

CEC, Framework 6 and INTA

Peter T. Kirstein

15 February 2003

1 Purpose of this Note

The European Commission (CEC) has a number of activities targeted at international collaboration. This note is designed to make the SILK Board and the STF aware of those aspects of these initiatives, since they may provide additional funding for the activities of the Silk Project and related activities in the countries that they support. The purpose is not to give a definitive account of the activities, it is to give a starting point on where interested readers might find more information.

2 The nature of the programmes

There are a number of international activities of the European Commission in the context of the Framework 6 project. The general web page is:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/>

We are interested mainly in the Information Science and Technology (IST) programme. Here the Silk countries could come into several categories.

The only Silk country with which there is a direct IST collaboration agreement is Kazakhstan; such countries have an automatic right to participate in IST programmes – with any costs normally falling to that country. The US, China, India and Canada are other examples of countries in that category. In general, participation with payment from the EC is not easy.

There is a specific provision in the programme for third country participation from the NIS countries. This should be funded at the rate of 315M E. As far as I can see, this will be handled by INTAS for the Silk countries see <http://www.intas.be/>. At present there are no funds to be bid for; it is expected to have a Call for several of their programmes in March 2003. In general, they run a summer school, provide money for helping to run conferences (5K – 8K E). They also provide travel grants for partners like those from the Silk countries. They have also an infrastructure programme, which has, for example, paid for specific projects at up to about 50K E. Under Framework 5, they started an Electronic Library project for some countries; this would allow Internet access to various document and journal resources. All their funding is on hold until after their “Call for Proposals”.

I gave a talk on the Silk Project to a group of NIS country representatives in November. Here the journal access project was mentioned. There was considerable interest in using the Silk Network; this may be an additional source of funding. It is likely, however, that this may require some technical work on security – particularly in the context of the Web caches -see <http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm>. This call is now closed, and is being evaluated. No other calls are open at present, but this will soon change.

There is a National office for INTAS in each Silk country. The Silk Project uses should be encouraged to enquire further about this funding.

