



# THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IS OPEN TO THE WORLD

*"The European Research Area must be opened up to the rest of the world. This will enable both EU countries and other countries to benefit from international cooperation in Science & Technology, thereby paving the way for closer political and economic relations."*

**Philippe Busquin**, European Commissioner for Research



## WHAT IS THE SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH?

The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) is the European Union's main instrument for the funding of research in Europe. It aims at scientific excellence, improved competitiveness and innovation, through the promotion of increased co-operation, greater complementarity and improved co-ordination between all actors of research and development.

The overall budget covering the four-year period 2003 - 2006 is EUR 17.5 billion.

Seven thematic areas of research are targeted in priority by FP6:

- **1. Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health - Next deadline for proposals: 15 April 2004**
- 2. Information Society technologies
- 3. Nano-technologies and nano-sciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials, and new production processes and devices
- 4. Aeronautics and space
- **5. Food quality and safety - Next deadline for proposals: 5 February 2004**
- 6. Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems
- 7. Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

There is a commitment of the European Commission to promote partnering and collaboration via research projects as well as communication and interface activities via Specific Support Actions

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN FP6, INCLUDING EU-CHINA

**International Co-operation represents an important dimension of the Sixth Framework Programme.**

**Substantial funding has been reserved for the participation of targeted third countries in FP6, including China.**

Participation is open and funding is available for researchers, teams and institutions from targeted third countries, including China, in three major complementary routes:

- The seven priority thematic areas of research as well as Specific Activities Covering a Wider Field of Research (285 million euros for targeted third country participants)
- Specific Measures in support of International Co-operation (315 million euros for targeted third country participants)
- Human Resources and Mobility Activities (Marie Curie actions: incoming and outgoing fellowships)

EU-China scientific and technological co-operation is recognised as a political priority, as set by the bilateral co-operation agreement signed between the EU and the Government of the People's Republic of China in 1998 (OJ L6/40)

Research in **Life Sciences and Biotechnologies**, including biosafety and bioethics, has been recognised as an area of common interest and strategic importance for Sino-European S&T co-operation. The FP6 thematic priorities 1 and 5 are therefore calling also for Specific Support Actions to facilitate the implementation - in the field of life sciences and biotechnology research - of the already existing bilateral co-operation agreements.

### For further information on:

- **FP6:** [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html)
- **International co-operation in FP6:**  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index_en.html)  
or on **CORDIS:** <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/inco.htm>
- **Food Quality and Safety:** <http://www.cordis.lu/food/>
- **Life Sciences, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health:**  
<http://www.cordis.lu/lifescihealth/>
- **Mobility actions:**  
<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/mobility.htm>
- **Biosociety web site:** <http://biosociety.cordis.lu/>

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