510479

TR-ACCESS

Facilitation of the participation of the Turkish Research and Development Community to EU Framework Programmes

Specific Support Action (SSA)

Specific measures in support of international co-operation (INCO)

Final Activity Report

Period covered: from 01.05.2004 to 30.04.2007   **Date of preparation:** 01.06.2007

Start date of project: 01.05.2004   **Duration:** 36 months

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The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

Revision Final

Table of Contents

Objectives

The major objective of TR-ACCESS is to provide an efficient climate supporting stimulation, encouragement and facilitation of widespread participation of Turkish institutions to FP6 projects.

The project particularly aims to

- Set up a network of information multipliers covering the country
- Support industrial participation, especially from SMEs
- Bring distributed resources of research together and
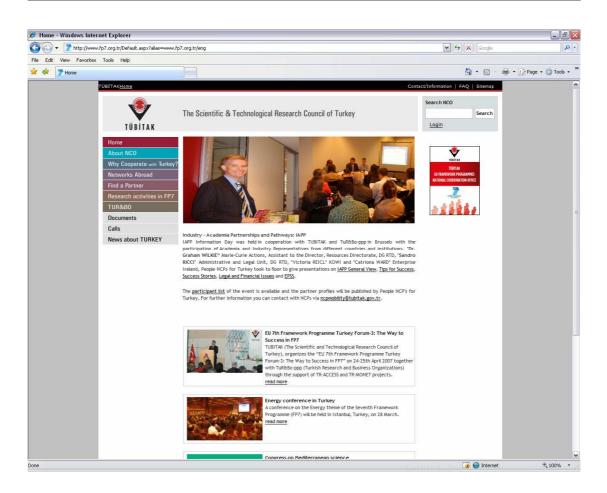- Present work programmes

The project is coordinated by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) which is the only partner in the project.

Work Performed

- The project web site (http://traccess.tubitak.gov.tr) is prepared and has been integrated with FP6 National Coordination Office web site. The content of this web site is revised in the third year and transferred to a new web site for FP7 (www.fp7.org.tr). English version of this new site is present and also new partner search tools were developed in the scope of FP7.

- Working procedures has been developed in order to establish systematic working methods in the National Coordination Office.

Picture 1 7th Framework Programme web site in English

- A letter of intention for cooperation is signed with Koordinierungsstelle EG der Wisseschaftsorganisationen (KOWI) which is an important organization established in order to provide German researchers with a central support unit focussing on European Community research promotion, with the mission to facilitate access to European funding schemes. The cooperation involves mainly exchanging of partner search information and information on future events, participation or organization of information events and organization of information days in Turkey on mobility of researchers.

- Electronic tools were developed for training and assisting in the first year and have been revised and improved covering FP7. A new profile system was developed to increase participation of Turkish researchers to FP7.

- 12 issues of the quarterly newsletters and other information documents published and distributed to the research community in Turkey.

- Information days, workshops, coordination meetings and thematic conferences organized for information multipliers, SMEs and others.

- Databases of clustered 1320 SMEs with appropriate thematic areas have been formed.

- Technology audits for 100 SMEs to assess their technological capability, procedures and needs were completed.

- Databases of target research centres have been formed and updated. Then Research Centres Catalogue was published online.

- Exchange of human resources has been realised.

- Analysis reports and other reports were prepared.

Results Achieved

- TR-ACCESS project was the main tool during entire project duration, to present and inform Turkish research community about both EU Sixth and Seventh Framework Programme. The project is seen as the main tool of supporting the Sixth Framework Programme in addition to the Seventh Framework Programme –although initially it is not aimed- by most of the researchers. The project web site is seen as a reference web site for FP6 and FP7

- Information events with trainings on proposal writing and project management were organized with the participation of hundreds of researchers from different cities and organizations in Turkey.

- Electronic tools developed for training and assisting researchers were used by hundreds of people. These tools were improved to include FP7.

-A new profile system was developed to increase participation of Turkish researchers to FP7.

-Quarterly newsletters and other informational material were among the best tools for disseminating information about the project and the Framework Programmes in Turkey.

- Technology audits were completed for 100 selected SMEs. The result of the audits provided us with the opportunity to see the R&D potential of the selected SMEs and this information was utilized in three special workshops for SMEs to succeed in FPs.

- Research centres database has been improved. This database provided us with the opportunity to see R&D capacity of Turkey in terms of research centres and institutes where the real research is carried out.

- Mobility grants were distributed with a total amount of 48,700 Euros. All the researchers who have taken these grants were very satisfied with the programme.

- Databases of target research centres have been improved and published online.

- Exchange of human resources has been realised.

- Analysis reports were prepared.

Expected End Results

As per the Technical Annex of the Project, TR-ACCESS is expected to facilitate widespread participation of Turkish researchers in the Framework Programmes throughout FP6 by informing, training and assisting the researchers on the Framework Programmes through information events, publications and tools developed. The second year of the project has greatly contributed to this aim. As from the second year, information on FP7 was begun to be provided during the activities of the project. Third year activities were directed only towards FP7. Third year activities were directed only towards FP7. The project became definitely the main tool for increasing not only the participation of Turkish researchers but also SMEs from different sectors in FP7. In this sense, TR-ACCESS became a bridge between FP6 and FP7 facilitating the participation of the academy and industry for three years.