

A support action under the NEST initiative, NEST-IDEA will explore exciting new potential research possibilities. The aim is to raise awareness within the scientific community of unconventional research approaches, and of the rewards from sharing new concepts in emerging science and technology areas. The project will encourage the development of future NEST projects by pioneering research groups. Pinpointing the newest trends in research will stimulate and focus research policy in Europe.

A great idea for great ideas

All over Europe, many individual research workers and groups have ideas and theories which, if developed, could have an important bearing on the future of science, technology or society, but remain unknown. This may be because of lack of time, lack of funding, not having access to the right supporting expertise, or lack of insight into their possible application or value in the future.

NEST-IDEA has the challenging prospect of rooting out ideas with great potential. Its role in the NEST initiative is to identify the sources of such ideas, to facilitate their exchange with other relevant parties, and hopefully to stimulate the development of new NEST projects for the future. The participants in NEST-IDEA are all active in research policy and have long experience of EU-funded transnational projects. Project partners represent Germany, France, Spain, Poland and two countries associated to the EU's research programme – Switzerland and Israel.

Take your partners

One of the first steps will be to map the very best centres of scientific research in Europe, including small research groups, and particularly those in emerging subject areas. NEST-IDEA partners will work with national research agencies to determine which research groups could be future NEST participants. Working on both regional and national levels, the most promising ideas for future NEST projects can be defined.

Potential future NEST participants and other stakeholders will be invited to take part in information days, workshops and other meetings, ensuring their active participation from the beginning in new projects. These fora, and advanced internet tools, will be used for finding partners, establishing groupings, and for the exchange of best practices. A new NEST website will house a database of collected project ideas and details of



NEST-IDEA NEST SUPPORT

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AT A GLANCE

Official title

NEST – Information on development of emerging activities

Coordinator

Germany: EC Bureau of the German Ministry of Education and Research

Partners

- France: National Institute for Agricultural Research of Ministries of Research and New Technologies
- Israel: Israel Europe R&D Directorate for FP6
- Poland: Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of Polish Academy of Sciences
- Spain: Conference of the Rectors of Spanish Universities
- Switzerland: Swiss Information Network on European Research

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Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/nest>

organisations active in research or funding, while researchers will receive assurance on the protection of their intellectual property. An invited group of researchers active in the dynamics of scientific change and management of interdisciplinary research (from the Julich Research Centre (Germany), the Israel Science Foundation, and the Helsinki School of Economics) will be consulted on the likely impact of the research ideas coming forward.

Looking for projects

NEST-IDEA will search for future ADVENTURE projects (for innovative, unconventional research with high potential impact) and INSIGHT projects (investigating the risks and opportunities for society presented by new sciences and technologies). Early warning of new impending problems to society (e.g. drug resistance, epidemics, or environmental change) is essential, and INSIGHT is a mechanism by which Europe can best prepare for them.

The NEST-IDEA project will also invite its expert group to analyse the newest trends in world sciences. This intelligence will be supplemented by literature studies and monitoring of current conferences, which will give valuable pointers to present and future research emphasis.

The most promising ideas developed in NEST-IDEA initiative will also contribute to the formation of the third main type of NEST activity: PATHFINDER projects – strongly interdisciplinary approaches to the research areas which are emerging as having a truly fundamental importance and urgency for Europe (e.g. complex systems).

NEST-IDEA will root out ideas with great potential for innovative, unconventional studies.

The results of NEST-IDEA, assessing the response of the scientific community to the NEST initiative, will help the European Commission in formulating future calls for NEST proposals. These proposals will be the source of the next generation of visionary science and technology projects in Europe.



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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME