



# Legal & Financial Issues in FP7 Projects

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# Nature of the FP7

- Funds Research (not a development tool)
- European instrument, European priorities
- Work Programme = research priorities
- Opportunities for collaboration with Africa (in research)
- Added value?



# Research COLLABORATION

- Joint Projects (= consortia): 3/4/6 partners collaborating
- SICA – Specific International Cooperation Action
  - Special instrument for international cooperation
  - Eg. 2 MS/AC + 2 Third countries (Africa)



# Legal & Financial Issues

- FP7 project submissions do not only have a technical side.
- Any potential consortium must always consider the legal/financial issues as well.



# Grant Agreement

- The Grant Agreement is the contract the Consortium has with the European Commission (EC) to carry out the project.
- Made up of different sections:
  - The Main Text (nominates the Project Coordinator and partners. Also spells out legal obligations of Consortium and EC)
  - Annex I (Description of Work) – Your proposal agreed with the EC.
- Draft template can be found at CORDIS



# Consortium Agreement

- The CA is an agreement made between participants in project financed under FP7 to govern a number of issues that will or may arise during the project.
- A CA is required for all projects financed under the FP7 **unless otherwise stipulated in the call for proposals.**
- It is recommended that a consortium starts working on the CA at the same time as the proposal and that you have it signed before the project start date.
- Templates are available from various sources.



# Reporting to the EC

- Every project will have to submit a periodic report to the EC. This will have two parts:
  - Report on technical progress
  - Financial report, detailing expenditure for the period in question.



# Helpful Hints

- **Project Coordinator:**
  - Inform yourself thoroughly of the requirements of the EC.
  - Contact your NCPs/NIPs.
  - Get to know the CORDIS website.
  - Exchange information with other coordinators involved in FP7 projects.
- **Project Partners:**
  - Inform yourself thoroughly of the requirements of the EC.
  - Get to know the CORDIS website.
  - Stay in touch with your project coordinators.
  - Keep strong records of time and money spent on the project.



# Useful points of information

- Grant Agreement, Legal requirements for FP7 projects:
  - [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)
- Consortium Agreement:
  - <http://www.desca-fp7.eu/>
- Financial & Legal Information:
  - <http://www.finance-helpdesk.org/> (requires registration)



# What should I do now?

- Read the Work Programme
  - Upcoming research to be funded
- Find Partners (European and African/other third countries) to form a consortium
- Plan project together in response to an open call and submit application

