



General information about Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology focusing in the participation of third countries

Result of the call for proposals FP6-2006-TTC-TU-Priority-5

The FP6-2006-TTC-TU-Priority-5 call was publicized on February 15th 2006 to promote the participation of partner from *Targeted Third Countries* (TTC) in projects for which contracts are already signed or under negotiation in priority thematic areas of research. It closed on May 16th and had a 2.5 million E budget only for Integrated Projects (IP)

The main specific targets of this call were:

- To demonstrate the scientific excellence of proposed extension;
- To promote the participation of new partner from Targeted Third Countries;
- To present the Management plan of the project and of the work integrates within the current DOW, following the extension of the project to new participants;
- To present the necessary resources for implementation of the task of the new participation.

The evaluation was carried out on June 2006 by 24 independent evaluator who received 20 proposals, evaluated 19 from which 13 passed all thresholds. Finally, 8 of this 13 proposals were selected for funding while the other 5 were passed to the reserve list.

Proposal received	Proposals evaluated	Proposals passing all thresholds	Proposals selected for funding	Proposals on the reserve list
20	19	13	8	5

The ranked list of the 8 projects selected were:

- The Prevalence, Cost and Basis of Food Allergy Across Europe (EuroPrevall)
- Novel Processing Methods for the Production and Distribution of High-Quality and Safe Foods (NovelQ-TTC Nanocom)
- New strategies to improve grain legumes for food and feed (Grain LegumesTTC)



- Health impact of long-term, low-level exposure to heavy metals and mixture (PHIME)
- Promoting food safety through a new integrated risk analysis approach for foods (Safe Foods)
- Tracing Food Commodities in Europe (TRACE TTC)
- Integration of animal welfare in the food quality chain: From public concern to improved welfare and transparent quality (Welfare Quality TTC)

- Developing and integrating novel technologies to improve safety, transparency and quality assurance of the chilled/frozen food supply chain- test case fish and poultry Lifestyle in Europe by Nutrition in Adolescence (Chill On TTC)

At this time negotiations are proceeding with the contracting partners to incorporate them into the existing consortiums.

News in the FAB area

Workshop on Nutrigenomics

13 November 2006 - Oeiras, Portugal

Hosted by Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Tecnológica (IBET)

Organized by ALCUEFOOD

[Workshop Program \(.PDF\)](#)

www.alcuefood.org

Information Day on the 7th Framework Programme - Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology

in Budapest on the 27th of October. The event is sponsored by the Trainnet Future project

<http://trainnetfuture.tetalap.hu/>

Codex Meeting

Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses



[Link to Agenda](#)

Topping Up, an efficient and effective instrument for increasing third country participation in complex instruments, by Dr. Eduardo Trigo

The challenge of how to increase third country participation in FP's activities beyond the traditional INCO calls is a long standing one and has been approached through different types of initiatives with varied degrees of success, in spite of the efforts of all parties involved. The opportunity to participate in the EU Framework Programmes is an important challenge for developing countries, not necessarily for the resources involved, but in most cases for what it means in terms of access to knowledge and innovation opportunities. The importance of networks and knowledge exchange is increasingly recognized as one of the most effective drivers for the consolidation of national research and development efforts and a critical component in the globalization process. If trade is to be sustainable, the access to knowledge and technology opportunities have to be more equilibrated between the trading partners, and this has been clearly recognized in the FP7 design by not restricting participation from non European partners to INCO activities, but opening-up all the thematic areas instruments to third countries.

Experience, however, is that participation, although growing has been far from the expected levels and has fallen short of the participation targets established for FP6. There is not one reason for this situation and, probably, they vary from thematic area to thematic area and also among different types of countries. Looking at the issue from a third country perspective one can identify several aspects that intervene in this situation. Non-convergent priorities, lack of timely information, weak contacts with potential European partners, etc. But there is one issue that very often is overlooked: that of the high "transaction cost" involved in developing successful proposals. In fact, developing proposals is a time and resource consuming effort for both European and developing country partners, but in the case of the latter, where the resource chapter usually is a stiffer limitation, the success rate is low, around 20%. When both aspects are put together they act as a strong "entry barrier", which the traditional INCO instruments helped solve by forcing the presence of third countries in the projects. The merging of the international components into the thematic areas



offers a great opportunity. However, will third countries be able to fully benefit from it?

The answer to the above question will come with time and experience, but in my opinion, to be fully exploited it will require some instrumental assistance. In this sense, the mid-year experience with the so called “Topping-up” call (Call FP6-2006-TTC-TU-Priority-5) by which a list of on-going projects (IP and NOE with less than 18 months of implementation) were opened up for the incorporation of new partners from third countries, is an alternative that should be given serious consideration for becoming a permanent feature for the achievement of increased participation on non European partners into FP’s activities. The focus on the project and not on the topic greatly facilitates the identification and development of the needed partnerships. It becomes much easier to identify what is needed and what can be offered by the different partners and by doing so facilitates the proposal development processes and reduces the costs involved. In this sense it is beneficial for both EU member and third country partners. So far the instrument has been utilized only sporadically at the end of the FPs’ implementation periods to further exploit the existence of remaining funds. The experience with the quality of the projects and partners participating in the last call points in the direction that the topping-up modality could be evaluated to become a more permanent feature in the FP implementation structure.