
Appendix 2

Questionnaire to Provide Feedback on Consultation Paper

EU Framework Programme Consultation
Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation
c/o Forfás
Wilton Park House
Wilton Place
Dublin 2

Questionnaire to Provide Feedback on ICSTI FP7 Consultation

Name:	Dr. Sheila Gilheany, Policy Officer
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Organisation:	Institute of Physics in Ireland
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Please indicate if you are responding in personal capacity or on behalf of an organization

Personal Response

Organisation Response

1. Do you agree with the general assessment of the role and contribution of Framework Programme as set out in this document?

There is broad agreement with the assessment and issues raised in the document. The Institute of Physics in Ireland, though, would like to particularly highlight the need for strong support for Basic Research. High quality Irish Physics research teams are currently working in a wide range of areas including, Photonics, Sensors, Biophysics, Astrophysics, Nanotechnology, Plasma Physics, Medical Imaging, Atmospheric Physics. Continued advances in these areas can only be gained through strong financial support. It is also imperative that grants are made on a full economic cost basis and that both the application procedure and management of successful projects is simplified.

There is also strong agreement with the Marimon Recommendations on New Instruments for funding.

2. In your opinion, is there a good fit between the EU Framework Programme and national policy on research and development? In what ways could the fit be improved?

There is a reasonably good fit between the FP and national policy in terms of the areas of research, which are strongly supported in both funding programmes. However, there is a need to achieve a balance between support for biological sciences and that of the physical sciences. Many of the advances in areas of Basic Physics Research listed above provide the underpinning of advances in Biotechnology and ICT.

3. What is your general reaction to the summary Irish position presented in Section 2.3?

There is broad agreement with this summary particularly in relation to the use of STREPS as the main funding instrument and in providing additional support for emerging research groups

– e.g. through bonus points for the inclusion of such groups in a consortium. It must be emphasised that new fields of research will only be opened up if support is available.

Questions on the Proposed Six Pillars

4. Do you agree with the emerging Irish position on the collaborative research pillar?				
Strongly Agree 5	4 x	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
5. Are there issues relating to this pillar which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?				
The continuation of collaborative research is essential. However there is also a need to have a range of funding instruments which allow for some individual research areas. This is particularly the case in relation to new and emerging areas in basic research where researchers may not be in the position to have built up extensive collaborations.				

6. Do you agree with the emerging Irish position on the technology platforms pillar?				
Strongly Agree 5	4x	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
7. Are there issues relating to this pillar which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?				
Technology platforms are a good idea given that the broad thrust of FP7 is to make the EU the most competitive economy in the world. It is essential though, that a broad range of platforms should be identified and supported with both small and large-scale projects assisted in order to prevent FP7 funding becoming merely a support to large industry. It will be important for the Commission to address the issue of intellectual property rights vis a vis industry and academics by putting in a place a clear framework which allows all parties to understand the basis on which results will be used.				

8. Do you agree with the emerging Irish position on the excellence in basic research pillar?				
Strongly Agree 5	4x	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1

9. Are there issues relating to this pillar which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?

It is essential that the physical sciences and engineering basic research be weighted on an equal basis with the biological and health sciences. Continued advances in the latter which have been strongly supported in FP6 and in Ireland through SFI can only be underpinned by the physical sciences and engineering.

It is equally important that there is a broad range of subject areas covered by the basic research pillar. If subject areas are too narrowly defined many potentially innovative ideas will be lost.

It is important that grants should cover the full economic cost of the project including technical and administrative support at 100% level.

10. Do you agree with the emerging Irish position on the **mobility and training** pillar?

Strongly Agree 5x	4	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
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11. Are there issues relating to this pillar which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?

The Marie Curie programme has been an excellent tool for supporting mobility and training.

12. Do you agree with the emerging Irish position on the **research infrastructures** pillar?

Strongly Agree 5	4x	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
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13. Are there issues relating to this pillar which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?

Access to infrastructure is vital – i.e. important to have the emphasis on individual research groups across EU having access to large labs/facilities as opposed to duplicating infrastructure.

Questions to Consider:

14. Do you agree with the emerging Irish position on the **co-ordination of national programmes** pillar?

Strongly Agree 5	4x	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
<p>15. Are there issues relating to this pillar which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?</p> <p>It is clearly important to co-ordinate national research programmes across Europe in order to avoid duplication of effort. However, there is a danger that in focusing on research areas which have already been supported by the individual member states that Basic Research in other fields will become isolated.</p>				

Questions on Horizontal Issues

<p>16. Do you agree with the views expressed in this document about re-balancing FP7 in favour of “traditional” instruments (STREPs etc.)?</p>				
Strongly Agree 5x	4	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
<p>17. Are there specific issues about the use of “new” and “traditional” instruments that need to feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?</p> <p>It is important that the application procedures for all instruments should be streamlined and in addition that the management of successful projects is simplified.</p>				
<p>18. Do you agree with the views expressed in this document about encouraging greater industry participation in Framework Programme?</p>				
Strongly Agree 5	4x	3	2	Strongly Disagree 1
<p>19. Are there specific issues about industry participation that need to feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?</p> <p>Greater industry participation is clearly to be welcomed but it should not be forgotten that industry is unlikely to participate in Basic Research and so there should be weighting in funding priorities to take this into account.</p>				
<p>20. Are there other comments that you wish to make about general/horizontal issues not captured adequately in this consultation paper?</p>				

Questions Relating to Thematic Priorities

Indicate which thematic area you are commenting on: 5.9 European Space Research Programme

21. Do you agree with the assessment of this thematic area presented in this paper and the suggestions for FP7?

Strongly Agree 5	4	3x	2	Strongly Disagree 1
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22. Are there other issues relating to this thematic area which you feel should feature more prominently in an Irish position paper?

Scientific activities in space are among the most fundamental of all sciences and as such understanding in this area leads directly to developments in all other sciences. Hence the IOPI would strongly support a distinct Space Research Programme. This is reflected in the number of research groups throughout Ireland who are involved in Space research, including those at University College Dublin, University College Cork, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, Trinity College Dublin. In addition, Space research is a strong component of research activity in N. Ireland at Queen’s University Belfast and the Armagh Observatory. Since European funding strongly supports collaborative activity across borders, Ireland is in an ideal position to lever funding in this specific area. In addition astronomy is seen as one of the most attractive areas of science to young people. Irish universities which are active in research in this area are in a strong position to attract young people towards careers in science and technology which is a high priority for Ireland.

23. In general, do you agree with the ideas on thematic priorities presented in this paper and the proposal for FP6 thematic priorities to be carried forward with some amendments to FP7? Please elaborate and provide a rationale if you wish to propose new subject areas.

The IOPI would broadly agree with the thematic priorities presented and for the proposal that the priorities from FP6 should be carried forward through to FP7 and would particularly welcome the introduction of a distinct Space Research Programme.

24. Are there any other comments you wish to make about the design of FP7 and/or Ireland's participation in FP7 which have not been addressed adequately in this consultation paper?

Thank you for participating in this consultation. Completed questionnaires should be returned to Marcus Breathnach in Forfás preferably via e-mail (framework@forfas.ie) or otherwise in hardcopy to:

EU Framework Programme Consultation
Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation
c/o Forfás
Wilton Park House
Wilton Place
Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6073050
Fax: 01-6073260
Web: www.forfas.ie/icsti/fp7/