

# Funding opportunities in defence of man and the environment within the "INTAS Call 2001"

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## Introduction

Whilst it is undoubtedly true that the advent of the chemical industry in the 19th century brought many benefits to mankind, we now know that from time to time some of the products upon which we once relied can be harmful to both man and the environment. In some cases their effects are short lived whilst in others, such as CFCs, DDT and PCBs, they may be with us for a very long time and reach far beyond those who initially used the products. Moreover, what was once thought to be a safe exposure may later be shown not to be the case due to accumulation over time in vital organs or other reasons.

It is against this background that Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union now together face the problem of how to deal with both stocks and residues of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals which once were thought to be essential but now are known to pose a threat. INTAS is able to help by funding collaborative research into all aspects of these problems as well as networks dedicated towards the exchange of information and the development of future activities. However, its Statutes state that projects can only be funded as a result of an open competition in which all proposals received are peer reviewed by external experts. Fortunately in 2001 INTAS's Open Call for research projects and networks is centred on the environment, ecology and life sciences giving a unique opportunity to address the threats posed by unwanted pesticides as well as the means for their disposal. Moreover, one of the two new thematic Calls of the INTAS Call 2001, is focusing on the "Polluted environment". The call is intended to give support to high quality, innovative, and interdisciplinary international research projects covering different aspects of research and development in new approaches to clean the environment and prevent pollution. The proposals must be relevant to the current conditions in the NIS and target one or more of the following aspects:

- New or improved methods for the detection and monitoring of pollutants
- Risk assessment
- Innovative techniques for hazardous waste disposal
- New or improved methods to clean-up pollutants in soil, water and air
- Novel techniques & methods for the prevention of pollution of the environment
- Research into the social aspects and economics of environmental management

## Types of proposal

Details of the Call 2001 are given in the INTAS information package, which may be downloaded from URL://www.intas.be or obtained directly from INTAS by

Email: intas@intas.be, telephone (+32,2 549 0111) or fax (+32 2 549 0156).

To be eligible, research proposals must include institutes, universities or companies from a minimum of two different INTAS Member States<sup>1</sup> plus at least two from the partner countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU), although the latter may be from the same country. The maximum funding available is equal to 30,000 Euro multiplied by the number of FSU participants subject to an upper ceiling of 150,000 Euro. A maximum of 20% of the funding is available for the institutes from the INTAS Member States for use at their discretion. The remainder is for the FSU partners for labour, equipment, consumables, travel and overheads.

Network proposals are intended to facilitate communication and the exchange of information and ideas with individual participants funding their own research from other sources. In this case there should be a minimum of 3 partners from different INTAS Member States plus at least 6 partners from the FSU countries. The maximum funding of is 10,000 Euro multiplied by the number of FSU countries, is essentially for co-ordination and travel.

It should be noted that there is nothing to stop those with research projects funded by INTAS applying also for a Network grant.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the European Community

## How to make a proposal?

Proposals may be prepared and submitted two different ways. The preferred means is by Internet. Under this scheme the co-ordinator enters the proposal zone of the INTAS website and asks for a log-in and password to be sent to him/her by e-mail. Upon receipt of this he/she gives it to the partners who can then prepare the proposal on the site by down loading and up loading one another's contributions. When the proposal is ready the co-ordinator submits it and fulfils certain easy formalities.

The second method involves the preparation of the proposal on a diskette that can either be provided by INTAS or downloaded from its website. The format of this diskette and that of the Internet system of submission are identical. Having collected the individual partners contribution the co-ordinator sends the diskette plus a printout of it to INTAS before the closure of the call, in this case the 28 September 2001.

## Timescales

The evaluation of the proposals should be finished by the end of 2001 with funding decisions being announced before the end of January in time for projects to start in March and April 2002.

## Closing remarks

INTAS would welcome the opportunity to finance projects of importance to both man and the environment such as those being discussed at the meeting. It would also welcome new experts to evaluate proposal. Those who are interested should log-on to experts on, the site URL://www.intas.be