

The perspective of the new Member States vis-à-vis the future Framework programmes

(The possibility of common actions)

1. Analyzing the past

The negotiations on the 7FP took place in 2005-2006 when 10 new Member States just joined the EU and another 2 Member States were not part of it. Practically the 12 new Member States were not able to participate actively and effectively in the decision-making process on 7FP.

The 7FP reflects the structure and the possibilities of the well-developed economies; it is designed according to the orientations and interests of the scientific and innovation potential of these countries and it does not reflect the different starting point of the new Member States.

As a consequence the 7FP is less accessible and more “difficult” for them. The hitherto prevailing results of the new Member States’ participation in the 7FP have not entirely reflected the potential and possibilities of the new Member States (for illustration a table of MS’s participation is annexed).

A very brief and preliminary questionnaire to the capitals (the analysis has to be deepened!) revealed some of the common difficulties and gave space to the first proposals for the future.

2. Analyzing the present and reflecting on the future

At the end of this year the mid-term review of the 7th Framework Programme (7FP) will be published.

At the beginning of the next year the Commission intends to publish a preliminary policy paper on the 8th Framework Programme (8FP) and to launch in the meantime a public consultation with the stakeholders. In this respect the best timing for real input from the MS is by the end of January 2011.

These two documents as well as the ongoing discussion on simplification will serve as background for drafting the 8FP. The internal work of the Commission and the parallel work in the Member States clearly show a process of analyzing the lessons learnt from the 7FP and future reflections for the 8FP.

Having in mind the above, and that the Commission intends to publish its legislative proposals for 8FP by the end of 2011, the new Member States have a unique opportunity to influence the negotiations since Hungary, Poland, Cyprus and Lithuania will be in the seat of the 6 month rotating Presidency of the Council between 2011-2013, when the 8FP will be negotiated.

3. Change of the concept of the 8FP: “For common problems – common solutions”

The 8FP should be addressed to all the EU Member States, it should pursue the creation and the consolidation of ERA, boosting excellence and unlocking the full potential of all the regions and Members States in the EU.

We think that the new Member States have to identify common priorities to be expressed in the future 8FP with the aim to build a targeted perspective for the new Member States in it (as for example: to raise the capacity and the competitiveness of the new Member States up to the standards of excellence, to promote the internal dimension of ERA, to identify more inclusive and flexible instruments to be adapted to the different national circumstances).

We believe that different potentials require different approaches. The different situation of the new Member States should be addressed with specific instruments and measures that could more successfully tackle with their specific needs.

While recognizing the principle of excellence (now the only principle in FP7) we consider it could be reinforced with other principles: cost-efficiency, relevance of the research, contribution to growth and jobs.

The selection process of evaluators should be more transparent in order to ensure more balanced participation of new MS.

The gravity of the upcoming work on that issue, calls for stepping up the discussion about possible improvements. There is a room for cooperation between the new Member States on a number of issues regarding the future provisions of the 8FP. The set of solutions of the 7FP might be maintained and at the same time some of them might be improved in order to satisfy the needs of all the EU Member States.

4. The following measures might be considered as possible areas of multilateral interest:

- 1) The cooperation in the framework of ERA-NET projects has enhanced international relationships between research entities and should be continued and strengthened by tailored-made instruments.
- 2) Facilitation of the participation of SMEs in the FP and improve the cooperation between SMEs and academia.
- 3) In order to fully exploit the synergy between research and structural funds more attention should be paid to the coherence of financial rules in both sources of EU financial support.
- 4) A more balanced distribution of research facilities (e.g. research infrastructures, Agencies, KICs) across the EU should be secured.
- 5) The principle of excellence could be reinforced with other principles such as cost-efficiency, relevance of the research, contribution to growth and jobs.

- 6) More flexible and simpler administrative and financial rules should be adopted, (e.g. more flat rate financing, lump sums for personnel cost, non-refundable part of VAT should be included into eligible costs).
- 7) Specific measures to develop research driven clusters within Regions of Knowledge could be envisaged by ensuring adequate funding.
- 8) In FP8, for all eligible convergence regions, special attention has to be given to increase funding and to adopt appropriate measures to strengthen the participation in the "Research Potential" initiative.

Annex:

Table B3: Numbers of EU27 applicants and requested Community financial contribution in retained proposals for FP7 calls concluded in 2007, 2008 and 2009 by country.

COUNTRY	APPLICANTS						EC CONTRIBUTION						EC CONTRIBUTION PER APPLICANT (€K)		
	No.			Success rate			€M			Success rate			2007	2008	2009
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009			
AT - Austria	577	324	373	20,6%	19,3%	22,9%	177,1	105,2	105,5	20,4%	17,9%	20,1%	307,0	324,6	282,9
BE - Belgium	974	573	629	27,2%	24,2%	30,0%	305,8	172,3	163,5	26,7%	21,7%	24,0%	314,0	300,7	260,0
BG - Bulgaria	161	94	80	15,0%	15,6%	17,7%	18,7	11,8	14,0	11,6%	10,3%	11,9%	116,4	125,5	174,6
CY - Cyprus	74	49	61	15,4%	16,6%	17,4%	8,9	7,9	11,3	8,6%	11,3%	14,7%	120,2	160,2	186,0
CZ - Czech Republic	281	159	147	21,0%	17,6%	22,6%	51,7	24,7	23,1	18,8%	11,5%	17,0%	184,0	155,5	157,4
DE - Germany	3037	1.761	1.879	23,5%	21,8%	25,3%	1.157,2	692,9	700,0	24,2%	22,7%	23,7%	381,0	393,5	372,6
DK - Denmark	446	285	292	24,5%	22,9%	28,8%	144,0	110,3	98,3	22,8%	22,6%	26,9%	322,9	387,0	336,8
EE - Estonia	108	68	65	22,5%	23,6%	25,6%	19,5	10,5	10,8	20,3%	19,1%	18,4%	180,8	154,7	166,7
EL - Greece	685	383	485	15,6%	14,5%	17,9%	178,9	92,1	132,8	14,3%	10,6%	14,2%	261,2	240,3	273,9
ES - Spain	1.439	992	1.253	18,9%	19,4%	22,1%	382,2	256,1	293,7	17,9%	15,8%	18,1%	265,6	258,1	234,4
FI - Finland	505	281	312	23,1%	22,7%	24,9%	181,6	132,9	86,6	23,2%	24,3%	19,5%	359,7	473,1	277,7
FR - France	2.194	1.379	1.310	25,7%	24,3%	27,6%	766,4	512,5	410,2	26,7%	24,0%	24,9%	349,3	371,6	313,1
HU - Hungary	307	191	172	17,6%	20,4%	22,1%	46,6	30,9	25,7	12,2%	14,0%	14,3%	151,8	161,7	149,2
IE - Ireland	269	162	266	22,7%	21,0%	27,0%	68,3	31,5	68,5	19,1%	12,9%	21,6%	253,9	194,2	257,5
IT - Italy	1.950	1.218	1.353	17,2%	16,6%	21,0%	587,2	384,3	341,1	16,4%	14,2%	16,6%	301,1	315,5	252,1
LT - Lithuania	70	61	49	15,6%	24,0%	23,9%	9,0	9,2	8,0	11,5%	23,3%	20,6%	128,5	151,1	163,1
LU - Luxembourg	31	17	21	18,1%	16,7%	19,1%	7,9	1,6	2,5	15,7%	5,4%	8,6%	253,2	95,5	120,4
LV - Latvia	58	35	34	21,3%	20,3%	22,4%	7,8	3,1	2,7	15,1%	10,6%	9,7%	135,1	88,6	80,1
MT - Malta	49	19	14	23,6%	14,1%	11,7%	4,0	1,9	2,4	11,8%	7,6%	14,4%	82,3	102,5	173,5
NL - Netherlands	1.231	817	753	26,4%	24,4%	27,7%	413,2	311,3	248,1	24,5%	22,9%	24,2%	335,6	381,0	329,4
PL - Poland	423	246	256	17,6%	15,8%	21,0%	80,2	40,9	45,1	15,3%	9,8%	15,7%	189,6	166,4	176,3
PT - Portugal	329	242	282	18,0%	18,4%	23,5%	67,1	47,3	48,7	14,8%	13,8%	16,9%	204,0	195,4	172,8
RO - Romania	234	132	110	13,4%	15,3%	15,3%	30,3	18,0	14,4	9,1%	8,7%	8,0%	129,5	136,2	131,1
SE - Sweden	824	476	448	24,6%	22,8%	26,2%	276,7	163,7	140,4	22,4%	20,0%	21,1%	335,8	343,8	313,4
SI - Slovenia	179	95	104	15,6%	15,5%	16,0%	33,5	11,8	15,0	14,6%	8,3%	9,5%	187,1	124,5	144,5
SK - Slovakia	105	61	60	17,6%	19,1%	25,8%	14,9	7,1	7,3	12,2%	10,5%	16,0%	141,8	116,9	121,9
UK - United Kingdom	2.637	1.829	1.923	23,2%	23,3%	27,3%	835,2	723,1	527,1	21,3%	23,9%	21,0%	316,7	395,4	274,1
Total	19.177	11.949	12.731	21,4%	20,7%	24,2%	5.874,0	3.914,9	3.547,2	20,9%	19,4%	20,4%	306,3	327,6	278,6