

Brief Report

NCP Name	Johan Eksteen
Title of event	NCP Meeting December 2007
Country	Brussels
Date	13 December 2007,
SA Participant:	<p>Segopotso Moshapo (Assistant NCP)</p> <p>Segopotso also attended the Digital Libraries and Technology Enhanced Learning Info Days in Luxembourg on the 17th and 18th December 2007.</p>
Purpose	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Call 3 of the ICT Work Programme 2007-2008 to the NCP.</p> <p>Officers from the Commission presented in detail the objectives which are open for proposals in Call 3.</p> <p>Feedback about developments in Calls 1 and 2 was also provided.</p>
Observations	<p>Two presentations were made about the management of Calls for the ICT Work Programme 2007-2008. The following are highlights from these presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Redress procedure for Call 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Redress procedure is designed to correct the Commission mismanagement of the evaluation of a proposal. It is not a forum for proposers to express their disagreement with opinions of the experts. ○ Proposers with questions about their evaluation result should get in touch with the contact person named in their ESR covering letter. 2. ICT Call 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The following are new in ICT Call 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Pre-proposal check service is available for all objectives.</i> This service is for making a quick check with the Commission officers whether a proposal is in line with the chosen call objective. ▪ <i>Remote reading of all objectives.</i> Evaluators will be able to read proposals before going to Brussels for collective evaluation. This means evaluators will have more time to scrutinize proposals. ▪ Call 3 is open since 04 December 2007 until 08 April 2008 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time), see information at the following link: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=109 ○ ICT Call 3 has three areas that were previously open in ICT Call 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>ICT-2007.2.2 (ICT-2007.2.1): Cognitive systems, interaction, robotics;</i> ▪ <i>ICT-2007.4.3 (ICT-2007.4.1): Digital Libraries and technology enhanced learning;</i> ▪ <i>ICT-2007.4.4 (ICT-2007.4.2) Intelligent Content & Semantics.</i> ▪ For these objectives the Commission advises that proposers should not re-submit their Call 1 proposal or rewrite and re-submit. ▪ With regard to ICT International Cooperation (ICT-2007.9.1), Call 1 was

targeted at Africa-Caribbean-Pacific countries. In Call 3 this objective is targeted at Eastern Europe, Central Asia, West Balkans, Mediterranean Partner countries and Latin America. This excludes Africa.

3. Commission officers presented background information and advice about the following objectives which are open for proposals in Call 3. (For Digital Libraries and Technology-enhanced Learning I have included highlight observations from the information days).
 - Objective ICT-2007.2.1 (ICT-2007.2.2): Cognitive Systems Interaction, Robotics
 - With regard to IPs and STREPs there are three areas which proposals may address (i.e. robots, monitoring and control and multimodal interfaces). Proposers are advised to **focus on one**.
 - The key research question for this area is: how should systems pertaining to these areas be designed and built so that they are more robust, flexible, effective, natural and where necessary or desirable, safer and more autonomous than what is currently possible today?
 - Amongst other contributions, projects are requested to contribute to the development of criteria for benchmarking system properties such as robustness, scalability and adaptability, make them public and compare with others.
 - Particularly with regard to robotics, proposers are reminded that the emphasis should be on *integration of complete systems* when address the key research question.
 - Some “mythbusting” advice from this presentation was as follows: *industrial participation* – is not a requirement. *Presence of one or more SME* – is not a must or a de facto plus point. It is more important to state a clear role for each partner (e.g. industrial partners should indicate how they will exploit results).
 - Important links for this objective: <http://www.cognitive-systems.eu>; <http://www.eucognition.org> ; <http://www.roboticsplatform.com> ;
 - Contact person: Colette.Maloney@ec.europa.eu
 - Intelligent Content in FP7 3rd ICT Call
 - This objective is about making digital resources that embody creativity and semantics; easier and more cost effective to produce, organise, search, personalise, distribute and use across the value chain.
 - Overall approach for projects in the objective should *research for a purpose* (problem and objective centred).
 - Guidance for proposers is as follows
 - Analyse Call 1 submissions (synopses of successful proposals)
 - Commission Officers will handle inquiries about alignment of proposals with objective until mid-March
 - Read the *Call Guidance Notes* (http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/kct/fp7_call_3.htm) as these should assist with identification of gaps and requirements after Call 1.
 - Reading both the WP and the Call Guidance carefully before delineating a proposal is advised.
 - With regard to *Advanced Authoring* Call 3 is focused on supporting creative processes and experimentation for personal or professional use.
 - With regard to *Collaborative Workflow* focus is on *flexible* and *robust*

- solutions that are likely to be adopted by the *multi media industry*.
- With regard to *Personalised Distribution & Presentation* emphasis will be on *mobile environments* and *location based services*.
 - When it comes to *Knowledge Systems* focus is on *decision support* (industry, business, science, health, etc.) and *collaboration* (enterprises, communities).
- FET – Proactive (Future and Emerging Technologies): *Embodied Intelligence*
 - The rationale and objectives for embodied intelligence research is about new technologies and design approaches for building physically embodied intelligent agents and artifacts, with emphasis on the relationship between shape, function and the physical and social environment.
 - Projects should focus on one or several of the following:
 - Mind-Body Co-development and Co-Evolution
 - Morphology and Behaviour
 - Design for Emergence
 - The research is expected to advance the state of the art in intelligent systems and in particular in robotics and ICT, as well as in other disciplines (e.g. neuroscience, sociology, biology).
 - Important reference: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/fet-proactive/embodi_en.html
 - FET – Proactive (Future and Emerging Technologies): *ICT Forever Yours*
 - The rationale and objectives for ICT Forever Yours research is about the observation that “mass diffusion of digital systems and their pervasiveness in our everyday lives increases our expectations on the dependability, security and longevity of these systems”. Such that this requires new built-in mechanisms for: enhancing confidence in their usage; preserving them from the threat of ageing; and protecting them from malicious intents, in the context of highly decentralized and incremental development and deployment practices.
 - Projects should focus on one or several of the following:
 - Eternal Systems (self-sustaining, evolving, minimal intervention, future-proof)
 - Knowledge, diversity and time (exploiting locally maintained knowledge and building on external knowledge)
 - Secure and dependable software (secure programming, assessability in context)
 - Research is expected to contribute to the design of systems which are versatile in their interaction with modules, systems, services in their environment.
 - Important reference: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/fet-proactive/ictfy_en.html
 - FET – Proactive (Future and Emerging Technologies): *Science of Complex Systems for Socially Intelligent ICT*
 - The rationale for Science of Complex Systems for Socially Intelligent ICT is about the observation that, “today’s ICT systems facilitate, enable and transform human relations forming techno-social communities. We do not understand these techno-social networks and their web of cause/effect. How do we engineer them to achieve socially beneficial and intelligent outcomes?”
 - Research objective sentail:

- Key concepts and tools for a data-intensive science of large scale techno-social systems,
 - Systematic means to model, predict and characterise the behaviour, dynamics and evolution of these systems
 - Demonstration of the use of this understanding in novel paradigms and designs for socially intelligent ICT.
 - Research is expected to focus on integration of the following topics:
 - Theoretical and algorithmic foundations
 - Data-driven simulation
 - Prediction and predictability
 - Important references: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/fet-proactive/cosict_en.html; ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/fet-proactive/cosict-ws-oct07-02_en.pdf
4. Digital Libraries and Technology Enhanced Learning (17 and 18 December Info Day, Luxembourg)
- Proposers were reminded that the WP defines four distinct outcomes:
 - Digital Libraries:
 - a) Medium term: *Large-scale European-wide digital libraries* of cultural and scientific multi-format and multi-source digital objects to assist communities of practice in the creative use of content in multilingual and multidisciplinary contexts
 - b) Long term: *Radically new approaches to digital preservation* such as those inspired by human capacity to deal with information and knowledge, exploring the potential of advanced ICT to automatically act on high volumes and dynamic and volatile digital content, guaranteeing its preservation, keeping track of its evolving semantics and usage context and safeguarding its integrity, authenticity and long term accessibility over time.
 - Technology Enhanced Learning:
 - c) Medium term: Responsive environments for technology-enhanced learning
 - d) Long term: Adaptive and intuitive learning systems
 - The timelines refer to take up of proposed solutions by market, where Medium term is 3 – 7 years and Long term is 5 – 10 years.
 - Potential proposers are advised to consult the presentations on at this link: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/telearn-digicult/call3-infodays_en.html
 - It is particularly important to adhere to the advice presented in the slides “How to fail... And How to Improve Your Chances of success”

Way Forward

Potential Proposers are welcome to contact Johan Eksteen and Segopotso Moshapo with queries about submitting proposals to any of the objectives that are open in Call 3, at ict.ncp@esastap.org.za.