

Terms of Reference

Version 1.0 - January 2007

Background & Rationale

The Governing Council of the European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing (Textile ETP) decided in October 2006 to organise a centralised Project Proposal Information Exchange System in order support and facilitate the preparation of relevant and competitive collaborative textile and clothing research projects in response of relevant calls for proposals of the EU's 7th Framework Programme (FP7). This system should help coordinating project preparation efforts of Europe's fragmented textile-clothing industry and research community, facilitating the search for partners and relevant expertise while at the same time ensuring necessary confidentiality and protection intellectual property of all participants in the system.

Objectives

- Initiate & professionally manage collaborative R&D projects to make progress on the research priorities identified in the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of the Textile ETP.
- Make use of all funding opportunities provided by European programmes, try to have a leverage effect on national/regional programmes.
- Enable the Governing Council to monitor the Implementation Process and to take timely corrective action when necessary.
- Enable the Technology Platform to report SRA implementation progress to the EC when requested.
- Make sure that project results are effectively transferred to industry.

Principles

- A transparent, equal and understandable scheme for all.
- Favouring bottom-up project initiation by (small) industry-research partnerships
- Assurance of necessary confidentiality and protection of intellectual property of project proposers.
- Project proposers are entirely responsible for content and quality of their proposals and set-up of project consortia. The Textile ETP may make recommendations, but cannot enforce changes or even stop project under preparation.
- A light but centralised information exchange system at minimum extra workload for all involved.

Added Value of the System

Short-term benefits:

Project proposers/consortia participating in the information exchange system may find crucial expertise and additional partners from all across Europe which they would otherwise be unable to identify.

Project proposers returning a complete Expression of Interest (EoI) form within the specified deadline of a TEPPIES call will be granted the permission to include, at an appropriate place of their proposal document, a phrase which highlights their participation in the information exchange system organised by the Textile ETP. (The exact formulation of this statement will be communicated directly to all respondents).

With good advance knowledge of the expected number and focus areas of textile research proposals being prepared for submission, the Textile ETP Secretariat may provide crucial information to the EC ahead of the evaluation exercise. This in turn could help the EC to prepare the evaluation procedure accordingly, inviting the right type and number of evaluators which should have a positive effect on evaluation results.

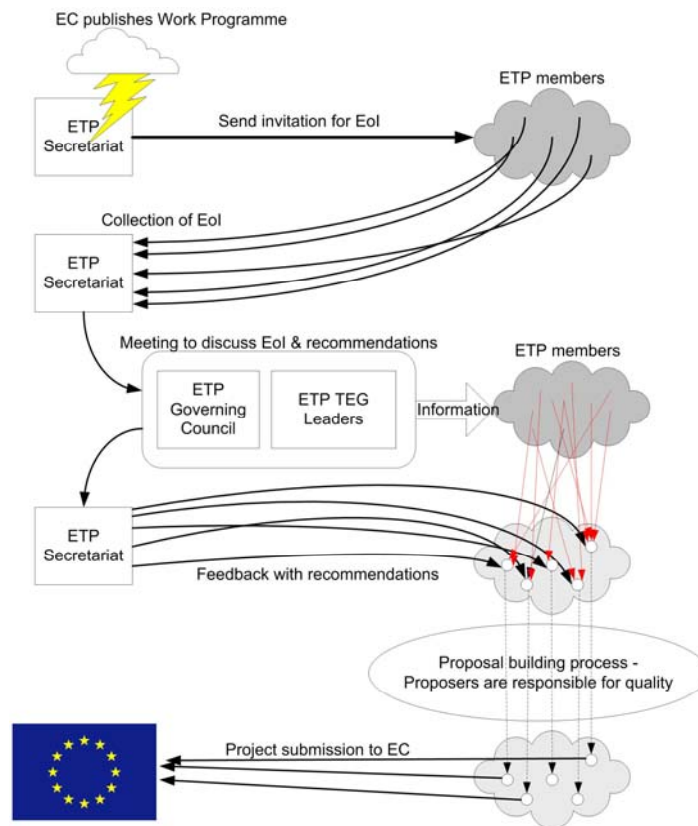
Long term benefits:

The result of the organisation of the information exchange system will be a better coordination of the response to relevant FP7 calls by the textile-clothing research community reducing the fragmentation and related negative image from which this sector and its research project proposals have traditionally suffered.

A well functioning system with a very high participation rate would enhance the profile of the Textile ETP and the overall image of textile-clothing research in Europe. This would strengthen the EC's conviction that it is well worth to continue allocating public monies to research in this sector leading to many textile-specific project calls throughout FP7.

Failure to make the system work however could damage the profile of the Textile ETP and the believe in our ability to effectively implement the ambitious SRA published in 2006, leading to reduction in public research funds allocated to this sector.

Functioning of the System



Step-by-step:

1. As soon as the ETP Secretariat (Euratex) receives reliable information of content and timing of upcoming textile-related FP7 funding opportunities it sends information to all registered ETP experts and asks for submission of expressions of interest (EoI) from organisations/consortia which intend to prepare a project proposal (use of standard EoI template).
2. The non-confidential EoI (short, non-technical project objectives + contact information of the proposer + possible search for additional partners) is returned to the ETP secretariat
3. The ETP secretariat provides the full set of EoI to the Governing Council and TEG Leaders for comment and sends it to all ETP experts for information (possibly in a more condensed format)
4. Following comment from Governing Council and TEG leaders, the ETP secretariat provides feedback (recommendations) to EoI proposers. At the same time, in response of an indicated partner search, individual ETP experts may contact project proposers directly to inquire about participation opportunities
5. Proposers finalise their project proposals taking into account (or not) recommendations of the ETP and decide about involvement of further ETP members
6. Project proposal are submitted to the EC and a confirmation of submission is sent to the ETP secretariat
7. After proposal evaluation by the EC and information of proposers about the success or failure of their proposals, the ETP together with the EC will analyse overall results and take lessons learned into account for subsequent programme calls

Critical Points

- Confidentiality requirements of proposers, especially involved industry, have to be satisfied.
- The system will only work if the vast majority of project proposers use it.
- Project proposers must see more advantages than risks in using this system.
- Key organisations like Euratex, Textranet and AUTEX should explain the system to their members and strongly recommend the use of it.
- Governing Council members and other ETP experts can give the right example by insisting on the use of the system in all proposal in which they might be involved.

Contact

For any questions or comments on TEPPIES or the provisions of this 'Terms of Reference' document please contact:

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