

CERC3 INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH IN CHEMISTRY

Stipulation

1. The EU co-ordinates basic research activity primarily through the networks and fellowships activities of the RTD Framework Programmes. However this represents a small fraction of national EU research budgets, and does not cover research project costs. It is unlikely that Framework Programme funds for basic science, except through network and fellowship activities, will be significant. COST also co-ordinates research in areas of national priorities among the COST-member states, but provides resources only for co-ordination cost: project costs are obtained from national sources.
2. CERC3 wishes to stimulate and encourage a few small-scale collaborative programmes in chemistry among the Research Councils in the EU countries based on common themes among the individual national priorities. A small exploratory networking (brainstorming) workshop would be held for each Programme area to identify future research opportunities and promote the Formation of transnational research teams to focus on specific research problems. Encouragement would be given to the preparation of multinational (practicalities suggest two or three countries, but not more than five countries) research proposals, initially through expressions of interest in the form of two-page outline proposals. These, and the full and costed research proposals, would be submitted to the appropriate Research Councils to consider co-ordinated funding for the aspects of the research planned to be conducted in their countries. Each research team should identify a project leader whose role and responsibilities should be described in the proposal; these are expected to include co-ordinating progress and liaising as appropriate with the Research Councils. The proposers should also identify in the proposal the name and contact details (including email address) of an administrator in each appropriate Research Council. Assessment will be by peer review in competition with other national projects, and funding by any or all Research Councils cannot therefore be assured.
3. Brainstorming Workshop topics and organisers are selected by CERC3. The workshop organiser is responsible for:
 - ☆ Fixing the workshop dates (two days should be sufficient) and make arrangements for the venue and accommodation, which should be within easy reach of an international airport;
 - ☆ Preparing a note on the aims, objectives and scope of the workshop in collaboration with a member of CERC3, for circulation to all national CERC3 members;
 - ☆ Liaising with the national CERC3 members as appropriate over his/her personal selection of scientists in EU countries using his/her own contacts and knowledge of the community, with the aim of bringing together a group of scientists whose research interests and expertise will generate the necessary and ideal coherence for a successful networking workshop;

- ☆ Inviting a maximum of 50 workshop participants from personal selections and any additional nominations made by the CERC3 research councils, in broadly relative to the population of each country, indicating to participants that they should make the necessary arrangements to obtain travelling funds to attend the workshop from their national research council or other source(s);
- ☆ Inviting the Chairman of CERC3 to arrange for up to three CERC3 members to act as observers to ensure feedback to the plenary CERC3;
- ☆ Publishing a report of the workshop on the Internet for research councils to disseminate to their national science communities.

4. CERC3 members are responsible for:

- ☆ Liaising with their national research council over the approval of the invited participants, and for ensuring a clarification of sources of travel funding for participants to attend the workshop;
- ☆ Liaising with the workshop organiser.

5. The CERC3 initiative requires a commitment of the CERC3 Research Councils to work together. To assist this process, a number of principles which should govern the cooperation between the Research Councils have been formulated (see: General Principles governing research council co-operation)

