



COMPETITIVE CALL FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECT PARTNERS

Project contract number:	CIT4-CT-2006-028698
Project acronym:	RECON
Project full name:	Reconstituting Democracy in Europe
Instrument type:	Integrated project
Call identifier:	RECON-CC-2008
Language of the proposal:	English
Date of close of call:	16 January 2008
Time of close of call:	17h00 Brussels time

Further information (call web page):

<http://www.reconproject.eu/projectweb/portalproject/CompetitiveCallNewRECONPartners.html>

Mail address for further information (RECON Project Helpdesk): [admin\(at\)reconproject.eu](mailto:admin(at)reconproject.eu)

INTRODUCTION

RECON – Reconstituting Democracy in Europe – is a currently active Integrated Project (IP) in the *Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European research area and to innovation (2002-2006)*, priority 7, ‘Citizens and Governance in a knowledge-based society’. RECON requires the participation of new project partners to strengthen specific research fields and to carry out certain tasks within the project.

RECON seeks to clarify whether democracy is possible under conditions of pluralism, diversity and complex multilevel governance. This includes taking proper heed of the challenges to democracy at EU and national levels. RECON spells out three different models for democratic reconstitution, and assesses which approach is most viable – in empirical and normative terms – through analyzing the EU’s constitutionalisation process; the institutional complex at the EU and member state levels; the role and status of gender within the enlarged Europe; the democratic quality and governing capacity of the Union within tax/fiscal and foreign/security policy; and the multilevel configuration of civil society/public sphere. It examines the effects of external transnationalisation on the EU and discerns democratic lessons from comparison with non-European complex multilevel entities. RECON also analyses the transition and consolidation of democracy in the new member states and the overall challenges posed by globalization to established democracies.

RECON has around 80 participating researchers across Europe, most of whom are affiliated with one of the project's 19 partner institutions. They cover a wide range of academic fields, from political science (political theory, international relations, constitutional politics, European politics, gender studies), sociology (including specialist competence in media research), linguistics, anthropology, information science, law and legal theory (constitutional law, human rights law, international and European economic law, transnational law, public law, tax law), to economics, with a particular emphasis on fiscal policy and European public policy.

This competitive call is aimed at research institutions and universities from European, Associated or Candidate countries with the expertise and ability to carry out one of the two main research tasks as defined below. The new partners are expected to join the consortium in July 2008 and participate until project end on 31 December 2011.

This call aims to recruit one partner institution for each of two research fields: representation and institutional make-up (I) and the political economy of the EU (II). One separate budget is reserved for each of the two new partners, and each field will be evaluated independently. An institution/university can apply to both fields, but this must be stated explicitly and one research proposal made for each field.

Research proposals should be conceptually innovative and methodologically rigorous, and should indicate how they address the RECON models.

TASKS REQUESTED

RESEARCH FIELD I:

REPRESENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL MAKE-UP

RECON work package 3 (WP 3)

The new partner will be asked to make a research proposal that complements existing projects in WP 3, whose overarching emphasis is on (a) clarifying the nature of the challenges facing systems of representation at the national and supranational levels in Europe and how these interact; (b) establishing the direction of change (towards which of the three RECON models these systems develop); and (c) evaluating the democratic quality of these arrangements. Such an assessment presupposes proper attention to the broader institutional settings within which patterns of representation are entrenched in the European multilevel setting.

The new partner is expected to make an original contribution to understanding representation in the European Union's multi-centred and multi-level polity. The new partner should propose a means for studying these issues through an original empirical study. Whilst it is acknowledged that the full range of representative claims made by actors in relation to the European Union, and the relationships between those claims, can only be investigated as part of a larger body of enquiry, the new partner should propose a detailed contribution to such a research agenda through a case study, a small scale survey, or the study of a specific actor, process or institution. The proposal should include a research question, a proposed methodology and intended outcomes.

The proposal should furthermore relate to the three RECON models, the modes of representation implied by them, and to what studies of representation on the European Union

arena can, in turn, tell us about the normative qualities or practical application of the models. More information on [WP 3's research objectives](#) is found on RECON's website.

Prospective new partners might also like to identify any complementarities – either in the specific project that is being proposed as part of this call or in their wider research interests and capabilities – with existing WP 3 projects. Without wishing to discourage proposals that are quite different to present WP 3 projects, it would be useful to have information on how far new partners might complement existing work which includes: process traces of individual EU decisions (the Democratic Audit project), inter-parliamentary relationships within the European arena, and the adjustment of the representative politics of new Member States to the European Union.

The RECON budget sets aside funds for the new partner that would allow for the remuneration of a postgraduate researcher, PhD fellow and/or research assistant(s), in addition to the organisation of a workshop/conference, travel and dissemination activities. However, partners are also expected to contribute with own resources, particularly with regard to research effort and administration.

RESEARCH FIELD II: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECON work package 7 (WP 7)

WP 7 analyses the relationship between public finance and democracy in the EU's multilevel political system. Institutional designs and policy options are spelled out with regard to the financing system and the allocation of tax powers to the European Union, and conceptions of social integration, with particular emphasis on the relationship between solidarity, justice and democracy, are identified and related to the RECON models. The new partner will be expected to lead the development of a 'second pillar' of the work package, namely, the elucidation of the relationship between social insurance mechanisms and democratic government. More information on [WP 7's research objectives](#) is found on RECON's website.

The new partner should preferably focus on welfare policy, and in particular different models of socio-economic insurance. The new partner will be expected to go beyond the study of specific institutional arrangements and consider socio-economic insurance also from the standpoint of social and political theory. The new partner might also consider what role social insurance mechanisms play in social integration, and to what extent they might be said to be necessary conditions for democratic government. Finally, the new partner might consider the question of how the requisite conditions for solidaristic attitudes can be built under conditions of social and cultural heterogeneity. In that regard, it is pertinent to consider how much socio-economic heterogeneity democracy can accommodate, and consequently, how much and what kind of redistribution of economic resources is required under such pluralistic conditions.

As for case studies, the project leaves room for discretion, but a case study of high salience and interest to the WP as a whole would be comparative research on the socio-economic regulation of child bearing, both on what concerns the allocation of the tax burden (i.e. as a reflection of diminished economic capacity) and in terms of benefits, both monetary and in kind. Such an analysis would cast light on social integration, given that it yields information on gender inequalities, discrimination on the basis of nationality, and relates to a key building block of contemporary European welfare systems.

The existing participants of WP 7 work from legal, constitutional and political theory. The new partner may be expected to add to this by bringing in new disciplinary fields. The research tasks should preferably be undertaken by a research group with a multidisciplinary profile, which covers welfare and social policy, comparative political studies and political theory.

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DURATION

Expected duration of participation of new partners:
1 July 2008 to 31 December 2011 (42 months)

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Estimated funding of each of the new partner institutions:

Research costs:	129,300.00 EUR
Consortium management costs:	3,800.00 EUR
Total Commission funding available:	133,100.00 EUR

Note that the sum includes direct and indirect costs (the indirect costs are calculated as a flat rate of 20 per cent of direct costs). The budget assumes application of the *Additional Costs* (AC) cost model, as applied by all existing RECON contractors. Research institutions and universities are the most likely targets for this call, and most such institutions apply the AC cost model in FP6 participation. Should the new partner(s) apply the FC or FCF cost model, funding might be subject to a different breakdown than indicated above, with the overall funding available remaining unchanged.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROPOSAL

COVER PAGE (SEE ALSO PART B BELOW)

The cover page of the proposal should clearly identify the proposer by the following items:

Project full title:	Reconstituting Democracy in Europe
Project acronym:	RECON
Project contract number:	CIT4-CT-2006-028698
Instrument type:	Integrated Project (IP)
Date of preparation of your proposal:	
Name of proposer's organisation:	
Name of the proposer:	
Proposer's telephone number:	
Proposer's fax number:	
Proposer's e-mail address:	

PART A (ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION)

Annex I of the *Guide for Proposers* (available at the [CORDIS FP6 website](#) or at the [RECON call web page](#)) provides templates and explanatory notes for forms A1, A2 and A3. Electronic versions of the forms are available at the RECON call web page.

PART B (RESEARCH PROPOSAL)

Annex II of the *Guide for Proposers* (available at the [CORDIS FP6 website](#) or at the [RECON call web page](#)) provides a template for Part B, which must include the tasks addressed (RECON WP 3 or WP 7), an outline implementation plan, a description of the participant, and an overview of the project resources. The latter must also describe the foreseen use of RECON research funds broken down on the following cost items: personnel costs, events, travel, dissemination and consumables. Please follow the instructions in the *Guide for Proposers* and complete all sections of Part B including the IP project effort form and the Ethical issues checklist.

Further assistance and guidance on the proposal will be provided by the [RECON Project Helpdesk](#).

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

It is highly recommended that proposers contact the RECON Helpdesk well in advance and register as a potential proposer. The RECON team will do their best to provide relevant information and guidance to the proposers.

Proposals must be submitted by the closing date of the call. Late proposals will not be evaluated.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to: Geir Kvaerk, RECON Project Manager, e-mail: g.o.kvark@reconproject.eu.

Alternatively, proposals can be submitted in paper version to:

Geir Kvaerk
ARENA – University of Oslo
PO Box 1143 Blindern
N-0317 Oslo
NORWAY

Please note that also proposals submitted on paper must be **received before the deadline at the address specified above**.

For detailed information on preparing and submitting the proposal please see the *Guide for Proposers*, available at the [CORDIS FP6 website](#) or at the [RECON call web page](#).

Proposal language: **English**
Deadline for submission: **16 January 2008 at 17h00** Brussels time

EVALUATION

The evaluation of proposals and selection of new partners follow procedures defined in the Sixth Framework Programme. See the Guide for proposers and the [RECON call web page](#) for more information. New partners will need to accede to the RECON contract and the RECON Consortium Agreement. Annex I to the contract contains a detailed work description and milestones for the full duration of the project. Copies of key project documents (contract and consortium agreement) are available on demand ([RECON Project Helpdesk](#)).

Independent experts selected by the RECON consortium and approved by the European Commission will evaluate the proposals. The evaluation will be ready by mid-February 2008. Final selection of new partners by the RECON consortium with the approval of the European Commission will be done in March 2008.