International cooperation in the EU Framework Programmes
Health research

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Aspects covered:

- **Background and development of the FPs**

- **Structure of FP7**

- **The Health Theme**

- **International cooperation**

- **Tips for proposal writing**

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Why research at European level?

- **Pooling and leveraging resources**
  - ➔ to achieve critical mass
  - ➔ Leverage on private investments
  - ➔ Interoperability and complementarity

- **Fostering capacity and excellence in S&T**
  - ➔ Stimulate training, mobility and career development of researchers
  - ➔ Improve S&T capabilities
  - ➔ Stimulate competition in research

- **Better integration of European R&D**
  - ➔ scientific base for pan-European policy
  - ➔ coordination of national policies
  - ➔ comparative research at EU-level
  - ➔ dissemination of research results

The role of the EC in research

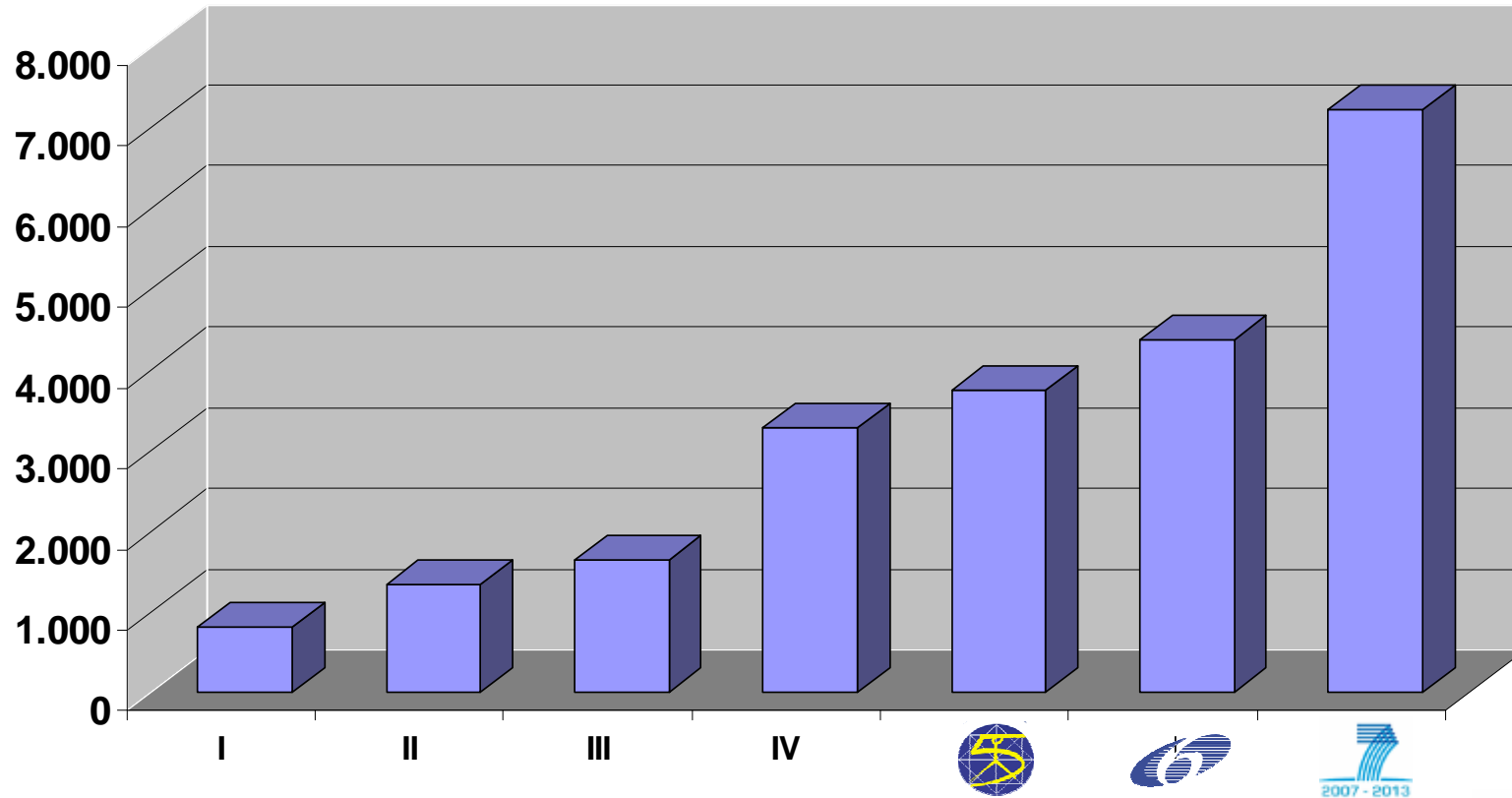## European Commission programmes bring down barriers

- **between countries:**
    - → multinational consortia
    - → researchers from any country in the world can participate
    - → coordination among national funding programmes

- **between different types of organizations:** universities, research centres, SMEs, large companies, etc.

- **between disciplines:** increased focus on translational research

- **and encourage mobility:** Marie Curie fellowships available for researchers and for host institutes, including ingoing & outgoing grants

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EU research:
budget of the FPs
(yearly amounts in M€)

Collaborative Research
changing priorities (rel. weight)

Chart legend (top to bottom):
- Security + Space
- Socio -economic
- Transport
- Environment
- Industrial + materials tech.
- ICT
- Energy
- Life Sciences*

X-axis: FP1, FP2, FP3, FP4, FP5, FP6, FP7
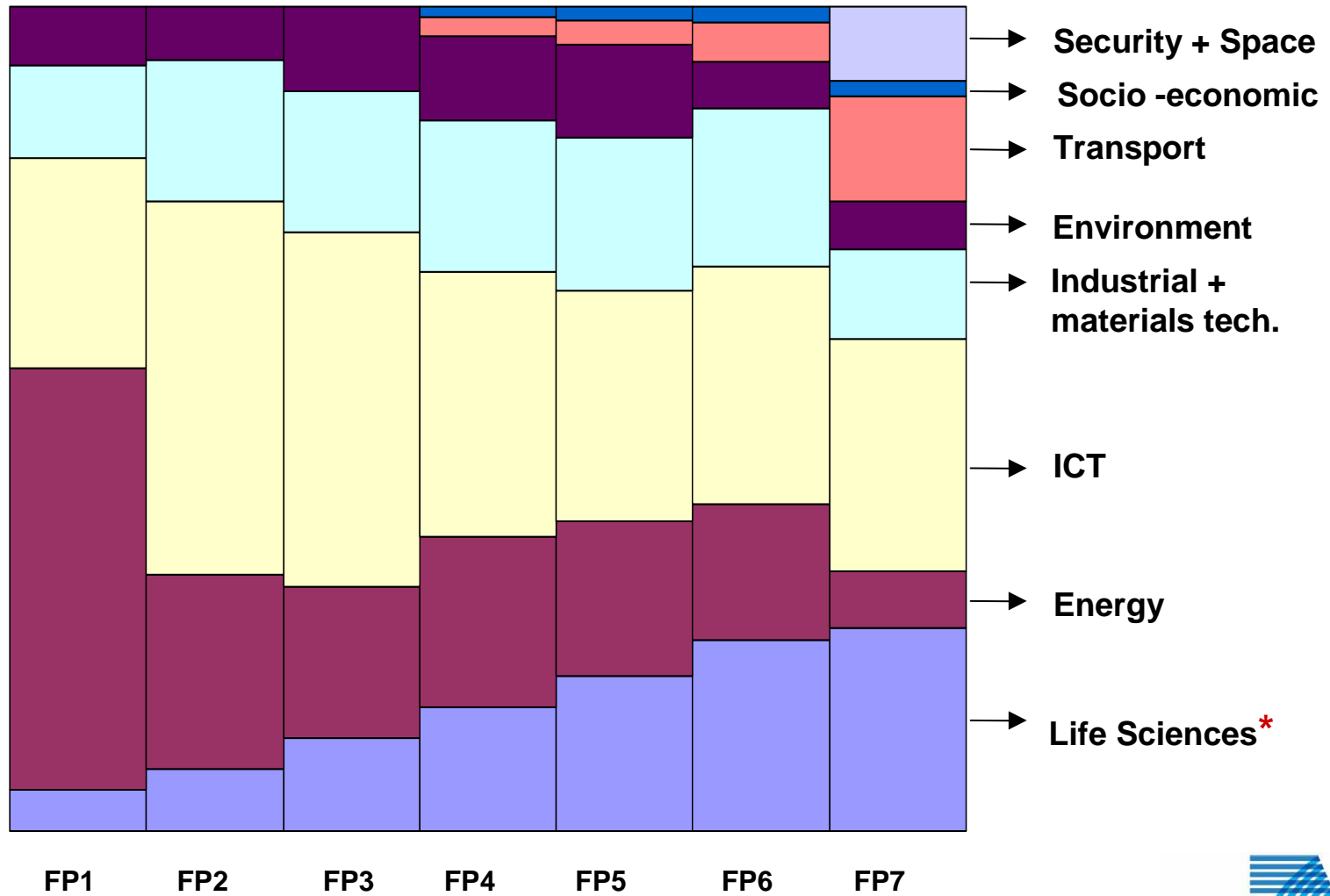
from FP6 split into Health + Food/Agri/Biotechh

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Timeframe for FP7 projects

Results from FP7 projects in use

Projects resulting from FP7 calls operating

Official duration of FP7 2007-2013

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

First calls

First projects start

Last projects start

Last projects end

7

FP7 budget (€ 50.5 billion)

€ million

Capacities; 4 097

JRC (EC); 1 751

People; 4 750

Ideas; 7 510
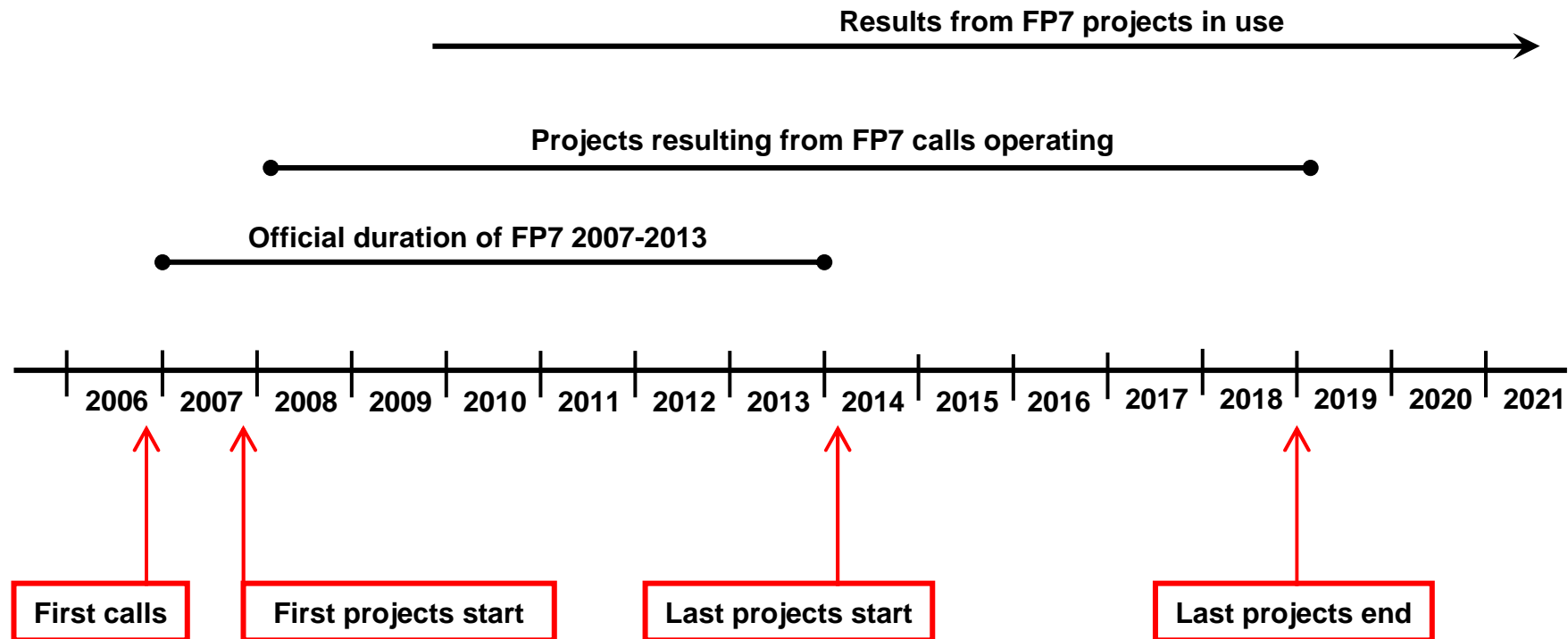
Cooperation; 32 413

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Cooperation – **Collaborative research**

Thematic Priorities:

		Billion Euros
1.	Health	6,0
2.	Food, agriculture & biotechnology	1,9
3.	Information & communication technologies	9,1
4.	Nanotechnologies & materials	3,5
5.	Energy	2,2
6.	Environment	1,9
7.	Transport	4,1
8.	Socio-economic sciences	0,6
9.	Security & 10. Space	2,9
		Σ $\underline{32,3}$

The EC currently manages only about 6% of total public R&D investment in the EU

EU countries invest about 2% of GDP in research

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Health research in FP7

Pillar 1:
Biotechnology,
tools and
technologies
for human
health

Pillar 2:
Translating
research for
human health

Pillar 3:
Optimising
the delivery
of health care

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Child Health

Health of the Ageing population

International Cooperation

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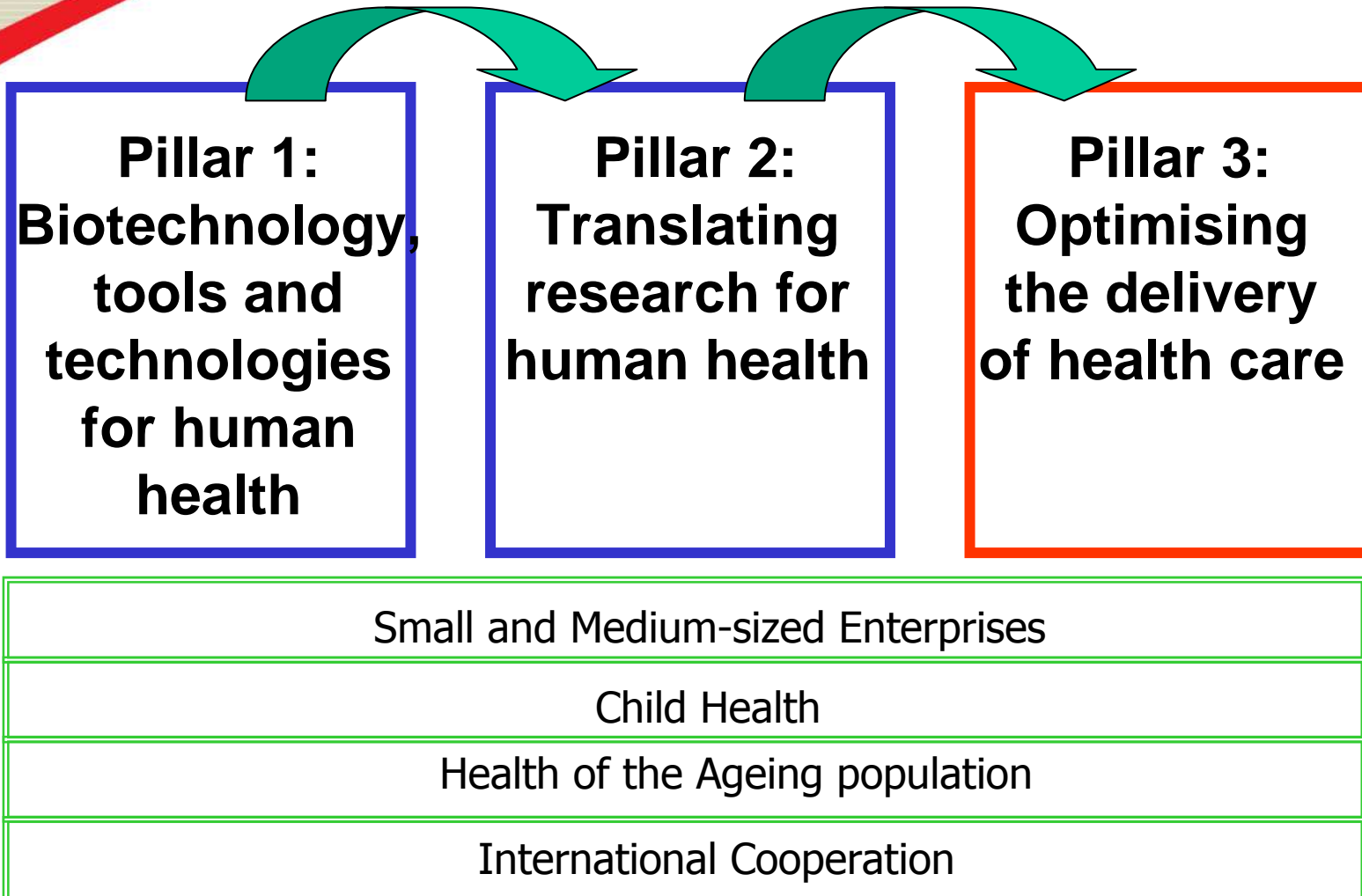
FP7 Health

Main policy drivers:

- **Improving health** of European citizens

- **Increasing competitiveness** of European health-related industries and businesses

- **Addressing global health issues**, including emerging epidemics

Budget:

➢ **€6.1 billion over 7 years** (2007-2013)

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Scientific excellence at European level

From policy to funding the best research projects:

- The policy for Health research is described in the FP7 specific programme (available on CORDIS)

- Each year, a work programme is prepared by the EC, with the Advisory Group and in consultation with the Programme Committee

- Through calls for proposals the EC invites researchers from all Europe and beyond to submit their proposals

- The very best projects are selected on the basis of evaluation by independent experts (peer review)

- After negotiation of a grant agreement, a project is funded for 2-5 y.

Basic principles:

➢ **annual calls – single-stage or two-stage**

➢ **eligibility check** (partners, limits, scope, deadline)

➢ **evaluation by panels of independent experts** overseen by Independent Observers

➢ **3 criteria**:

Thresholds: *

➢ Science & Technology excellence	3/5	
➢ Implementation & Management	3/5	overall
➢ Potential Impact	3/5	10/15

➢ **feedback:** Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs)

*Note that for the two-stage proposals the thresholds are different

Funding schemes
in the Health theme (3rd call)

Funding schemes	upper limits	min. partners
Large-scale integrating project (CP-IP)*	€12m	≥3
Network of Excellence (NoE)	€12m	≥3
Small- or medium-scale focussed research project (CP-FP)	€3m or €6m	≥3
Coordination action (CA)**	€1.5m	≥3
Support action (SA)**	€0.5m	≥1

* for CP-IPs there is also a <u>lower</u> limit to the requested EC grant: €6m.
** for CAs and SAs there are some exceptions to the upper limit.

Warning: the limits for minimum and maximum requested EC grant and for the minimum number of partners are **eligibility criteria** !

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- In the Health theme, the Framework programme can support both basic and applied research

- This includes discovery activities, translational research and early clinical trials (normally only phase I and II).

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1: Biotechnology, generic tools and technologies

- ➤ High-throughput research

- ➤ Detection, diagnosis and monitoring

- ➤ Predicting suitability, safety and efficacy of therapies

- ➤ Innovative therapeutic approaches and interventions

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2: Translating research for human health

➤ Integrating biological data and processes: large-scale data gathering, systems biology

➤ Research on the brain and related diseases, human development and ageing

➤ Translational research in major infectious diseases

➤ Translational research in other major diseases

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3: **Optimising the delivery of healthcare**

➤ Translating clinical research into clinical practice

➤ Quality, efficiency and solidarity of healthcare systems

➤ Enhanced health promotion and disease prevention

4. Actions across the Theme

➢ **Coordination & Support Actions across the theme**

➢ **Responding to EU policy needs**

➢ **Specific International Cooperation Actions** (SICAs)

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Requirements for eligibility:

➢ be in scope with the work programme

➢ have the minimum number of eligible partners

➢ respect limits for min. & max. requested EC contribution

➢ follow any other specific requirements

➢ meet the deadline with a complete proposal

=> specified in work programme, chapter III.

Key factors for success
in applying for FP7 funding

Competition is tough:

only the best projects get funded

➢ **the proposal must be in scope with the topic and the work programme** (not wishful thinking)

➢ **the consortium of partners must be excellent and appropriate for the task** (select the right partners)

➢ **the proposal must address all 3 criteria,**

➢ **convince the evaluators** (don't rely on reputation)**,**

➢ **and, of course, respect the basic rules.**
(deadlines, n° participants, ceilings, length, ethics, …)

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HEALTH-NCP-NET
Coordination and Support Action

'Reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for FP7 under the Health Theme by promoting transnational cooperation'

What can FP7 applicants expect from this project?

- A more consistent service of the NCP Network
- Simplified access to FP7 Health calls and relevant important information via the project website including:
  - Clear information on FP7 issues oriented towards Health calls
  - Calendar of events, incl. brokerage events oriented towards applicants
- Better understanding of ethical issues :
  - Clear explanation of Ethics in FP7
  - Open forum with ethical discussion
- A better partner-matching service
- More support in third countries, in particular in ICPC, as the NCP network will be more present in these countries

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The context: why international cooperation?

HEALTH is a political priority for most countries in the world; industrialised, emerging economies and low income countries

Infectious diseases do not respect borders and can spread worldwide

"Rich world" diseases (cancer, diabetes…) also affect the developing countries and vice versa (Aids, TB…)

Treatments and cures are universal

International Collaboration -issues at stake:

- **Assistance for development**
  - ➔ policy objectives, e.g. Millennium Development Goals
  - ➔ targets: low income countries, e.g. ACP
- **Strengthening competitiveness**
  - ➔ competing with industrialised countries (e.g. attracting excellence)
  - ➔ collaboration for mutual gains
    targets: more developed countries (e.g. BRIC)
- **Science diplomacy**
  - ➔ collaborating w. industrialised countries
  - ➔ "ice breaking" when collaborating w. new partner countries
  - ➔ putting "flesh on the bones" of S+T agreements
  - ➔ a sign of maturity of the FPs (openness)
  - ➔ targets: OECD, all 3rd countries
- **All in the context of Excellence**

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3 different avenues:

1. All activities open for International Cooperation

- International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPCs) can participate in projects and receive EC funding
- Industrialised countries may be funded if their participation is seen as essential for the project or if provided for in the call
- Minimum number of participants: 3 from MS/AC

2. Specific International Cooperation Actions

- Address specific issues that partner countries face or have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and benefit
- Minimum number of participants: 2+2 (2 from MS/AC + 2 from ICPCs)

3. Bilateral agreements for targeted co-funding

- Individual agreements with specific countries e.g. Russia

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Programme level cooperation

In large scale endeavours where tasks can be divided in sub-projects

- Funding agencies and scientists design the "Meta"-project – agreeing on broad common principles
- Each agency issues calls according to own rules
- Projects are funded and required to work together
- Otherwise no contractual link

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Programme level cooperation - examples

- **International Knock – out Mouse Consortium (IKMC)** (2007) (EU, Canada, USA…)

- **The Human Microbiome** (EU, USA, Canada, China)

- **International Cancer Genomics Consortium** (EC, Genome Canada, NIH…)

- **Affinity Reagents for the Human Proteome** (in preparation)

- **International Knock – out Mouse Consortium**

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Number of 3rd country participants in successful proposals (if ≥5)
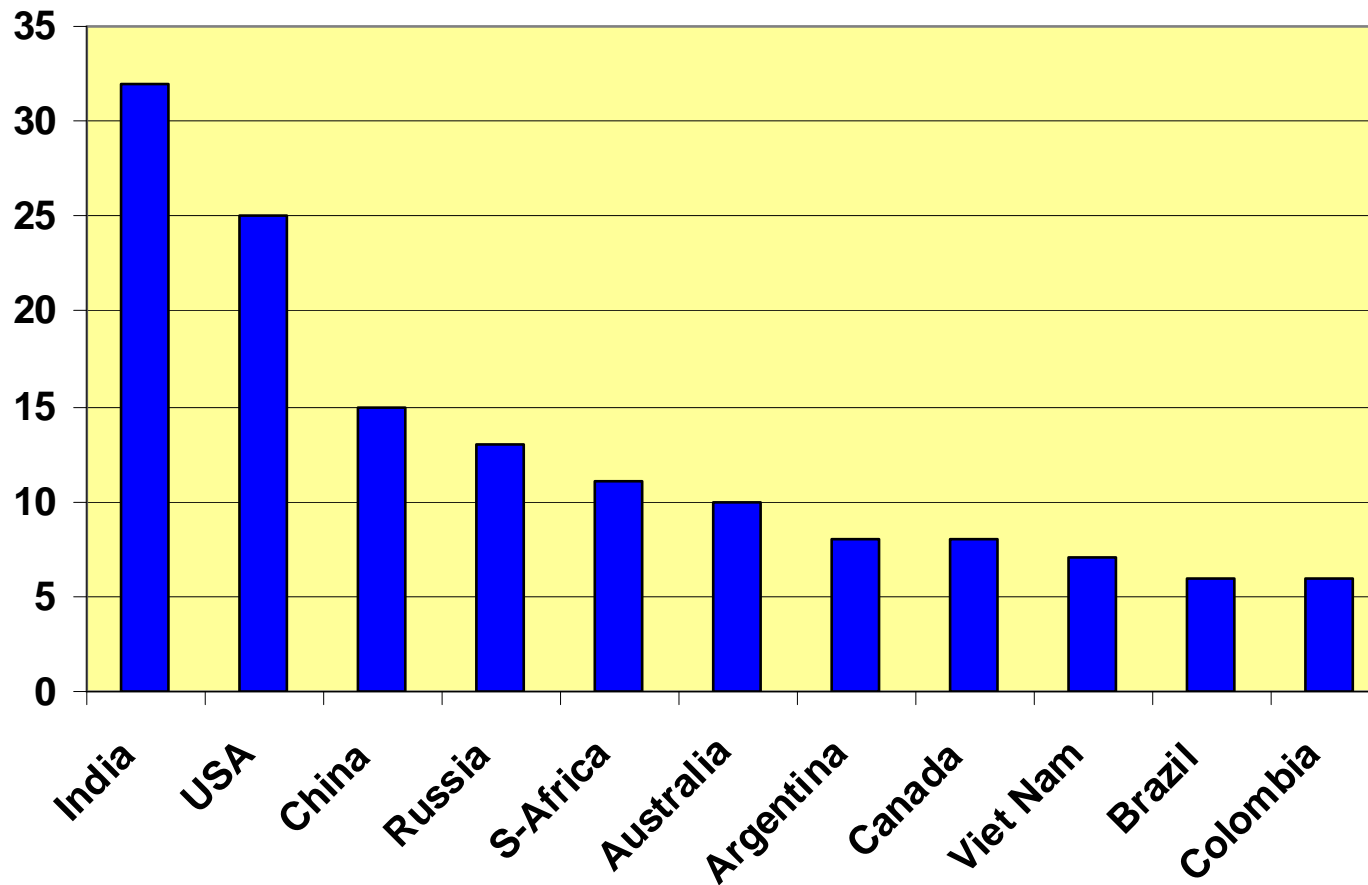
Participation of researchers from non-associated 3rd countries

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS:

FP6, 2003-06:   214 participants from 51 third countries

1st call 2006:   60 participants from 30 third countries

2nd call 2007:   172 participants from 52 third countries

ALL PROPOSALS:

1st call 2006:   263 participants from 54 third countries

2nd call 2007:   800 participants from 91 third countries

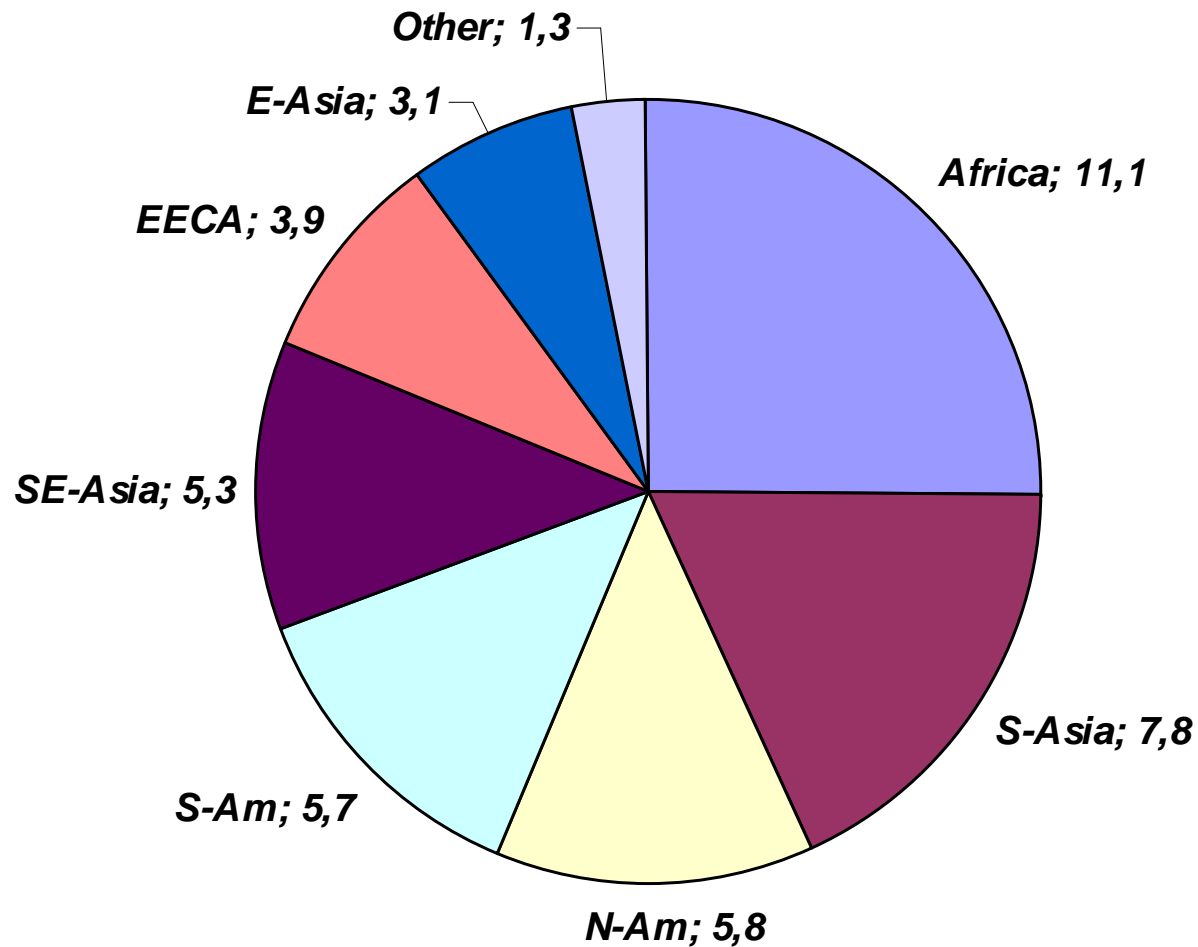# Budget allocation to partners from non-associated 3rd countries

FP6, 2003-06:   **30.0 million,**   **1.5% of total**

FP7, 1st call 2006:   **13.3 million,**   **2.1% of total**

FP7, 2nd call 2007:   **30.7 million,**   **5.4% of total**

Geographical distribution of committed funds for non-associated 3rd countries (million €)

Other; 1,3
E-Asia; 3,1
EECA; 3,9
Africa; 11,1
SE-Asia; 5,3
S-Am; 5,7
N-Am; 5,8
S-Asia; 7,8

First and Second call 2007; total: 44 million €

3rd call for proposals
for the Health theme

➢ 3rd call was published on Sept. 3rd 2008

  ➢ drawing on the budget for 2009: ~€ 600m

  ➢ in fact two calls, published in parallel:

    ➢ FP7-HEALTH-2008-single-stage
      for most of the areas of the work programme
      with a deadline Dec. 3rd 2008

    ➢ FP7-HEALTH-2008-two-stage
      only for areas 1.1 & 2.1.
      with deadlines: Dec. 3rd 2008 for 1st stage
                         April 22nd for 2nd stage

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International Collaboration in FP7

➢ The FP7 Cooperation Programme is currently the biggest international fund for collaborative biomedical research

➢ The origin and focus of the FPs is research in the EU, but the international character is growing

➢ Most funded projects are likely to have at least one international participant, tendency increasing

➢ Funding is provided for low- and medium-income countries, other countries' partners can also receive funds in certain cases

Applying for funds

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Things to keep in mind:

- Make sure you address an open topic

- S+T is (almost always) most important, but…

- Make sure you also cover other issues in the proposal (poorly managed science will not deliver)

- Some things might seem obvious to you, but not to all experts (they come from various backgrounds). Make your text readable and understandable

- Try to catch the readers' attention right from the start, explain your concept in the first few paragraphs of the summary and do not forget to say what the wider context is

- Keep it short, do not repeat things over and over

Submit on time!!!

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Applying for funds

Building a consortium:

- **Start with a small group of people and brainstorm on your concept**

- **Identify which competences should be included to make your project successful (not only friends and family)**

- **Think "out of the box", be interdisciplinary and don't be afraid of including new disciplines**

- **Think of the wider implication of your work; who are the end-users, should they have a role?**

- **Finalise the proposal well ahead of the deadline and have someone (who is not involved) read it through (mock evaluation)**

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Applying for funds

Building a consortium:

<u>For bigger projects, such as NoEs or big CPs:</u>

- **Try to identify who else is likely to be planning a proposal submission, and decide whether you go for collaboration or competition**

- **Attempt to include obvious key players in Europe, don't let the evaluators ask themselves why Dr. X is not part of the team if he/she is <u>the</u> leader in the field**

    …however…

- **Try to find a good balance of size and efficacy, a very large group is difficult to manage**

Information

- **EU research:**
  http://ec.europa.eu/research

- **Seventh Framework Programme:**
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7

- **Information on research programmes and projects:**

  http://cordis.europa.eu/

- research·eu
  the magazine of the european research area

  http://ec.europa.eu/research/research-eu/

- **Information requests:**
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries/

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Thursday, 05. June 2008

LifeCOMPETENCE

Life Science
Competence in Europe

» **Life sciences**

» **Policy support**

» **International co-operation**

» **Reporting module**

Funded through the FP6 Life Science and Health Priority

European projects in Life Science and Health

The Life Competence database is an online network and knowledge sharing contact system filled with EU research projects in healthcare biotechnology that have been funded by the EU Commission under FP6. It enables companies, universities, NGOs to find out what research is going on in their area and who are the partners, people and organisations (companies and universities) working in this field. It also enables companies and academia to keep track of the EU projects your organization is involved in or on what your competitors are doing.

You are now visiting the Public view, where information on all 680 EU-funded projects funded by the European Commission within FP6 Life Science and Health is presented. The reporting view is available to here: link http://www.newreports.lifecompetence.eu . The reporting view allows you to perform detailed searches, identify research strengths, collaboration networks and individual researchers within a certain area.

SEARCH

[   ]   **SEARCH**

» Advanced Search

SHORT CUTS

» Thematic areas
» Organisations
» Persons

INFOBOX (0/0)   show all

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Project: **ALLOMICROVAC - A combined microbicidal-immu......**
Date: 07-01-01 - 08-12-31
The objective of the proposed project is to establish proof of concept that a tri-molecular construct, consisting of MHC antigens combined with mic... **» more**

Project: **TBIRIS - Pathogenesis and identification of pre...**
Date: 07-07-01 - 10-06-30
Summary: The Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS) is an undesirable effect of effective antiretroviral therapy (ART) in HIV-infected... **» more**

Project: **FENS FORUM 2004 - 4th Forum of European Neurosc...**
Date: 04-01-01 - 05-03-31
The 4th Forum of European Neuroscience, to be held in Lisbon on July 10-14, 2004, will be one of the largest European meetings in the field of basi... **» more**

Project: **3DGENOME - 3D Genome structure and function (Li...**
Date: 03-12-01 - 07-05-31
Results will give new and important insight into how the eukaryotic genome in general, and the human genome in particular, operates inside the livi...
» more

EC money

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Easy money

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