

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial - By Mr. Mattia Crosetto

Dear Readers,



The agenda of the Zlín Region in Brussels for the beginning of the New Year is already booked with important appointments.

At the end of 2006, the Office has taken part in the kick-off meeting of the SupPolicy project. This initiative, funded by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Development, will provide the Zlín Region with the best practices and methodologies to implement its strategy for industrial innovation. From January 2007 on, the project has entered into the execution phase and the Office in Brussels will provide full technical assistance for all what is needed to guarantee the success of the project.

Then, the new edition of the Open Days 2007 has been jointly launched by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. The next Open Days will take place from the 8th to the 11th of October 2007, with a complementary programme to be realised within the region during the whole month of October. The deadline to present the candidatures is fixed at February 14th, 2007: we have already started to work on!

Finally, the preparation of the Czech Semester of Presidency at the EU Council – scheduled for 2009 – has already started. We are cooperating with the Czech Permanent Representation at the EU and with the other Czech Regions to organise the programme of activities that will integrate the political agenda of the Presidency. We will keep you informed about what's going on ...

This is really a challenging year for all of us!

Mattia Crosetto

Zlín Region in Brussels

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European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels 8 - 11 October 2007



The **Committee of the Regions** (CoR) and **European Commission's** Regional Policy Directorate General (DG REGIO) have issued the invitation to regions and cities to be partners in **OPEN DAYS 2007** – the European Week of Regions and Cities.

The applications process was launched in Brussels on 13 December 2006 at a meeting with representatives of regional offices hosted by CoR Secretary General **Gerhard Stahl** and DG REGIO's Director-General **Graham Meadows**. The event, jointly organised by the CoR, DG REGIO and over **100 regions and cities from all over Europe** (including the **Zlin Region in Brussels**), involves a wider partnership with banks, enterprises and non-governmental and international organisations in addition to authorities from countries outside the EU. Between **8 and 11 October 2007**, more than 100 OPEN DAYS workshops and sessions will focus on the **new generation of cohesion policy programmes**, which will be implemented in the course of 2007 in all European regions. Between 2007 and 2013, public and private funding made available through these programmes amounted to about EUR 500 billion.

The title of next years' event has been announced as **Making it happen: Regions deliver growth and jobs** and will include **five sub-themes**: Attracting investors: Regions and cities show how it works; Proximity matters: Clusters and regional development; Spending it wisely: Public-private partnerships and financial engineering; Crossing borders: Cooperation and exchange of best practice supporting growth and jobs; Efficient delivery: How the new programmes are implemented.

The OPEN DAYS seminars will be accompanied by the **Investor's Café** (see below), a meeting point for regional policy experts where regional authorities, private companies and institutions can choose to join a specific thematic "village" under categories including: transport, education, research and development, sustainable development, health and financial engineering. In addition, the OPEN DAYS will go local through events in participating regions and cities all over Europe from 1-7 and 12-31 October.

The deadline for regions and cities wishing to apply as partners is **14.02.2007**. To be considered, regions and cities must apply to participate as part of a **conglomerate**, which should consist of a minimum of 5 partners.

The partner offices which are selected to participate in the **OPEN DAYS 2007** – European Week of Regions and Cities will be announced at the end of February 2007 and the workshops and seminars programme finalised before the end of April.

*The **OPEN DAYS 2007** - European Week of Regions and Cities are jointly organised by the [Committee of the Regions](#) and the [European Commission, Directorate General for Regional Policy](#).*

The event will be organised in partnership with more than 100 regions and cities, which will be selected following an [application procedure](#) open until 14 February 2007.

On a case by case basis, participation is possible for partners from the business, banking and civil society sector, authorities from third countries and international organisations.

Open Days 2007: the Programme

Under the headline "**Making it happen: regions deliver growth and jobs**", about 100 workshops and sessions will focus on the new generation of cohesion policy programmes, which will be implemented in the course of 2007 in all European regions.

They will be related to **five sub-headlines**:

1. **Attracting investors**: Regions and cities show how it works;
2. **Proximity matters**: Clusters and regional development;
3. **Spending it wisely**: Public-private partnerships and financial engineering;
4. **Crossing borders**: Networking and best practice supporting growth and jobs;
5. **Checking delivery**: How the new programmes are implemented

In a special section of the programme, a series of workshops and seminars on the **international dimension of regional policy** will be held, involving authorities from third countries and international organisations.

Open Days 2007: the Investors' Café

The **Investors' Café** will be the **meeting point** of the OPEN DAYS 2007. Organised around "**thematic villages**", participants will have the opportunity to meet public and private experts and to network.

The Investors' Café

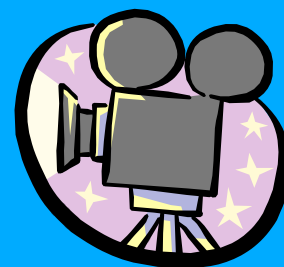
- is a real café, located in the Committee of the Regions' headquarters at 99-101 Rue Belliard, Brussels and open for business from the evening of 8 October and will remain open during extended working hours until the afternoon of 11 October
- will host a number of "thematic villages", which are exhibition stand and meeting points arranged by the OPEN DAYS organisers and partners providing information and expertise;
- will be the place of a number of seminars and workshops held in the nearby premises by the organisers and partners.

The final concept of the event will be agreed upon in March together with the OPEN DAYS 2007 programme.

MEDIA 2007 - Development, distribution and promotion

Implementation of a programme to encourage the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works

Support for the development of production projects ('MEDIA New Talent', single projects and slate funding)



The aim of MEDIA 2007 (Development) is to support the development of production projects for the European and international markets in the following genres: fiction, creative documentaries, animation and multimedia.

Eligible applicants

Only **independent companies** whose main activity is **audiovisual and/or multimedia production** are eligible for support.

Applicant companies must be established in one of the following countries: the **Member States of the European Union**, the EFTA and EEA countries participating in the MEDIA 2007 Programme (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) and Switzerland, subject to the conclusion of a new cooperation agreement with this country in the framework of the MEDIA Programme.

Applicant companies must also provide evidence that they have the **previous experience** of audiovisual production required in accordance with the guidelines.

Budget

The total budget earmarked for the cofinancing of projects is estimated at EUR 13 million. Financial assistance

from the Commission cannot exceed 50 % of the total eligible costs (60 % for projects highlighting Europe's cultural diversity). The maximum subsidy in the case of slate funding is EUR 150 000. For single projects it varies between EUR 10 000 and 80 000 depending on the genre.

Deadline

Applications must be sent to the Executive Agency (EACEA) no later than:

- **12 February 2007** ('MEDIA New Talent')
- **16 April 2007** (single projects and slate funding).

MEDIA 2007 — Training

One of the measures to be implemented under **MEDIA** involves improving the continuous **vocational training** of professionals in the audiovisual sector, so as to give them the know-how and skills needed to create competitive products on the European and other markets, in particular in the field of:

- the application of **new technologies**, and in particular digital technologies, for the production and distribution of audiovisual programmes;
- economic, financial and commercial **management**, including the legal framework;
- **script-writing** techniques.

This notice is addressed to **candidates** in one of the categories of establishment below whose activities contribute to the above-mentioned measures:

- Film and television schools
- Universities
- Specialist vocational training establishments
- Private companies in the audiovisual sector
- Organisations/professional associations specialising in the audiovisual sector.

Budget for projects

The maximum amount available under the call for proposals 2007 is **€4.340.000**, provided funds are available under the 2007 exercise. The financial support from the Commission cannot exceed **50%/60%** of the total eligible costs.

The financial contribution will be awarded in the form of a grant.

The maximum duration of projects is **12 months**.

Deadline for submission of applications

Applications must be sent to the Executive Agency (EACEA) no later than **9 March 2007**.



The complete guidelines together with the application forms are available on the website:
http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html



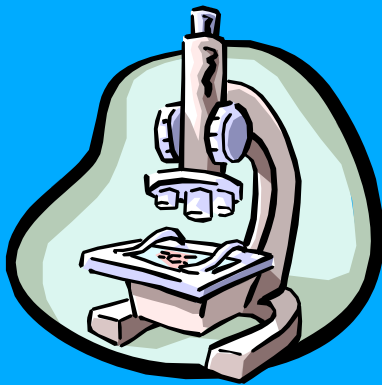
7th FP : Tomorrow's answer starts today

Special section on Innovation: the Zlin Region in Brussels will present here a special section devoted to the opportunities offered by the new EU programme for research and technological development.

The **Seventh Framework Programme** is made up of **four specific programmes** plus a fifth specific programme on nuclear research. **Cooperation** (Collaborative research) is the programme that finances **international cooperation projects** across the European Union and beyond in **10 thematic areas**, corresponding to major fields in science and research. **Research** will be supported and strengthened to address European social, economic, environmental, public health and industrial challenges, serve the public good and support developing countries.

In this special section, we will describe the main aims and content of the **four specific programmes** of the 7FP, starting with the **thematic areas** of the **Cooperation programme**.

HEALTH (Budget: €6 billion)



The **objective** of the health research programme is to **improve the health of European citizens**, and increase and strengthen the competitiveness and innovative capacity of European health related industries and businesses. Global health issues, like **emerging epidemics**, will also be addressed. European collaboration with **developing countries** will allow those countries to develop research capacities.

Clinical research will tackle a number of diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular, infectious, mental and neurological diseases, and in particular those linked with ageing, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Through international multi-centre trials involving the required number of patients, new drugs and treatments would be developed in a shorter time frame.

European-funded health research will focus on:

- **Biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health**

- High-throughput research
- Detection, diagnosis and monitoring
- Prediction of suitability, safety and efficacy of therapies
- Innovative therapeutic approaches and intervention

- **Translating research for human health**

- Integration of biological data and processes
- Research on the brain and related diseases, human development and ageing
- Translational research in infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, SARS, avian influenza)
- Translational research in major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes/obesity, rare diseases, other chronic diseases including rheumatoid diseases, arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases

- **Optimising the delivery of healthcare to European citizens**

- Translation of clinical outcome into clinical practice
- Quality, efficiency and solidarity of health care systems including transitional health care systems and home care strategies
- Enhanced disease prevention and better use of medicines
- Appropriate use of new health therapies and technologies

➤ **What's the benefit for industry and SMEs:**

Research-based SMEs are the main economic drivers of healthcare, biotechnology and medical technologies. Strong EU-based biomedical research will enhance competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. It is therefore imperative that the EU creates an environment conducive to innovation in the public and private sectors.



www.ec.europa.eu/research



Culture

Irish becomes EU's 23rd official language

Ireland's national language has obtained **official status** in the EU on **1 January 2007**, bringing the total to **23 languages**. Time has come to move from "Ireland Forever" to "Éire go brách" - English is no longer Ireland's only working language in the EU. The move follows an agreement reached in June 2005 to give Irish full official EU language status from 2007.

The new language won't be dealt with in exactly the same way as other official EU languages. EU institutions will not be required to translate all legislation into Irish, mainly for practical reasons.

The addition of Irish will require 29 posts for translation, revision and publication, as well as 450 freelance interpreter-days per year. The annual cost to the EU is estimated at €3.5m.

A census carried out in 2002 revealed that 40% of the Irish population can speak Irish. More than a quarter of those said they spoke it on a daily basis. However, an increasing number of students are opting out of taking high school exams in Irish, a compulsory subject from primary school onwards.

Linguistic diversity remains a key theme in the EU. Other languages spoken in EU countries such as Catalan, Basque and Galician have already been granted semi-official status. They could soon be included, but the costs would probably be covered by the EU country concerned.

Irish is not the only new arrival - **Bulgarian** and **Romanian** also obtained official status on the same day, bringing the number of official languages to 23.

Economy

Slovenia has adopted the Euro

Slovenia is **the first** of the ten countries which joined the EU on 1 May 2004 to adopt the **euro**.

Last June EU leaders acknowledged that Slovenia meets euro-area criteria for public debt, budget deficit, interest rates and inflation. In the first 2 weeks of 2007, Slovenians were allowed to pay both in euro and in tolar banknotes and coins, but the dual circulation period expired on **14 January**. Cash transfer at banks extends until the end of February - the commission-free conversion rate is set at 239.64 Slovenian tolar to the euro.

Slovenian citizens generally welcome the euro - surveys show that more than a third of Slovenians believe the introduction of the euro will be favourable for them, although over a quarter still believe the opposite. The main concerns are possible price rises, irregular rounding-off and a drop in purchasing power.

Last November the Commission pointed out that, despite the progress made since June 2006, Slovenia needs to reassure consumers that the conversion rate will be respected and the changeover period will not be used to increase prices abusively.

The 2006 convergence report, a regular two-yearly analysis of movement towards meeting the conditions for the adoption of the euro, **shows uneven progress** in the **Czech Republic**, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden. Lithuania meets all the convergence criteria except for inflation, its only obstacle to the adoption of the euro.

Find out more about the benefits of the single currency by visiting:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/benefits/benefits_main_en.htm

Finance and tax

Growth and prosperity at the centre of EU budget for 2007



€54.9bn has been set aside to promote sustainable growth, with funding for competitiveness and innovation up by 53.6% on last year. Competitiveness as a whole will be boosted by €9.4bn for research, lifelong learning, energy and transport and the social policy agenda.

The biggest slice of the **budget** (€56.3bn) goes to natural resources, to cover environment, rural development and agriculture. €6.8bn has been earmarked for work beyond the EU's borders - development cooperation, the European neighbourhood policy and assistance to prospective member countries.

EU administration will receive €6.9bn, or around €0.05 per euro spent from the budget.

This budget "should pave the way to further modernisation of EU finances", said the commissioner for financial programming and budget, **Dalia Grybauskaitė**.



Calls' Agenda

Audiovisual and Media	Deadline	Link
<p>Media 2007 Development, distribution and promotion Call for proposals — EACEA No 16/06 Implementation of a programme to encourage the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works — Support for the development of production projects (MEDIA New Talent, single projects and slate funding) MEDIA 2007 — Development, distribution promotion and training</p>	<p>12.02.2007 16.04.2007</p>	<p>OJ C2006 320</p>
<p>Media 2007 Development, distribution promotion and training Call for proposals — EACEA No 18/06 — Training</p>	<p>09.03.2007</p>	<p>OJ C2006 320</p>
Research	Deadline	Link
7FP : Calls for proposals for the four Programmes		
Programme Cooperation	Various	<p>FP7-AAT-2007-RTD-1, FP7-AAT-2007-TREN-1, FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD, FP7-ENERGY-2007-2-TREN, FP7-ENV-2007-1, FP7-ERANET-2007-RTD, FP7-ERARESORG-2007-1-RTD, FP7-HEALTH-2007-A, FP7-ICT-2007-1, FP7-ICT-2007-C, FP7-KBBE-2007-1, FP7-NMP-2007-CSA-1, FP7-NMP-2007-LARGE-1, FP7-NMP-2007-SMALL-1, FP7-NMP-2007-SME-1, FP7-SEC-2007-1, FP7-SPACE-2007-1, FP7-SSH-2007-1, FP7-SST-2007-RTD-1, FP7-SST-2007-TREN-1, FP7-TPT-2007-RTD-1</p>
Programme Ideas	Various	ERC-2007-StG
Programme People	Various	<p>FP7-PEOPLE-2007-1-1-ITN, FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-2-ERG, FP7-PEOPLE-2007-4-3-IRG, FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-1-1-NIGHT, FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-2-AWARDS</p>
Programme Capacities	Various	<p>FP7-INCO-2007-1, FP7-INCO-2007-4, FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-1, FP7-REGIONS-2007-1, FP7-REGIONS-2007-2, FP7-REGIONS-2007-3, FP7-REGPOT-2007-1, FP7-REGPOT-2007-2, FP7-REGPOT-2007-3, FP7-REGPOT-2007-4, FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2007-1, FP7-SME-2007-1, FP7-SME-2007-2</p>
Education and Culture	Deadline	Link
<p>Culture programme (2007–2013) Organisation and implementation of an annual EU prize scheme in the field of cultural heritage Conditional Call for proposals — DG EAC No 55/06</p>	<p>28.02.2007</p>	<p>OJ C270.06</p>
New calls		

Events of the Months

Meeting	Conference	Conference
17.01.07 Strasbourg	18.01.07 Berlin	30.-31.01.07 Berlin
		
Presidency Programme by Federal Chancellor Merkel <i>EP Plenary - German Presidency Strasbourg</i>	International Green Week Opening Event <i>Agriculture and Environment Exhibitions and Conferences Berlin</i>	Kick-off Event for the Year of Equal Opportunities for All <i>EC - German Presidency Berlin</i>

Job Vacancies

European Investment Bank	New Products Specialist Finance Directorate (FI) - Treasury Department (TRES) Financial Engineering and Advisory Services (IFSC) Ref. no: FI06WWW0
European Investment Bank	Project Finance Portfolio Manager Financial Monitoring & Restructuring Team Risk Management Tasks Ref. No: RM06WWW21

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What's on in the Next Number

The Programme of the German Presidency: priorities and expected results.



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