

European Commission

Community Research



*Information Package*

# Guide for Applicants

**Expressions of interest for topics concerning  
Integrated Projects in Functional Genomics  
relating to Human Health**

[www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ\\_proj.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ_proj.htm)



QUALITY OF LIFE AND MANAGEMENT  
OF LIVING RESOURCES

*This guide provides information for applicants submitting expressions of interest for topics concerning integrated projects in functional genomics relating to human health under area 8.5 of the Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources (QoL) Programme.*

*The call for expressions of interest for these topics was published on 15 November in the Official Journal of the European Communities.*

*For further information on integrated projects, please refer to the explanatory memorandum prepared for the purpose and to the QoL work programme for the year 2001.*

*All documents concerning this call and the integrated projects can be found on the dedicated website: [www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ\\_proj.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ_proj.htm)*

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## **INTEGRATED PROJECTS: the concept**

To unlock the enormous medical, social and economic potential of the human genome sequence, the links between genome structure, gene function, gene polymorphism and human disease need to be determined. This will be a long-term resource-intensive process, in which Europe needs to combine its efforts and achieve critical mass in order to remain competitive.

To assist in this strategic goal, the Quality of Life Programme is launching a new type of project, the “*integrated project*”, to stimulate progress in **functional genomics relating to human health**.

An *integrated project* will contain **three components** – research, networking, and training & mobility – within a common integrated management structure. Under the **research** component, the project will be expected to perform ground-breaking research. Under the **networking** component, the project should act as a federating force in the field, creating synergy with and between national research efforts. And under the **training & mobility** component, the project should provide opportunities to train young researchers at Europe’s top research centres in the field; a significant level of staff exchanges will also be expected. Each *integrated project* must include all three of these components.

To help ensure **critical mass**, an *integrated project* should contain a minimum of 150 researcher-years of effort (including the training component). The consortium will be expected to contain the top European research centres in the field.

*Integrated projects* will be selected by a procedure that involves, **first, a call for expressions of interest for topics** that may be suitable for support through an *integrated project*, out of which a limited number of key topics of strategic importance will be selected, **followed by a dedicated call for proposals** from which the *integrated projects* themselves will be selected. This procedure in two separate steps is intended to avoid an excessive oversubscription in the second step, which otherwise might act as a deterrent to applicants. The prior submission of an expression of interest will not be a requirement for being eligible to submit a proposal for an *integrated project*.

*Integrated projects* have also been designed to give a measure of **autonomy** to the research consortium. For example, the contract(s) with the Commission will not contain a detailed programme of activity beyond the project’s first year, but will instead concentrate on the overall objectives of the project, its management structure and its deliverables. The evolution of a detailed programme of activity will subsequently be determined by mutual agreement between the consortium and the Commission as the project proceeds. This evolutionary process will also enable the technical parts of the **proposals to be simplified**, thus easing the burden on the applicants.

The deadline for receiving expressions of interest for **topics** is 9 February 2001. A dedicated call will subsequently be published at least three months before the 18 October 2001 deadline foreseen for receiving the proposals for *integrated projects*. Up to three *integrated projects* are expected to be selected following this dedicated call.

## **PREPARATION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR TOPICS**

- ***Where was the call published?***

The call for expressions of interest for topics in functional genomics relating to human health (*call identifier: QoL-2001-CEI8*) was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on **15 November 2000**. The text of the call can also be found on the following website:

[www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ\\_proj.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ_proj.htm).

- ***What is the purpose of a call for expressions of interest?***

The call for expressions of interest has been designed to enable the Commission, assisted by a panel of high-level experts, to select from among the **topics** presented those that would be most appropriate for support at the European level through the mechanism of an integrated project.

- ***Who can submit an expression of interest?***

An expression of interest may be submitted by **any legal entity** (or a consortium of legal entities) carrying out or sponsoring research in a Member State or a state associated<sup>1</sup> with the Quality of Life Programme.

- ***On what topics?***

Expressions of interest are invited for topics throughout the field of **functional genomics relating to human health**, including computational genomics, comparative genomics and proteomics. Topics should exploit multidisciplinary approaches and advance the development and application of new methods and technologies.

- ***How to prepare an expression of interest?***

An expression of interest should be written in three sections:

- (i) a rationale for proposing the topic;
- (ii) a description of the potential consortium;
- (iii) supporting letters of intent (*optional*).

(i) The **rationale** should not be more than **three A4 pages**. It should address:

- the **strategic importance** to Europe (for example in research, health or industry) of developing this aspect of functional genomics, including an assessment of Europe's prospects in the field compared with those of its principal competitors;
- the current extent of **pan-European cooperation** in the field, both at the project and programme level, and an assessment of the benefits to be gained by increasing that cooperation;

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<sup>1</sup> The states associated to the QoL Programme are: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

- the supply in Europe of suitably trained researchers in the field and an assessment of the need to stimulate **training & mobility**, particularly at the postgraduate and postdoctoral levels.

(ii) The *description of the potential consortium* should not be more than **two A4 pages**. It should demonstrate that Europe possesses a number of excellent research centres with an interest to collaborate in presenting a proposal for an integrated project and with the capability to take full advantage of such a project. It should cover the following:

- a listing of all the top academic and industrial European research centres in the field, together with a very short description of their competencies and resources that would be relevant to an integrated project on the topic; and
- the names of those centres that provisionally are ready to take part in a proposal for an integrated project on the topic (a subset of the above list).

As a guide to the preparation of this part of the expression of interest, it is expected that the core consortium of an integrated project would involve no more than ten such centres.

(iii) The *letters of intent* should express the interest of research centres to take part in preparing a proposal for an integrated project. The author of the expression of interest should also indicate what role he/she might play in the preparation of such a proposal.

Those submitting an expression of interest should also pay close attention to the evaluation criteria described below.

**Note: In addition to providing this description, the administrative forms presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of this document also have to be completed.**

- ***How to submit an expression of interest?***

Expressions of interest must be submitted in paper form (7 copies) by post, by courier or by hand delivery to:

European Commission  
 “Quality of Life” programme  
 Call QoL-2001-CEI8  
 Research Directorate-General  
 Square De Meeûs / De Meeûs Plein 8  
 B-1050 Brussels  
 Belgium

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to each applicant.

- ***What is the deadline for submitting an expression of interest?***

Expressions of interest must be received by the Commission at the above address on or before **9 February 2001** (17.00 Brussels time).

## **EVALUATION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

- ***What are the evaluation criteria for the selection of topics for integrated projects?***

The following five evaluation criteria, each with equal weight, will be applied to the topics described in the expressions of interest received:

### **(1) Competence building**

- To what extent could an integrated project in the field assist in enhancing Europe's scientific excellence?
- To what extent would an integrated project in the field provide the necessary platform for excellence in training and skills development?

### **(2) Resources, partnership and management**

- To what extent do the necessary resources, partnership and management exist in Europe to make effective use of the opportunities provided by an integrated project?

### **(3) Community added value**

- To what extent will European research benefit by promoting more pan-European cooperation in the field?
- And to what extent could an integrated project help in that direction?

### **(4) Contribution to Community social objectives**

- To what extent could an integrated project in the field contribute to improving human health?

### **(5) Economic development**

- To what extent could progress in this aspect of functional genomics be of economic and industrial importance to Europe?

- ***How will the expressions of interest be evaluated?***

A **panel of high-level experts**, both European and non-European, will be asked to carry out the evaluation of the topics presented in the expressions of interest.

The expressions of interest received will be mailed to the experts about two weeks after the deadline of 9 February 2001 so that they will have time to examine them before they meet as a panel in Brussels in the second half of March 2001.

The panel will be asked to agree a **ranked shortlist of no more than seven topics**, from which the Commission will select a maximum of five topics to be published in the dedicated call.

In drawing up their shortlist, the panel will be asked to bear in mind the need to avoid an excessive oversubscription, considering that no more than three integrated projects can be financed.

At the conclusion of their work, the panel will write an **evaluation report**, justifying in detail their selection of topics and outlining why other topics were not selected. This report (excluding any commercially sensitive information) will be provided as feedback to all of those submitting expressions of interest. It will also be published on the Quality of Life website.

- ***When will the dedicated call for integrated projects be published?***

On the basis of the recommendations of the panel of experts, the Commission will decide a list of up to five topics for the dedicated call for proposals for integrated projects. This dedicated call for proposals is expected to be published by the second half of June 2001.

The prior submission of an expression of interest will not be a requirement for being eligible to submit a proposal for an integrated project.

## **WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION?**

- The following documents concerning this call and the integrated projects can be found on the dedicated website: [www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ\\_proj.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/life/generic/integ_proj.htm):
  - an explanatory memorandum on integrated projects;
  - links to the Quality of Life Work Programme 2001;
  - the text of the call for expressions of interest;
  - this guide for applicants.

Information concerning the progress of this action will also be placed on this website as it arises.

- For further questions concerning the call for expressions of interest or the integrated projects in general, please contact:

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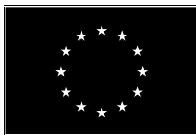
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# Annex 1



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
HEALTH DIRECTORATE  
QoL PROGRAMME

*EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR  
TOPICS IN FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS  
RELATING TO HUMAN HEALTH*

EoI n°:

(for Commission use only)

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

<i>Title (Dr., Prof.,...)</i>		<i>Gender</i>	F	M
<i>Family Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>			
<i>Address</i>				
<i>Telephone No.</i>	<i>Fax No.</i>			
<i>E-mail</i>				
<i>Title of the expression of interest (up to 10 words)</i>				
<i>Acronym (up to 20 characters)</i>				
<i>Abstract (max. 10 lines)</i>				
<i>Are you submitting this expression of interest:</i>	- on your own behalf?	YES	NO	
	- on behalf of an organisation? <sup>(1)</sup>	YES	NO	
	- on behalf of a consortium? <sup>(1)</sup>	YES	NO	
<i>(1) If yes, please name the organisation(s) involved</i>				
<i>What role might you play in preparing any subsequent proposal for an integrated project?</i>				



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

**Please write the name and full postal address to which this acknowledgement should be sent**

**Please write below the acronym of your expression of interest:**

*Acronym:*

Dear Madam/Sir

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of your expression of interest.

*Date of receipt:*

*Registration number:*

You are kindly requested to quote this registration number in all future correspondence relating to this submission. Topics put forward in the call for expressions of interest will be evaluated shortly after the deadline for receipt (9 February 2001). The Commission services thank you for your submission and your interest in the Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources Programme.