

ICT Research & Innovation: a driver for growth

You have a business active in the ICT sector and are looking for EU funded Research and Innovation opportunities?

Find out in this section some of the most relevant programmes and initiatives funded by the EU suitable for your ICT RDI project.



A DEDICATED EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAM FOR ICT

ICT plays a crucial role in:

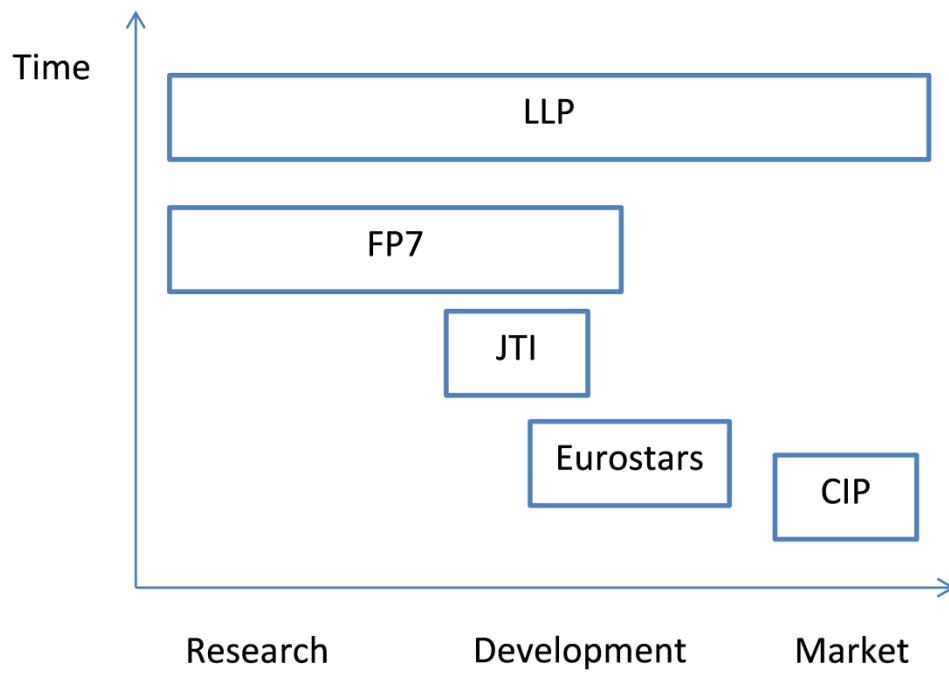
- **improving competitiveness** throughout the economy in the face of globalisation, boosting innovation, creativity and efficiency;
- **scientific and technological development** in areas as diverse as medicine and physics;
- **modernising sectors** as diverse as education, security, energy and transport, and making Europe's large public sector more efficient;
- **tackling social challenges and improving quality of life** while meeting the challenge of an ageing society.

This is why, more than ever, Europe focuses on **ICT as a key technology area** with a **dedicated RDI program for ICT** (societal & industry domains):

- **Joint Technology Initiatives**
- **Lifelong Learning Program (LLP)**
- **Joint Research programs such as FP7**
 - Cooperation: ICT
 - People: Marie Curie actions: IAPP/ITN
 - Capacities: Research for the benefit of SMEs
- **Eurostars**
- **Competitiveness and Innovation Program ICT Policy Support Program (CIP ICT PSP)**

WHICH PROGRAM FITS WITH MY BUSINESS NEEDS?

The different programs on the value chain:



Lifelong Learning Program for ICT (LLP)



What?

- The flagship European Funding umbrella program in the field of **education and training**
- Stimulating learning opportunities across Europe
- Four sectorial sub programs: Erasmus (Higher education), Leonardo Da Vinci (Vocational Training) , Comenius (Schools) and Grundtvig (adult education)
- Four so called 'transversal' programs, one of which is focused on **ICT**

LLP and ICT

- **One of the four key activities** of the LLP's transversal program
- Actions address **general issues concerning two or more educational sectors**
- **Integral part of the Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig and Leonardo sub-programs**
- **Effective integration of ICT** through new and more effective ways of supporting pedagogical and organisational innovation
- **Enhance learning environments** and experiences
- **Examples:** the use of simulations, discovery learning, attracting drop-outs back to education, enabling learning outside the school environment & bridging the 'digital divide'

There are 2 types of actions supported:

- **Multilateral projects** to encourage innovation and creativity in learning and teaching and boost the use of new ICT tools and trends, particularly for groups at risk of exclusion such as early school leavers, ethnic minorities and elderly people
- **Multilateral Networks** to promote greater linking up and connectivity between learning communities and to foster creativity and innovation through the use of ICT.

More info? Click [here](#)

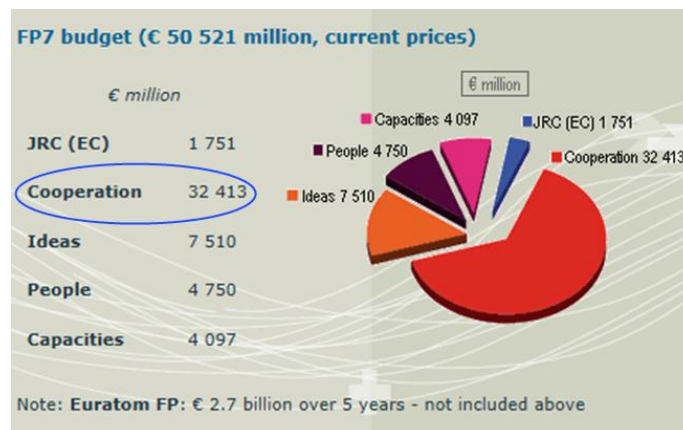
LLP Contact for ICT: EACEA-ICT-LLP@ec.europa.eu

The Seventh Framework Program (FP7)



- Biggest public R&D funding scheme in Europe
- Budget: > € 50 billion (2007-2013)
- Up to 100% funding (50% < average funding < 75%)
- Support R&D to boost European competitiveness
- Funded projects with European added value
- Transnational consortia (in general)
- Divided in four specific programs: people, ideas, capacities and cooperation

a. The **cooperation program** supports **collaborative R&D** in 10 scientific areas:



- Information & Communication technologies € 9,1 billion
- Health € 6,1 billion
- Food, Agriculture, Fisheries & Biotechnology € 1,9 billion
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials & new Production Technologies €3,5 billion
- Energy € 2,4 billion
- Environment € 1,9 billion
- Transport € 4,2 billion
- Socio-economic Sciences €0,6 billion
- Security € 1,4 billion
- Space € 1,4 billion

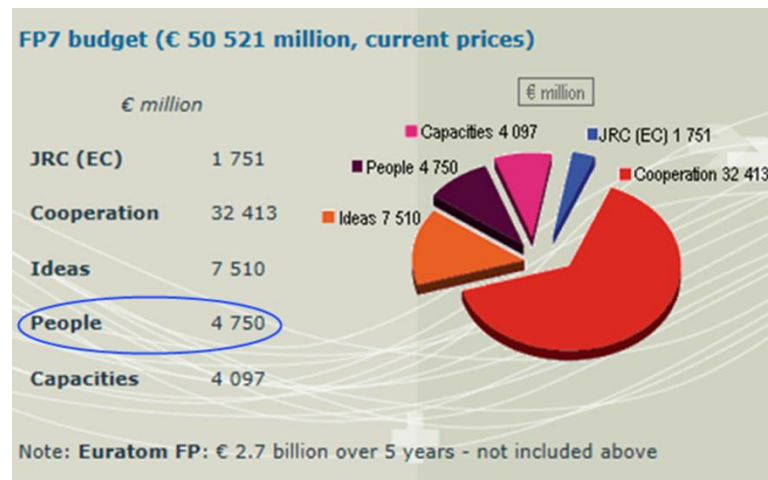
More info?

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[FP7 Participants Portal](#)

- b. **The people program** support actions such as the « Marie Curie » actions (IAPP/ITN)



- Researchers' career development
- Training
- Mobility
- At European & international level
- Academia – Industry partnerships

IAPP = Industry – Academia Partnerships and Pathways

ITN = Initial Training Networks

- Part of the Marie Curie actions - "People" pillar of the FP7
- Specific schemes with open calls which particularly focus upon the involvement of commercial organisations
- Main aims: encouraging inter-sectoral mobility, partnerships and knowledge transfer and broadening the skills-base and career options of researchers
- Conditions: Both schemes require the involvement of at least one private sector partner

More info? Click [here](#)

- c. **The capacities program supports activities such as research for the benefit of SMEs:**

- Outsourcing of research by SMEs to specialised 'RTD performers' such as universities, research centers, other research performing companies etc.
- Strong emphasis on the economic impact of the results achieved in the project on the SMEs themselves by SMEs to specialised 'RTD performers':

More info? Click [here](#)

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI)

In a limited number of cases, the scope of the RTD objectives and the resources involved justify setting up long-term public-private partnerships in the form of "Joint Technology Initiatives" (JTIs).

JTIs aim to achieve greater strategic focus by supporting common ambitious research agendas in areas that are crucial for competitiveness and growth, assembling and coordinating at European level a critical mass of research. They therefore draw on all sources of R&D investment - public or private - and couple research tightly to innovation.

JTIs may become operational by setting up a Joint Undertaking under Article 171 of the Treaty to create a single, Europe-wide and industrially-driven R&D programme that will help EU industry to achieve world leadership. JTIs will combine, for the first time, a critical mass of national, EU and private resources within one coherent, flexible and efficient legal framework; they also ramp up R&D investment in Europe by providing incentives to industry and Member States to increase their R&D expenditure.

Two JTIs were launched in February 2008 in the following **ICT domains**:

- **ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking** has been established to run the JTI in embedded systems
- **ENIAC Joint Undertaking** has been established to run the JTI in nano-electronics

More info? Click [here](#)



Funding Rules for Brussels Capital Region

	Industrial Research	Experimental development
SE	80 %	60%
ME	75%	50%
LC	65%	40%
Research organisation	100 %	100 %



Universities and research organizations are eligible only if they cooperate within the project with a Brussels SME

More info? Click [here](#)

For ICT

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CIP ICT POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME



The CIP is divided into three operational programs

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation program (EIP)
- The Intelligent Energy Europe program (IEE)
- **The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support program (ICT-PSP)**

CIP ICT PSP: What?

- Promote wider uptake & better use of ICT based products and services
- Encouragement of SME participation
- Emphasis on areas of public interest
- Covers technological and non-technological innovation that have moved beyond the final research demonstration phase
- The ICT PSP does not support research activities

→ Better quality of life through better health care, safer and more efficient transport solutions, cleaner environment, new media opportunities and easier access to public services and cultural content

More info?

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[About CIP ICT PSP](#)

THE PROGRAMS IN A NUTSHELL...

	Approach	Average Funding	Average Consortium	Average Duration	Focus
LLP - ICT	Mixed	250.000€/year	3 to 5 partners	24 months	Education & Learning
FP7 - cooperation	TOP DOWN	Several M €	3 to 10 partners	36 months	Collaborative Research
FP 7 – Marie-Curie Actions	BOTTOM UP	100%	Individual teams + Industry-academia	Up to 48 months	Training for researchers
FP 7 – Research for the benefit of SMEs	BOTTOM UP	500.000 to 3 M €	5 to 10 participants	18 months	Research for SMEs
EUROSTARS	BOTTOM UP	1 to 2 M €	2 to 4 partners	24 months	Market-oriented research
CIP ICT PSP	TOP DOWN	2 to 10 M €	4 to 10 partners	24 months	Demonstration / Standardisation

HOW TO FIND PARTNERS FOR MY EU PROJECT CONSORTIUM?

You are looking for partners for your EU project consortium for any ICT-related open call?

→ Use the international ICT support network [**Ideal-ist**](#)



Ideal-ist is:

- An international partner search network active since 1996
- Supported by more than 88 ICT national partners from all EU MS, AC and Non-EU Countries
- More than 85,000 contacts in line with international cooperation strategy of the European Commission

How to launch your partner search on Ideal-ist?

[**Register as a Proposer**](#) - Log in, create and submit a Partner Search

How to reply to If you would like to open Partner Searches if you match the profile sought and have the expertise to carry out the activities foreseen?

[**Submit**](#) an expression of interest

How to receive regular communications on open Partner Searches

[**Register**](#) to your National Newsletter (mailing list)

→ Use the [**Enterprise Europe Network**](#) (EEN)

Enterprise Europe Network is your local gateway to doing business abroad, accessing European funding, driving innovation and increasing your competitiveness in new markets



The Enterprise Europe Network has close to 600 member organizations in 51 countries across the EU and beyond to help small businesses to grow e.g. by innovating at international level and with a successful track record in

- Going international
- Technology transfer & innovation
- Access to finance
- [**Research funding**](#)
- Advice on EU law and standards
- Intellectual property and patents
- Speak up on EU law

More info? Click [here](#)

WHICH CALLS FOR PROPOSALS ARE CURRENTLY OPEN?

Click [here](#) to know which calls are currently open in the ICT sector.

MORE INFO

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