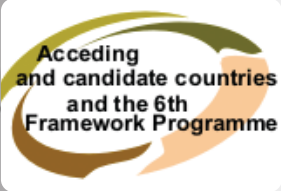## "ACCEDING AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND THE 6th FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME"
Conference February 12-13, 2004, Bucharest, Romania
www.romnet.net/conference

The conference was organized by the European Commission - General Direction for Research, in collaboration with the Romanian Ministry of Educations and Research and the Romanian Academy. The 6th FP Projects ROMNET-ERA, ROINTERA and RoDi were also involved in the conference organization.
This conference intended to assure direct information for researchers from Acceding and Candidate Countries (ACC) in order to increase their participation in the 6th FP.

ACC in February 2004 — Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta

Acceding and candidate countries and the 6th Framework Programme

The main topics of the Conference:

● The challenge of Enlargement;
● Integrating Acceding and Candidate Countries in the 6th FP;
● Analysis and Action Plan for a better participation of the Acceding and Candidate Countries in the 6th FP;
● The "state of the art" of the cooperation in the 6th FP;
● Action Plan for a better participation of the Acceding and Candidate Countries in the 6th FP (New instruments - new opportunities - IP, NoE; Mobility; SMEs - a priority for FP6; Building strong consortia; How to prepare and manage EU proposals and contracts).

"An Action Plan for ACC: Information, awareness and training activities (information on FP6/work programmes/calls for proposals, promotion of CCs competencies, support to participation in conferences and in preparing proposals); Organisation (networks of high quality centres, network the NCPs); Proposals stimulation (brokerage events, measures in support of SMEs); Other (evaluation of RTD systems and policies, prospective studies for defining research policies etc.)." (Mr. **Louis Bellemin**, European Commission - "An Action Plan for a better participation of the Acceding and Candidate Countries in the 6th Framework Programme")

"The core research work of the Framework Programme is undertaken by projects that are structured as collaboration between a group of partners who share tasks and responsibilities. This means that finding the right partners and setting up the collaboration or consortium is a key preparatory task."
(Mr. **Jean-David MALO**, European Commission - DG Research - Directorate B "Structuring the European Research Area" - "Building strong consortia: Partners search and Consortium Agreement")

"The objective of FP6, the main instrument for research funding in Europe 2002-2006, **is to create a European market for science and technology, the European Research Area (ERA)**. Collective Research is the research carried out by Research Performers on behalf of industrial associations or groupings on themes of interest to large sectors and communities of SMEs, with the objective to expand the knowledge base of large communities of SME and therefore, to improve their general standard of competitiveness."
(Dr. **Barend Verachtert**, European Commission DG Research Unit B3 - Research and SMEs - "SMEs - a priority for FP6")

"The factor limiting development and wealth is not longer technology, but knowledge. This does not mean, of course that we do not need technologies. On contrast, information society technologies, biotechnologies, nanotechnologies are developed continuously and synergistically, based upon the progress of knowledge."
 "The research cannot be considered in isolation. It is strictly related to the education (knowledge dissemination) and industry (knowledge application)."
(Prof. **Dan Dascalu**, General Manager of IMT-Bucharest -"Integrating Acceding and Candidate Countries in the 6th FP").

The Conference was considered a great success by the participants, many of the foreign and Romanian participants sending greetings to the organizers of the Conference.
Mr. **Hugh Richardson**, the Deputy Director General at the Directorate General Research from the European Commission also sent a congratulation letter for the project Consortium. *("I am convinced that this special event will facilitate a common analysis of Accession and Candidate Countries' participation in the FP6 as well as clear information on how these countries can better participate in the Framework Programme").*