



Commission of the European Communities

Directorate-General XII : Science, Research and Development

Directorate-General XIII : Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research

Directorate-General III : Industry

DELTA, ✓

*Cooperation in Science and Technology with
Central and Eastern European Countries
(COPERNICUS)*

1994

I N F O R M A T I O N P A C K A G E

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Cooperation in Science and Technology with
Central and Eastern European Countries
(COPERNICUS)

1994

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**Cooperation in Science and Technology with
Central and Eastern European Countries
(COPERNICUS)**

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PART I

GENERAL INFORMATION

Indicative Timetable

Activity	Date
Advance Notice for Proposals	15 December 1993
Official Call for Proposals	31 January 1994
Information Package Available	31 January 1994
Deadline for receipt of Proposals	29 April 1994
Results of evaluation	July 1994
First Contract negotiations	September 1994
Probable earliest start of contracts	December 1994

1. INTRODUCTION

The strengthening of the research capacity and the reorientation of the research to the socio-economic needs of the Central and Eastern European countries, is of prime importance to the success of the transformation of their economies.

Collaborative research and development will play an important role in this context by promoting S&T cooperation on priority subjects across Europe, by developing and enhancing the existing scientific expertise and by promoting technology transfer to the mutual benefit of the Central and Eastern European and European Community partners. To this effect a financial budget line has been created within the Communities budget to permit Central and Eastern European countries to participate in joint R&D activities.

The present Call for Proposals is the third to have taken place within the scheme for Cooperation in Science and Technology with Central and Eastern European countries. The first was issued in May 1992 with a closing date of 7 August 1992. The response was overwhelming - 11,748 proposals were received - with a requested funding of over 1,600 mio.ECU. This represented an oversubscription by a factor of about 35 to the funding available.

A second more restricted Call was opened in 1993 with a closing date of 2 July 1993. A budget of about 17 mioECU was allocated to the action. The Call was limited to participation of Central and Eastern European countries in **ongoing projects** within the five currently open specific EC programmes (Environment; Non-nuclear Energy; Nuclear Fission Safety; Biomedicine and Health; Human Capital and Mobility). More than 650 proposals were received and the evaluation procedure is now underway ¹.

In the light of the preceding Calls and the experience acquired through these actions, the present Call will focus R&D on areas of the Framework programme **not** covered by the five open specific EC programmes ².

The targeted Research Sectors include;

Industrial Technologies - (Information Technologies; Communication Technologies; Telematics; Language Engineering; Manufacturing, Production, Processing and Materials; Measurements and Testing)

Life Sciences - (Agro- and Food Industries; Biotechnology)

¹ A further Call for proposals for participation in ongoing projects within the five programmes will take place in 1994.

² The five specific programmes - Environment, Non-nuclear Energy, Nuclear Fission Safety, Biomedicine and Health and Human Capital and Mobility - are already open to full Central and East Europe participation. Therefore, Priority themes from these programmes are **excluded** in the present Call since they are covered within the relevant Calls of the five specific programmes.

Within each of the Research Sectors, specific *Priority Themes* have been identified as being of particular importance. These are listed in **PART III of the Information Package - Research Sectors and Priority Themes**.

Moreover, within the Priority Themes, preference will be given to proposals which address the *underlying* problems which compromise levels of excellence and so hinder the transfer of precompetitive research and technological development into cost-effective products and processes.

A draft budget of about 57 mioECU is under consideration for 1994.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The research will focus on transferring and developing knowledge and technologies likely to contribute to the rehabilitation of the economy. Efficient transfer of research results and their application in the productive systems remains one of the main objectives of any modern economy. In that context, the strengthening of the relation between industrial enterprises - both large and small - research organisations and universities in the countries concerned will be an important consideration.

Strengthening the weaknesses in the economic exploitation of the research and in the industrialisation of products and processes issuing from the R&D will be addressed principally in this Call by favouring proposals which relate, within the given research sectors and priority themes, to one or more of the underlying problems of *quality control, pre-normalisation and standards, reliability, maintainability, recyclability and safety*.

The underlying motivations for fostering collaborative R&D projects are to:

- create a framework for attaining R&D targets via active larger-scale multinational collaborations so as to increase scientific efficiency;
- provide a platform for industries, research institutes and universities to cooperate and coordinate innovative R&D activities in a given field to the mutual benefit of the countries involved.
- heighten the awareness of industry (East/West) to research relevant to their particular commercial objectives and, conversely, educate academia as to the principle needs of industry;
- improve scientific and technical knowledge/results in selected areas and promote its efficient transfer into practical applications;

Priority will be given to *Joint Research Projects* in applied research, of direct concern to countries of both Central and Eastern Europe and Member States, and to *Concerted Actions/Networks* which clearly demonstrate mutual benefit and which are likely to contribute to the establishment of fruitful and longer-term cooperations.

3. PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to any physical person and legal organisation established in the Member States of the European Community

and in

Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS)³ may also participate, although special funding arrangements may apply in these cases. Their participation must be **in addition** to the minimum eligibility conditions set out in Section 5 below.

Please Note :

Bilateral proposals, involving EC Member States and NIS only, are covered by INTAS⁴ and are not eligible for evaluation within the present Call.

Organisations from EFTA countries may also participate on a project-by-project basis and at their own expense.

4. TYPES OF ACTION

Two types of Actions are foreseen in the present Call.

These are

- **Joint research projects**
- **Concerted Actions/Networks**

(for further details and the relevant application forms, see **Parts IV.A & IV.B of the Information Package - Specific actions for Cooperation**).

Joint research projects aim to bring together a multinational team to carry out precompetitive research and development and achieve collaborative results on a *specific* research topic. A project typically involves 3 to 6 partners from three or more different countries. Each partner must fulfil its part of an interlinked workplan, with staff and an

³ Armenia, Azerbaidjan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

⁴ The International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the Independent States of the former Soviet Union (INTAS) has been created for promoting EC/NIS cooperations. Potential proposers for such joint projects should address their enquiries to INTAS directly for consideration.

associated budget to carry out its own specific tasks whilst working in close cooperation with the other members of the consortium. As a general rule, the Commission normally funds the whole project, including the costs of the research, on a shared-cost basis (for further details see section 9.2.3 - Costs).

Concerted Actions are groupings/networks of research and other teams sharing common long-term technological goals that closely *coordinate* their activities. They aim to *coordinate*, across borders, research and development activities which are already under way within the individual countries. Concerted Actions are based on the fact that many major technological needs can best be solved by working together in a multidisciplinary way at the multinational level rather than in only one single country or in a particular R&D project. A further objective is to support prenormative activities by disseminating the scientific know-how and technical requirements necessary to establish norms, standards and codes of good practice, so as to facilitate the transfer of new technologies to manufacturing and other industries.

In Concerted Actions, Commission funding does not normally cover the cost of the research itself, but only the costs of coordination. These may include meetings, workshops, information dissemination, short-term exchanges/visits to other participating institutes and countries, etc. Centralised facilities such as data banks, computing, specialised communication facilities and preparation and distribution of reference materials can also be funded.

5. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Organisations which are eligible to apply may be firms (including small and medium-sized enterprises), public or private research institutes and universities.

Proposals for Joint Research Projects must include a minimum of two partners from two different Central and Eastern European countries and at least one partner from a Community Member State.

Strong preference will be given to proposals which include industrial enterprises as partners and, especially, to proposals where industrial enterprises or SMEs (small or medium-sized enterprises) from Central and Eastern European countries are involved.

The maximum duration of a project is three years.

Proposals for Concerted Actions must include a minimum of two partners from two different Central and Eastern European countries and at least two partners from different EC member States.

Strong preference will be given to proposals which include industrial enterprises in the Concerted Action.

The maximum duration of a Concerted Action is three years.

For both types of activity, strong preference will be given to proposals exhibiting a more extended participation than the minimum, notably those which include partners from several countries of Central and Eastern Europe together with several partners in the European Community.

Project proposals must have a clearly identified project coordinator who is responsible for the administrative, financial and technical management of the project. The coordinator will normally be chosen from among the EC Member State partners. Exceptionally, an additional coordinator from among the Eastern and Central European partners may be designated, but solely for the coordination of the scientific and technical work.

6. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

For Joint Research Projects:

The maximum project size must normally not exceed a **total cost of 500,000 ECU**. Based on past experience and solely as a guide, the size of a joint research project typically lies in the range 50,000 to 350,000 ECU.

The Community funding is primarily intended to support the Central and Eastern European partner's R&D within the joint project. As such, at least **75%** of European Community funding must normally be for the Central and Eastern European partners (i.e. not more than 25% of the funding should go to the EC member State partners).

The non-industrial participating organisations may receive up to 100% of the marginal (additional) costs of their participation in the project or up to 50% of their full economic costs. Industrial partners may receive up to 50% of the full economic costs (for further details on costs, see section 9.2.3).

For Concerted Actions:

The maximum project size will *normally* not exceed a **total cost of 500,000 ECU**.

The funding requirements for Concerted Actions are in general comparable to those of Joint Research Projects in spite of the fact that the research itself is not covered by the EC contribution. This is because Concerted Actions, by their nature, often involve large numbers of participants from many countries in the coordination activities. As a guide, a Concerted Action typically involves ten to thirty participants/organisations or more.

No strict limits are imposed for Concerted Actions as to the breakdown of EC funding between the Central and Eastern European and the EC participants. However, preference will be given to proposals involving substantial Central and Eastern European participation and where a correspondingly important part of the EC funding is allocated for their participation.

7. RESEARCH SECTORS AND PRIORITY THEMES

Project proposals must fall within one of the six Research Sectors given below and within the list of associated Priority Themes (full details of the Research Sectors and Priority Themes covered by this Call are given in **PART III of the Information Package**).

- . **Information technology**
- . **Communication Technologies, Telematics and Language Engineering**
- . **Manufacturing, Production, Processing and Materials**
- . **Measurements and Testing**
- . **Agro- and Food industries**
- . **Biotechnology**

8. PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1 Evaluation of proposals

The Commission will ensure a confidential, fair and equitable evaluation of proposals. This evaluation will have due regard to the eligibility requirements set out in section 5 above and the selection criteria given below. It will be carried out under the responsibility and coordination of the Commission, assisted by independent experts chosen by the Commission. Recommendations resulting from the scientific and technical evaluation will be used as the basis for the Commission's selection of proposals.

The successful applicants may be invited to supply at a later stage additional administrative and financial details with a view to negotiating the contracts. Some changes may be sought, including amendments to the scientific and technical content of the proposal, according to the recommendations resulting from the evaluation.

The procedure is as follows:

- Verification of eligibility of proposals by Commission staff, as to their conformity with the scope, objectives and eligibility criteria of the programme
- Confidential evaluation and grading of the eligible proposals by the Commission assisted by independent experts
- Final selection by the Commission taking into account the selection criteria and subject to the budgetary allocation.

- Communication of the results of the evaluation and selection procedure to the project coordinators.

8.2 Selection criteria

In line with the previous 1992 Call, the general selection criteria of the projects will include scientific and technical quality, industrial involvement and the potential for exploitation of the results, the quality of the management, and the cooperative aspects.

In addition, an important general condition in the present Call is that proposals must demonstrate how they relate to one or more of the underlying problems of **quality control, pre-normalisation and standards, reliability, maintainability, recyclability and safety.**

For Joint research projects; careful examination will be paid during the evaluation to the following elements (see also Part IV.A of the Information Package);

- Conformity with the scope and objectives of the Call for Proposals
- Beneficial Aspects of EC/PECO Cooperation
- Scientific and technical quality
- Credibility of proposers
- Feasibility of the workplan and quality of management
- Potential of results
- Cost benefits

For Concerted Action; It is of paramount importance to provide a detailed description of the research and the coordination activities. Convincing arguments should be provided as to why there is an overriding need for concerted action in this particular case and how the proposal, using the most appropriate means, intends to meet the challenge.

Particular points to address are (see also Part IV.B of the Information Package);

- Conformity with the scope and objectives of the Call for Proposals
- Beneficial Aspects of EC/PECO Cooperation, including geographical coverage and potential for extension, justification as to the need for concerted action in the field, etc.
- Scientific and technical quality
- Credibility of participants and their relevant experience and the quality of management, role of the coordinator and steering committee, etc.
- Feasibility of the workplan, including the coordination activities
- Potential of results and their development into further research-related activities
- Cost benefits

9. CONTRACTS : PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES

9.1 General procedures

9.1.1 Form of contract

The Commission will prepare a contract setting out the conditions of Community support for projects selected.

Successful proposers will be offered the Community standard contract for science and technological development. The main principles of this contract and the general conditions are outlined in the following pages.

The standard contract forms a flexible mechanism for participating in projects. However, participants may conclude cooperation agreements amongst themselves to complement the conditions of the standard contract (but in doing so, they must respect competition rules under the EEC Treaty and the principles concerning the ownership, exploitation and dissemination of results).

9.1.2 The role of project coordinator

All projects must have a project coordinator who will be responsible for the management of the project and who therefore should have the appropriate management expertise, as well as the technical expertise, to direct the project. The coordinator's responsibilities also include administrative responsibilities, such as general liaison with the Commission, the submission of all documents - including technical reports giving an overview of the project - and the distribution of the financial support paid by the Commission.

9.1.3 Types of contractor

Participants who contribute to the costs of, and carry out, the work may be:

contractors, in which case they will sign the contract with the Commission and assume joint and several liability for completing the work envisaged.

associated contractors, in which case they will not sign the contract with the Commission. This is particularly appropriate for projects involving a large number of participants or for organisations making small contributions to the project.

Contractors should grant fair and reasonable rights to the associated contractors for their contribution to the project. Contractors should conclude appropriate arrangements with the associated contractors; these arrangements can be a simple exchange of letters or a more formal written agreement, but they must conform with the principles specified in the standard contract and be submitted to the Commission for approval.

9.1.4 Subcontractors

Participants who are fully reimbursed by the contractors or associated contractors for their work should be treated as **subcontractors**. Minor subcontracts do not generally require the approval of the Commission, but approval is required for the subcontracting of project work which exceeds limits specified in the standard contract.

9.1.5 Affiliated companies

Affiliated companies of a contractor (whether controlling, controlled by, or under the same control as, the contractor) are only entitled to have access to the results generated by the project in circumstances specified in the standard contract. They must comply with the framework for the exploitation of results, and the criteria defining affiliated companies.

Arrangements involving associated contracts and subcontracts between affiliated companies do not generally require the approval of the Commission (although such arrangements must be notified).

9.2 Standard contract: main principles and specific conditions

9.2.1 Procedures

Two copies of the contract will be sent to the contractor for signature; the Commission will sign after the return of the documents by the signatories.

Only one language version of the contract will be prepared for signature - the language and law will usually be that of the project coordinator.

The operative commencement date of the project will normally be the first day of the month following the signature of the contract by the Commission; only costs incurred after this date will be allowable (as an exception, durable equipment purchased for the project up to six months prior to its commencement may be charged to the project, but only for the period of its use after the start of the work)

9.2.2 Payments

All payments will be made in ECU through the project coordinator.

An advance payment will be made after the signature of the contract by the Commission (for indicative purposes only, approximately 40 % of the Community support for a typical three-year project)

Periodic payments, normally at 12 monthly intervals, will depend on the submission and approval of progress reports, and appropriate cost claims. For smaller projects, the Commission may decide to use a fixed contribution contract under which the Community support will be reimbursed in accordance with a payment profile setting out fixed percentage installments; for larger projects, cost statements setting out some specified details of actual costs incurred are required.

A retention (normally 10 % of the Community contribution) is withheld until all the final documents (technical and financial) have been received and approved by the Commission; for larger projects where cost statements are required, a consolidated cost statement must be submitted within three months of the end of the project.

9.2.3 Costs

For joint research projects, the allowable costs to which the Community support will be given are the full costs of the project (the Community contribution will not normally exceed 50 %), or up to 100 % of the additional (marginal) costs (i.e. not paid from any other income) for universities, and similar institutions, whose primary functions are not related to research activities.

Universities, etc, may use full costs if they can show to the satisfaction of the Commission that their costing and recording systems enable them to identify the full direct, and indirect, costs relating to their research activities.

Allowable costs may include;

- labour (for those, such as universities, using additional (marginal) costs, only additional research staff, not permanent teaching staff)
- capital equipment (depreciated over 3 years for computers costing less than 10,000 ECU, and over 5 years for all other equipment)
- other direct running costs (travel, consumable materials, computing, external assistance, etc.)
- indirect overhead costs necessary to support the research activities (for those using additional (marginal) costs, a maximum of 20 % of costs excluding associated contracts)

Rates approved by national governments for research may be charged if they are adjusted to take account of any differences with Commission principles for costs.

No profit may be included in any costs charged to the Commission. Costs should also exclude interest or return on capital employed; notional or opportunity costs or revaluations (use historic costs); distribution, marketing and advertising costs for products and activities; and patent protection costs.

VAT and customs duties paid in connection with the project should be reclaimed from national authorities. Those organisations unable to reclaim the VAT may include the costs separately in cost statements. However, no VAT should be included in proposals in the estimated costs.

For Concerted Actions/Networks, the allowable costs to which the Community support will be given are the coordination costs of the project (the Community contribution may be up

to 100% of the coordination costs). The Commission contribution will not normally cover the cost of the research itself.

Allowable coordination costs may include, labour (but not research staff), exchange and mobility costs, support services, other exceptional costs and overheads (up to a maximum of 10% of costs).

9.2.4 Reports

The project coordinator must provide technical progress reports giving an overview on the project to assist the Commission to monitor the work and results; individual contributions by other contractors to be appended to these global reports must be submitted through the project coordinator.

During the project, these reports must be submitted normally at 6 or 12 monthly intervals.

At the end of the project, a final report covering all the work, objectives achieved and conclusions, together with a confidential report on the intentions and potential for protecting and exploiting results, must be submitted.

All reports will be treated as confidential, but reports suitable for publication, excluding any commercially sensitive information, must be provided with the 12 monthly and final reports. These are intended to inform the industrial and scientific community of the progress of Community funded research, to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and to enable contact to be established directly with the participants concerning exploitation arrangements or additional research, inside or outside the framework of the Community funding.

9.2.5 Ownership and exploitation of results

All intellectual property rights generated under the research project will be owned by the relevant contractors who must;

- exploit or commercialise them in conformity with the interests of the Community (this includes the need to grant licenses on commercial conditions to other organisations established in the Community where the necessary exploitation or commercialisation cannot be undertaken or arranged by the participants themselves, i.e. results cannot be locked away).

- freely grant licenses and user rights amongst themselves for carrying out the research project, and any subsequent exploitation and commercialisation. Non-commercial organisations may be paid royalties in certain circumstances, but any final negotiations must not hinder or prejudice such exploitation or commercialisation.

- grant licenses and user rights to others needing access to the results in specified circumstances. In limited circumstances and against payment, background results developed without Community support must also be made available to facilitate the use of the foreground results.

Participants must inform the Commission in the proposal of any interests which could affect their obligations concerning the exploitation and dissemination of results.

In certain circumstances, the Commission may protect the foreground results where the contractors do not wish to take out patents, etc. Researchers, particularly those in non-commercial organisations are advised to consult experts in their organisations or their partners on the commercial potential of results before unrestricted disclosure of information which could subsequently prejudice patent applications.

10. CONTACT PERSONS

The European Community Member States as well as the Central and Eastern European countries have appointed Contact Persons to supply interested partners with additional information.

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**Cooperation in Science and Technology with
Central and Eastern European Countries
(COPERNICUS)**

1994

PART II

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

1. Proposals should be presented using the appropriate forms for each type of action (see application forms associated with **Part IV. A for Joint Research projects** and **Part IV. B for Concerted Actions**).

Proposals may be submitted in any official language of the European Community. However, for proposals not written in the English language, it is requested to supply, in addition, a translation of the Project Title and the Project Summary in English. This will help accelerate the assessment of proposals.

2. **One original** of the proposal and **four** copies must be transmitted to the Commission in one parcel. If there are more than one parcel, the applicant must ensure that they are easily identifiable and can be associated.

It is the responsibility of the proposers that proposals are delivered to the Commission in Brussels by 17.00 hours at the latest on the closing date indicated in the Call for Proposals at the following address:

*Commission of the European Communities, DG XII-B/2
Cooperation in Science and Technology with Central and Eastern Europe
(Call for Proposals - COPERNICUS 1994)
75, rue Montoyer
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium*

Do not send proposals or parts of it by telefax (not even to announce proposals that are in the mail). *Telefaxes will not be acknowledged.*

The Commission reserves the right not to evaluate proposals received after the closing deadline.

Inside the cover package, a second envelope should contain the proposal. This second envelope should be marked as follows :

Confidential
Proposal for S&T cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe
(Call for Proposals - COPERNICUS 1994).
Type of activity (either Joint Research Project IV.A or Concerted Action IV.B).
Research Sector (as listed in Part I section 7 of the General Information)

3. When a proposal is received, the Commission will acknowledge receipt by means of the appended **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM**. This form must be completed and attached to the dossier by the **Project Coordinator** of the proposal. The acknowledgment form should be placed in front of the first page of the proposal.

The Commission will treat the proposals as confidential.

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PART III

**RESEARCH SECTORS
AND
PRIORITY THEMES**

SUMMARY LIST OF RESEARCH SECTORS AND PRIORITY THEMES

RESEARCH SECTORS

PRIORITY THEMES

1. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- 1.1 *Microelectronics*
- 1.2 *Software Systems*
- 1.3 *High Performance Computing and its Application*
- 1.4 *Business and Home systems and Peripherals*
- 1.5 *Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering*

2. **COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TELEMATICS AND LANGUAGE ENGINEERING**

- 2.1 *S&T Telematics and Information Relay Networks*
 - 2.1.1 *Linking to European Telematic Networks*
 - 2.1.2 *Application of the Telematic Networks*
- 2.2 *Language Engineering*
 - 2.2.1 *Electronic language resources*
 - 2.2.2 *Bi/multilingual applications*
 - 2.2.3 *Development of Language engineering standards*

3. **MANUFACTURING, PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MATERIALS**

- 3.1 *Manufacturing*
 - 3.1.1 *Tools, techniques and systems for High Quality Manufacturing*
 - 3.1.2 *Manufacturing Techniques for Industrial Use of Advanced & Other Materials*
- 3.2 *Design of products and processes*
 - 3.2.1 *Innovative design tools and techniques*
 - 3.2.2 *Maintainability and reliability*
- 3.3 *Recycling*
 - 3.3.1 *Recycling and Recovery of Industrial Waste including Non Ferrous Metals, plastics, etc.*
 - 3.3.2 *Recycling, recovery and reuse of advanced and other materials*

4. **MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING**

- 4.1 *Support to regulations and standards required for the purposes of trade*
- 4.2 *Common means of calibration*
- 4.3 *New methods of measurement*

5. **AGRO- AND FOOD INDUSTRIES**

- 5.1 *Food safety*
- 5.2 *Food quality*
- 5.3 *Packaging, distribution and preservation*
- 5.4 *Homogeneity and security of supply*

6. **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

- 6.1 *Application of biotechnologies in the development of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics*
- 6.2 *Biomarkers of exposure to mutagens and carcinogens*

RESEARCH SECTORS AND PRIORITY THEMES

Project proposals must fall within one of the six Research Sectors given below and within the list of associated Priority Themes which follow.

1. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2. **COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES, TELEMATICS AND LANGUAGE ENGINEERING**
3. **MANUFACTURING, PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MATERIALS**
4. **MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING**
5. **AGRO- AND FOOD INDUSTRIES**
6. **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

1. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

This Research Sector comprises applied and basic R&D in various domains where urgency is considered with respect to reinforcing the scientific and technical basis of the Information Technology industry, where a high impact is expected for the development of the economic and social systems and where the basis for an intensive cooperation exists.

Priority will be given to R&D proposals which address one or more of the following underlying problem areas: IT systems and processes, standardisation, improvements of quality control, reliability and maintainability, development of synergies,

The priority areas covered are;

- 1.1 **Microelectronics:** This will include design, fabrication and test of complex IC's (ASIC's and standard logic); improved integration at system level by incorporating electronic functions on the same module; development of microsystems.
- 1.2 **Software Systems:** this includes applications that illustrate and develop the key underlying technologies; new methods, techniques and supporting technologies which enlarge the use of software intensive IT systems and improve the design, engineering and management processes; components which improve the ability to build and use information management systems in an open, distributed and heterogeneous environment.
- 1.3 **High Performance Computing and its Application:** this includes portable and scalable migration of existing application codes with high computing power consumption onto parallel computing environments; the development of new applications which could not be solved cost-effectively without high performance computing and its networking.
- 1.4 **Business and Home systems and Peripherals:** this includes image and multimedia solutions for consumer, professional and business applications and the integration of image-based services with existing administrative and technical applications; development of systems addressing societal or cultural needs; triggering business opportunities based on interactive multimedia technologies; development of applications for devices and systems for personal use.
- 1.5 **Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering:** this contributes to the development of advanced IT solutions for cleaner and more efficient industrial operations and processes; integrating

PART III. Research Sectors and Priority Themes / 5

engineering, logistics, operations, process automation and business functions, in a way which takes account of social, organisational, economical and environmental needs. It includes:

- architecture and infrastructure for computer integrated manufacturing and engineering;
- management and design of industrial enterprises;
- mechatronics, robotics and sensing technologies;
- microsystems manufacturing and integration.

In Addition, this Research Sector includes the improvement of the microprocessor systems capability by exploiting the latest advances in microelectronics and software technology.

2. COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES, TELEMATICS AND LANGUAGE ENGINEERING

2.1 S&T Teleworking and Information Relay Networks

The objective is to expand teleworking facilities, research information networks and relay centres in Central and Eastern Europe in order to strengthen research links with the European Community, particularly through development and use of advanced communications, telematics and information services, allowing scientists and researchers to collaborate effectively with their colleagues in the Community and in the countries concerned. A further objective is to promote applications of telematics networks and services to problems of vital interest to these countries.

Priority will be given to proposals which address the following problems:

- 2.1.1** Linking to European telematic networks supporting teleworking and research information exchange, and permitting access to international data networks, as well as to information on research and innovation in Information Relay Centres. Complementarity with initiatives of an infrastructural nature (e.g. under PHARE) should be ensured. The Information Relay Centres should also provide support, training and maintenance services for the facilities installed, and act as focal points for information dissemination and collection. In addition, the Centres should conduct awareness activities to promote the services to new users.
- 2.1.2** Application of the telematics networks and services to flexible and distance learning, health (management of health care delivery), integration of disabled elderly through rehabilitation technology, and transport (e.g. vehicle/shipment tracking, fleet/traffic management, air traffic control).

2.2 Language Engineering

Language engineering is understood here as to encompass both Natural Language (written) and Speech (spoken) technologies. Activities will build upon the results of the preparatory measures, launched in the second half of 1993, and which consisted of awareness and information seminars and feasibility and project definition studies.

The priority is for projects in the following domains:

- 2.2.1** **electronic language resources**, including text corpora, speech databases, grammars, lexicas and terminologies.
- 2.2.2** **bi/multilingual applications**, including aids for document creation, handling, exploitation and translation, information retrieval, text indexing, software localisation and computer-aided language learning.
- 2.2.3** **development of language engineering standards**

3. MANUFACTURING, PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MATERIALS

The objective is to improve the capability of industry to process, design and manufacture products which are of high quality, easy to maintain, highly competitive and environmentally and socially acceptable. The scope of the technical areas reflects the multisectorial approach and emphasizes the need to bring together, in pre-competitive R&D, partners drawn from suppliers, producers and end-users as well as from basic research institutes, universities and industrial enterprises (including SMEs).

The priority areas covered are;

3.1 Manufacturing

To improve the capability of industry to design and manufacture products which take account of functionality, cost-effectiveness, quality, reliability and maintainability, and environmental and social acceptability, tools, techniques and systems for high quality manufacturing .

3.1.1 Tools, techniques and systems for High Quality Manufacturing: To develop skill supporting technologies to make human skills and judgment more effective in the manufacturing process. To develop innovative tools and techniques for high quality and cost effective manufacturing systems to give better process control, higher precision and faster operation and the integration of new processing technologies with established manufacturing processes.

3.1.2 Manufacturing Techniques for Industrial Use of Advanced & Other Materials: To develop cost-effective and efficient manufacturing techniques for advanced and other materials to help realise their full potential.

3.2 Design of products and processes

This involves tools and techniques for innovative design, design methodologies for complex high-technology components, maintainability and reliability;

3.2.1 Innovative design tools and techniques: To develop design tools such as decision support systems to promote more efficient design methods, more economic manufacture, assembly and dismantling, and reliable and ergonomic products.

3.2.2 Maintainability and reliability: To develop the support tools, including sensor systems, for improved product performance, reliability and maintainability. To advance the capability and applicability of mathematical modelling to support design, including the integration of modelling techniques with defect and failure mode analysis needed for reliability and predictive maintenance.

3.3 Recycling:

This covers technologies involved in the recycling and recovery of industrial waste including non ferrous metals and reuse of advanced materials;

3.3.1 Recycling and Recovery of Industrial Waste including Non Ferrous Metals, plastics, etc. : To develop new technologies for physical and/or chemical treatment of residues, scraps and industrial waste in order to improve the recovery rates and minimise environmental problems. Research in this respect will cover pyrometallurgy, hydrometallurgy and refining techniques applied to processing of complex residues, alloys, plastics and multi-element scraps.

- 3.3.2 Recycling, recovery and reuse of advanced and other materials :** To improve recycling technologies seeking to reuse advanced and other materials waste in order to enhance the quality of the new products or compounds having a high level of quality and economic value.

4. MEASUREMENT AND TESTING

The objective is to establish an adequate R&D infrastructure for chemical, physical and biological measurements where these are necessary in order to improve living standards, facilitate trade or protect the environment.

The priority areas covered are;

4.1 Support to regulations and standards required for the purposes of trade

Efforts are required to harmonise a wide range of technical standards and measurement methods throughout Eastern and Western Europe in order to demonstrate compliance to regulations relating to health and safety and to facilitate trade by the mutual recognition of results. In this context, proposals are sought which conform to these requirements. These may include for example, the characterisation of agricultural and industrial products and techniques for environmental and health monitoring.

4.2 Common means of calibration

The development of reference materials and physical standards as a means of either calibration or validation of measurement systems facilitates improvements in the quality of measurements and the mutual recognition of results. Projects involving intercomparisons or the certification of reference materials should, where possible, involve laboratories with the appropriate national responsibilities for the subjects covered (or laboratories of similar standing).

4.3 New methods of measurement

This area consists of research and development to investigate the feasibility of new measurement methods which could lead to novel instrumentation, for the determination on-line or in-situ of physical, chemical or biochemical parameters. Projects should be focused on well-defined practical objectives which either address industrially important measurement or analytical problems for which no suitable direct methods currently exist or which relate to measurements/analyses under severe or difficult operational conditions or which relate to instrumentation for the monitoring of environmental pollution or the workplace.

5. AGRO- AND FOOD INDUSTRIES

This part of the research activity covers the processing, storage and distribution of food products with particular reference the development of efficient standards and control systems for safety, hygiene and quality in food products.

The priority areas covered are :

- 5.1 Food safety:** development of better methods for safety assessment and control of raw materials and during processing (e.g. on-line methods, rapid methods, integrated real time systems for on-line monitoring of foreign bodies) and for the assessment and reduction of risks e.g. predictive modelling;

- 5.2 **Food quality:** development of novel processes to optimise the naturalness and freshness of products and new protective systems to maintain and enhance the quality, nutritional value, freshness and shelf-life of foods, including fish products;
- 5.3 **Packaging, distribution and preservation:** development of sensors such as safety indicators, biosensors, chemical sensors for time-temperature analysis, tamper evidence.
- 5.4 **Homogeneity and security of supply:** post-harvest pre-treatments of biological raw food materials for more homogenous and constant quality and supply.

6. **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

This part of the research activity covers the application of biotechnologies in the development of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics and the use of biomarkers of exposure to mutagenes and carcinogenes.

The priority areas covered are;

- 6.1 **Application of biotechnologies in the development of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.:** New methods or techniques enabling the development of vaccines of second generation, diagnostics or therapeutics. Priority will be given to projects proposing methods of general use, such as new vectors or delivery systems for vaccine and new diagnostic tools which could be used for many pathogens. In the case of therapeutics, priority will be given to projects based on highly innovative concepts.
- 6.2 **Biomarkers of exposure to mutagenes and carcinogenes:** Priority will be given to new and innovative research leading to practical applications.

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PART IV. A

SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR COOPERATION

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Description, conditions, application forms

1. Introduction

The strengthening of the research capacity and the reorientation of the research to the socio-economic needs of the Central and Eastern European countries, is of prime importance to the success of the transformation of their economies.

Joint research projects will play an important role in this context by promoting R&D cooperation on priority subjects across Europe, by developing the endogenous scientific expertise and by promoting technology transfer.

Joint research projects will focus on transferring and developing knowledge and technologies likely to contribute to the rehabilitation of the economy. Efficient transfer of research results and their application in the productive systems remains one of the main objectives of any modern economy. In that context, the strengthening of the relation between university research and industry in the countries concerned will be an important consideration.

Priority will be given to projects in **applied** research, of direct concern to the Central and Eastern European countries and the EC member States, in areas which demonstrate clear mutual benefit and are likely to contribute to the establishment of fruitful cooperations. A full description of the research sectors and priority themes of importance for the cooperation of Central and Eastern European countries with the European Community are given in Part III of the Information Package. General details of the Call and further information on Joint research projects can be found in Part I of the Information Package.

2. General conditions

Proposals should be submitted by consortia through the project coordinator. These should involve **at least** three mutually independent partners, at least one from the Community and two from two different Central and Eastern Europe countries. Strong preference will be given to proposals where at least one partner is an industrial enterprise and which exhibit a more extended cooperation, notably those which include partners from several countries of Central and Eastern Europe together with several partners in the European Community. For details of participation from the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS) and the EFTA countries reference should be made to Part I. 3 - General Information.

Each project proposal must explain the distribution of responsibilities, the role of the coordinator and each partner, tasks and resources between the participants, and the justification for this distribution.

The maximum duration of a project is three years.

Joint project proposals are expected to display high scientific quality, innovation, feasibility and added-value in terms of the cooperation. These points should be explicit in the proposal presentation (see also Part I. 8 - proposal evaluation and selection criteria). Joint research proposals must fall within one (or more) of the indicated Research Sectors and Priority Themes given in Part III of the Information Package.

In addition, proposals must clearly demonstrate how they relate to one or more of the *underlying* problems of quality control, pre-normalisation and standards, reliability, maintainability, recyclability and safety.

Successful proposers will be offered the Community standard contract for science and technological development. The main principles of this contract and the general conditions are outlined in Part I. section 9.

All projects must have a clearly identified project coordinator who will be responsible for the management of the project and who therefore should have the appropriate management expertise, as well as the technical expertise, to direct the project. The coordinator's responsibilities also include administrative responsibilities, such as general liaison with the Commission, the submission of all documents - including technical reports giving an overview of the project - and the distribution of the financial support paid by the Commission.

The coordinator will normally be chosen from among the EC Member State partners. Exceptionally, and only where appropriate, an additional coordinator from among the Eastern and Central European partners may be designated, but solely for the coordination of the scientific and technical part.

All EC funding will be forwarded to the designated EC coordinator, who is in charge of the coordination, of the setting up of the project and of its operation, of the management of the financial resources and of the contacts with the Commission of the European Community. The EC coordinator will provide the other members of the project with the necessary planned resources.

3. The Application Form

A specific Application form for joint research project proposals is appended to the Information Package. The form may be either retyped in full or copied and used as the basis for the submittal. The form must be completed using CAPITAL LETTERS only preferably using a typewriter with a black ribbon. If completed by hand, CAPITAL LETTERS in black ink should be used throughout.

The Application Form provides information and indications for drafting a number of separate sheets and annexes which each and every Proposer of the joint research proposal is required to supply. In addition, there are specific pages to be completed by the Project Coordinator on behalf of all proposers. All these informations are then combined by the Project Coordinator to form **one single proposal** to be submitted to the address given in Part II of the Information Package.

The application form is made up of three parts;

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| - An Administrative part: | Part A. | pages 1 - 5 |
| - A Scientific and Technical part: | Parts B - E | pages 6 - 9 |
| - A Financial part | Part F | pages 10 - 13 |

Guidelines for completing the form

Applicants are requested to complete the form carefully. Any failure in this respect may delay the evaluation process or may lead to rejection.

Part A (Administrative information)

Page 1 is to be completed by the Project Coordinator.

Pages 2 - 5 have been given adequate lay-out to fully identify the coordinator and three separate proposers. Each proposer should carefully complete his/her relevant page.

(If more proposers are involved in the project, a photocopy of page 5 should be made and added to this section of the application form with the appropriate Proposer Number clearly indicated).

Parts B - E (Scientific and Technical information)

Each proposer, including the Coordinator, must individually complete parts B (Scientific information about the proposers) and C (Specific information about the proposal). As many photocopies of pages 6 and 7 as there are proposers (including the Coordinator) should be completed and attached as an annex (at the end and not within).

Page 6: The Curriculum Vitae should be brief (generally not more than two pages) and contain all details which are relevant to the application. Limit the list of your most recent and/or relevant publications to a reasonable extent (e.g. the last five years).

The Project Coordinator must complete Parts D and E on behalf of all proposers.

Part D (Summary description of the Joint Research Project)

Page 8: The Title of the project shall be kept short.
The Summary should not exceed one page.

If the proposal is written in a language other than English, a translation of the Title and Summary **in the English language** should be provided in addition.

Part E (Detailed description of the Joint Research Project)

Page 9 : The Detailed Description of the project must comply with the guidelines set out on page 9 and those given elsewhere in the Information Package. Relevant references from the literature shall be quoted in the standard manner used in scientific publications.

Part F (Financial information)

Each proposer, including the Coordinator, must individually complete Part F relating to their details and sign page 10. As many photocopies of pages 10 - 13 as there are proposers (including the Coordinator) should be completed.

Pages 10-13 All figures of the Breakdown of Costs shall be expressed in ECU (indicate the currency exchange rates used for the conversions from national currencies). Concerning labour costs, the research effort expressed in man-months per grade pertaining to the project should be indicated. Qualification and rank of staff members should be stated and the salary structure should be compatible with the salary policies customary in comparable working environments

Travel and Subsistence: Expenses shall cover only transport and per diem; the number of missions envisaged shall be indicated as well as the fully detailed itemised expenditures to be incurred in ECU.

Durable Equipment: The nature of equipment to be purchased shall be specified, along with the names of the intended supplier and producer and the price identified (only for items whose value exceeds 500 ECU).

Consumables: shall be generically identified.

External Assistance: shall refer to sub-contractors and services provided by third-parties. It is emphasized that third parties and sub-contractors do not hold the same intellectual property rights as the project contractors.

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PART IV. B

SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR COOPERATION

CONCERTED ACTIONS

Description, conditions, application forms

1. Introduction

Concerted Actions aim to promote circulation of scientific and technical information, re-establish contact among scientists and engineers of Central and Eastern Europe and of the European Community and to stimulate the innovation process.

The objectives are to promote the establishment of a pan European research community by re-establishing contacts between researchers all over Europe and facilitating the exchange of information in areas of mutual benefit to both East and West. This will favour the cross fertilisation of ideas, the emergence of synergies and will strengthen the research and development capacity in Europe.

To achieve the objectives, the Commission will support the establishment of new scientific and technological cooperation Concerted Actions/Networks and the extension of the existing ones, which interlink research institutions, universities and enterprises established in Central and Eastern European countries and in the European Community.

A full description of the research sectors and priority themes of importance for the cooperation of Central and Eastern European countries with the European Community are given in Part III of the Information Package.

Details of the Call and further information on Concerted Actions can be found in Part I of the Information Package.

2. General conditions

Concerted Actions will promote contacts among members, facilitate the access to each other's laboratories and scientific equipment, promote the coordination of research tasks between members and facilitate the circulation of S&T information and the access to each other's databases.

Concerted Actions are expected to display high scientific quality, innovation, feasibility and added-value in terms of the cooperation. These points should be explicit in the proposal presentation (see also Part I. 8 - proposal evaluation and selection criteria).

The activity of Concerted Actions implies common scientific and technical fields of interest between the members and hence each Concerted Action must be of a specialized nature. Concerted Action proposals must fall within one (or more) of the indicated Research Sectors and Priority Areas given in Part III of the Information Package.

In addition, Concerted Action proposals must clearly demonstrate how they relate to one or more of the underlying problems of quality control, pre-normalisation and standards, reliability, maintainability, recyclability and safety.

Proposals should be submitted by consortia through the project coordinator. Concerted Actions must include a minimum of two partners from two different Central and Eastern European countries and at least two partners from different EC member States.

Strong preference will be given to proposals which exhibit a more extended cooperation than the minimum requirements. Concerted Actions involving industrial enterprises among the participants will be especially favoured.

For details of participation from the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS) and the EFTA countries reference should be made to Part I. 3 - General Information.

The Commission's funding will normally be restricted to the marginal costs needed for the establishment and operation of the Concerted Action **and will exclude actual research costs and any associated training costs.** Allowable costs may include, for example, administration, communication, travel and subsistence, meetings, workshops, information dissemination, short-term exchanges and visits to other participating institutes and countries. Centralised facilities such as data banks, computing, supply, conditioning and distribution of reference materials can also be funded. It may also include the subscription to relevant scientific periodicals for scientists of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Commission support may also include the development of the necessary administrative and technical infrastructure such as: secretarial tasks of the coordinator and steering committee; development of open data communication networks for research in Central and Eastern Europe and their interconnection with research and development data communication networks of the Community; development and utilisation of data bases in the scientific and technology sector and their access from any appropriate European communications network:

In exceptional cases, the support of transport and reconditioning of S&T equipment which could be offered to the laboratory of a member of the Concerted Action could also be considered. In these cases, they could be financed on the basis of a tender (3 offers) organized by the coordinator (or by a member of the concerted action with the agreement of the coordinator). These initiatives have to be covered in the workplan.

A Project Coordinator (together normally with a **Steering Committee**) must be designated by the proposers, to coordinate its administration, financing, and implementation. The coordinator must normally be chosen from among the EC Member State partners, but exceptionally, and only where appropriate, an additional coordinator from among the Eastern and Central European partners may be designated, but solely for the S&T part.

All EC funding will be forwarded to the designated EC coordinator who, aided by the steering committee, is in charge of the coordination, the setting up of the project and its operation and the management of the financial resources. Contacts with the Commission of the European Communities will be made through the coordinator.

The contract will cover the total duration of the project (up to a maximum of 3 years). An advance payment will be made after the signature of the contract by the Commission (about 30-40 % of total support). Periodic payments at annual intervals will normally depend on the submission and approval of program reports and appropriate cost claims.

The proposal should include the objectives and motivation for the Concerted Action, the plans for setting up the Concerted Action and its operation, the rules for the incorporation of members (and new members) into the action, a workplan of joint activities, a description

of the existing and planned infrastructure, including the infrastructure needs of the members, the relationship of the Concerted Action with other projects or programmes and finance received or expected from other sources, scientific reference information on the coordinator and participants, costs associated with the planned activities.

3. The Application Form

A specific Application form for Concerted Action proposals is appended to the Information Package. The form may be either retyped in full or copied and used as the basis for the submittal. The form must be completed using CAPITAL LETTERS only preferably using a typewriter with a black ribbon. If completed by hand, CAPITAL LETTERS in black ink should be used throughout.

The Application Form provides information and indications for drafting a number of separate sheets and annexes. Apart from Part B on page 8 (Scientific information about the participants) - which must be completed by each participant - the forms should be completed by the Project Coordinator on behalf of all members of the Concerted Action. All the information is then combined by the Coordinator to form **one single proposal** to be submitted to the address given in Part II of the Information Package.

The application form is made up of three parts;

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| - An Administrative part: | Part A. | pages 1 - 7 |
| - A Scientific and Technical part: | Parts B - E | pages 8 - 11 |
| - A Financial part | Part F | pages 12 - 14 |

Guidelines for completing the form

Applicants are requested to complete the form carefully. Any failure in this respect may delay the evaluation process or may lead to rejection.

Part A (Administrative information)

- Page 1. of the form is to be completed and signed by the Project Coordinator on behalf of all participants.
- Page 2. has been given adequate lay-out to fully identify the coordinator, the coordinator's institute and the administrator within the coordinators institute who will be responsible for negotiating the eventual contract.
- Page 3. a list of the members of the Steering Committee - to be completed by the coordinator.
- Page 4. a summary list of all participants involved in the Concerted Action (listed by Participant N°) - to be completed by the coordinator.

Page 5-7 a detailed list of all participants involved in the Concerted Action - to be completed by the coordinator. (If more participants are involved in the Concerted Action, a photocopy of page 7 should be made and added to this section of the application form (with Participant Numbers clearly indicated).

Parts B - E (Scientific and Technical information)

Each participant (including the coordinator) should complete part B (Scientific information about the participants). As many photocopies of page 8 as there are participants should be completed and attached as an annex (at the end and not within).

Page 8: The Curriculum Vitae should be brief (generally not more than 10 lines) and contain details which are strictly relevant to the application. Limit the list of most recent and/or relevant publications to a reasonable extent (e.g. the last five years).

The Coordinator, should complete part C (Specific information about the proposal).

The Coordinator must complete Parts D and E on behalf of all participants.

Part D (Summary description of the Concerted Action)

Page 10: The Title of the project shall be kept short.
The Summary should not exceed one page.

If the proposal is written in a language other than English, a translation of the Title and Summary **in the English language** should be provided in addition.

Part E (Detailed description of the Concerted Action)

Page 11 : The Detailed Description of the project must comply with the guidelines set out on page 11 and those given elsewhere in the Information Package.
Relevant references from the literature shall be quoted in the standard manner used in scientific publications.

Part F (Financial information)

The Coordinator, must complete Part F relating to cost details of the Concerted Action.

Pages 12-14 All figures of the Breakdown of Costs shall be expressed in ECU.

