



National Contact Point for the 6th Framework Programme for Research

The National Documentation Centre (EKT) operates as a National Contact Point for the 6th Framework Programme (FP6) - the main funding source of the European Commission for research for the period 2002-2006 - in order to enhance the competitiveness and the technological development of the country.

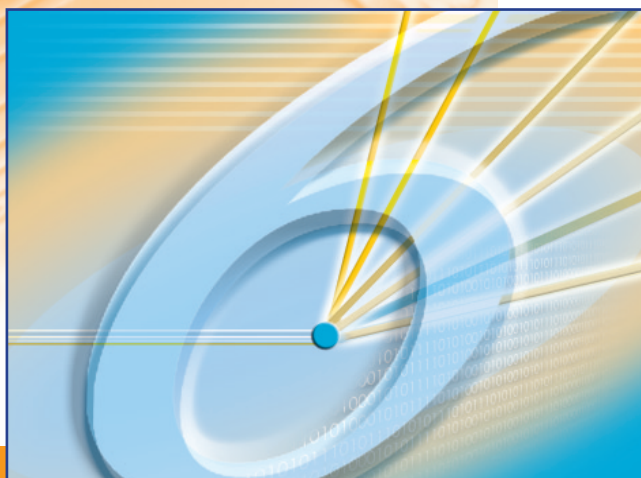
Specifically, EKT acts as National Contact Point (NCP) for the following FP6 thematic priorities and specific activities:

A. Thematic Priorities

- Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health
- Information Society Technologies (IST)
- Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society

B. Specific Activities

- Research infrastructures
- Marie Curie Actions - Human resources and mobility
- Research and Innovation
- Science and Society
- New and emerging science and technologies (NEST)



Mission & Objectives

The National Documentation Centre aims to increase Greece's overall participation in FP6 by creating awareness among potential applicants and by providing assistance and support in the submission of proposals. EKT's goals as an NCP include:

- Assisting Greek entities to exploit the competitive programmes of the European Commission
- Supporting Greek entities to establish transnational research partnerships
- Promoting entrepreneurship among the research and academic community
- Increasing the participation of the private sector in research programmes and hence in research funding.

EKT provides information, consulting services and support to entities interested in participating in the Programme (universities, research institutions, enterprises, public and private bodies, technology dissemination bodies, individuals) for the submission of proposals, and particularly for topics related to:

- the conditions for participation
- the opportunities and the modalities for the submission of proposals
- partner search activities and the creation of consortia
- the instruments
- the administrative procedures
- contractual issues
- communication with the European Commission and other Community services and networks
- funding opportunities.

In order to effectively support the national participation in the Programme, EKT exploits the range of its information sources, the experience gained from its participation in European networks and the cooperation with bodies involved in the research-innovation-technology-market chain. At the same time, EKT collaborates closely with the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, the European Commission and the National Contact Points of other European countries.

Activities

The above objectives are realised by:

Designing/developing a website (www.ekt.gr/ncpfp6) including the following sections for each thematic priority/specific activity of the 6th Framework Programme:

- the scope, the modalities and the research areas
- the whole spectrum of instruments (traditional and new)
- the calls for proposals
- information material – presentations
- partner searches for the development of consortia
- the conditions for participation and the evaluation criteria
- approved projects (including statistical data on national participation)
- news & events.

The website is updated with information from CORDIS, the European Commission's Community Research, Development and Innovation Information Service, as well as other national and European sources of information.

Providing consultancy services to assist in partner search activities and to inform about funding opportunities and rules for participation, contractual issues, eligibility of costs, rights and obligations of contractors, procedures for the submission and evaluation of proposals.

Operating a Helpdesk providing information material and guides for FP6 and responding to general questions on upcoming and current calls for proposals.

Disseminating information material, mainly via electronic means (e-mail, e-newsletter, WWW), to specific target groups.

Organising events (information days, workshops, seminars, conferences) on specific issues (funding of projects, preparation of contracts, Intellectual Property Rights, etc) or for specific target groups (SMEs, universities, professional organisations, women in science, etc), with the participation of representatives of the European Commission and the Member States.

Signposting, when necessary, to the competent Directorate General of the European Commission and to other Community network services, such as the Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs), the European Information Centres (EICs) and the IPR-Helpdesk.

Monitoring the national participation through the publication of statistical data, analytical information and indicators for the participation of Greek bodies in FP6.