answers to these questions will vary. Therefore, we have developed the Checklist attached to this guide that provides – by funding source – both a brief answer to the question and links to numerous supplementary sources of information.

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Checklist for EU innovation and research funding

- Step 1 Am I eligible for a given programme or funding source?
- Step 2 **Is my type of research, innovation or enterprise development activity eligible?**
- Step 3 What about my timeframe?
- Step 4 **What type of financial support can I obtain?**
- Step 5 Who else is involved in the project?
- Step 6 Can I apply for funding in my location?

Step 2 - Is my type of research, innovation or enterprise development activity eligible?

Options:

- [Basic \(individual\) research](#)
- [Applied & Collaborative research by higher education institutions, research centres and enterprises \(including SMEs\)](#)
- [Preparatory activities for research infrastructure projects](#)
- [Upgrade the capacity of your research facilities](#)
- [Large scale industry - research collaborations](#)
- [Research fellowship/PhD studies abroad / company placements](#)
- [Technology transfer, exploitation and protection \(through intellectual property rights - IPR\)](#)
- [Non-technological innovation/innovation management advice \(analysing the innovation potential and gaps of your organisation and defining a strategy for the necessary technological, organisational, etc. changes\)](#)
- [Commercialisation/market oriented activities/business expansion](#)
- [Policy analysis/strategy development \(statistics, surveys, studies for public policy development\)](#)
- [Networking activities \(including programme coordination among policy-makers and programme managers\), coordination among research programmes, enterprise associations, research organisations, exchange of good practices](#)
- [Upgrade/improve the skills of your staff or recruit researchers/innovators to be able to adopt innovative technologies, methods or management](#)

http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/checklist04_en.html

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