



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

European City of Science Paris - Grand Palais 14 to 16 November 2008

Background

The General Department for Research and Innovation at the Ministry for Higher Education and Research is calling for proposals. It intends to select between 60 and 80 projects which will be presented in the European City of Science which will be organized in the framework of the Festival of Science during the French Presidency of the European Union.

The Presidency is held, in turn, during a six-month period, by each member country of the European Union. It is currently being held by Slovenia and France will take over on 1 July 2008; on 1 January 2009 it will be the turn of the Czech Republic. Because each country organizes the Presidency so rarely and because of its format, it is an instrument of communication which will have a lasting impact on France's image in Europe, particularly with regard to conferences and events which will be organized in our country.

The Minister for Higher Education and Research has chosen to assemble the different events which will be organized during the French Presidency around the theme of « Science at the service of Society » with an emphasis on the two-way dialogue between Science and Society and Society and Science. In this regard, the Unit of Information and Scientific and Technical Culture has been given the responsibility of co-ordinating three « Science and Society » events, one of these is the European City of Science which will be the 2008 version of the Paris Village of Science, an event organized each year during the Science Festival by the Ministry for Research.

The European city of Science will take place on 14, 15, 16 November 2008 in the nave of the « Grand Palais » (an area of 13,500 square metres, in the centre of the dome, 45 metres high). This will be the inaugural event of the 17th year of the Science Festival which will then happen throughout France from 17 to 23 November.

The « Grand Palais » which was built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition is viewed, both by the media and the general public, as an exhibition space par excellence, dedicated to the reduction and amplification of state of the art events and thematic exhibitions aimed at a wide public. 50,000 visitors are expected there over the three day period of the European City of Science.

Objectives

In a convivial atmosphere and in an attractive format for the general public and the media, the aim is :

- ✓ to exhibit a wide range of European research projects developed in the European Research Area
- ✓ to enhance joint European scientific and technological co-operation projects and the technical innovations which they generate
- ✓ to facilitate dialogue between professionals in research and development and the general public in order to encourage young people to go into these professions
- ✓ to encourage the dialogue « science and society », by demonstrating how the applications of research can concretely answer our everyday needs and how ordinary citizens' questionings can impact on research priorities, decided by those with decision-making power.

The aim is also to give those involved in different research projects the opportunity to showcase the activities of their organization in the context of the French Presidency of the European Union and, through this exhibition, to impact on those of the general public who will be coming into contact with this world, for the first time, during this major event.

The general outlay will invite visitors to move through the exhibition as if through a town, with its different neighbourhoods, streets, crossroads, meeting places, exhibition spaces, its public spaces.

Such a context, which is close to that of their everyday lives and preoccupations, will enable visitors to understand how science can serve society.

Call for proposals

This call for proposals concerns projects, which will raise awareness amongst the general public of scientific and technological issues, focusing on specific activities and research programmes, scientific networks, technological and industrial innovation, studies and analyses in the field of human and social sciences which have resulted from European partnerships and co-operation.

All areas of research and knowledge are eligible. Scientific projects and concrete results, prospects and applications which offer solutions to major challenges for our society and impact on our daily lives, should be particularly highlighted.

Each proposal submitted should include a scenario on, how to occupy and organize activities, in an exhibition booth of, at a minimum, 50 sq. metres:

- ✓ the proposals should keep in mind the spirit of open-mindedness and conviviality, so appreciated by visitors to the Science Festival,
- ✓ different techniques and material should be envisaged, so as to welcome different categories of visitor (scientists, policy-makers, the media, families, teachers and young people),
- ✓ the participation and presence in the exhibition booth of scientists (researchers, post-graduates, teachers, engineers, technicians, etc.) should permit the general public to meet and engage with people from the worlds of research, education and business,
- ✓ since the exhibition will be open to all European professionals, English speakers should be included in the reception team.

The capacity of the project to fit into and be part of the exhibition as a whole will be an important criterion in the selection of projects.

Therefore, the selection committee will welcome projects which:

- ✓ use, as their location, places in the city where people gather (theatres, cinemas, conference halls, science cafés, youth clubs),
- ✓ or, propose to use monumental sized props, placed in cross-roads or esplanades around the city, which will draw people towards the « dome » of the Grand Palais (e.g. in 2005, during the exhibition « Jours de fête » at the Grand Palais, a giant wheel was used).

will be welcome.

Conditions for eligibility

Any registered public or private body, involved in research, innovation, teaching, culture, media, industrial and technological production (research institutes, public colleges for Higher Education, universities, industry and service companies, interest groups, existing networks, associations, learned societies, cultural centres, museums, etc.) from the 27 member states of the European Union is eligible to submit an application.

Partnerships between different organizations, pooling of resources to make the project stand out in the context of the dome of the Grand Palais will be favourably considered (joint projects between different public research bodies, between public structures and private companies, between scientific and cultural organizations, between different European countries, etc.).

Projects whose sole aim is to highlight a particular institution will not be considered : each individual organisation will have the opportunity, through their project or projects, to showcase their research and innovation policy and its contribution to European research, particularly, if they are the leaders of the project.

Selection criteria for proposals

All proposals submitted will be evaluated by the scientific committee of the European city of Science, set up by the Ministry for Higher Education and Research whose president will be appointed by the Minister for Higher Education and Research.

The main evaluation criteria will be:

- ✓ the European dimension of the project,
- ✓ the scientific quality of the project,
- ✓ the involvement of several partners in the project,
- ✓ how well the project fits in to the overall dimension of the European city of Science,
- ✓ the accessibility of the project to the different categories of visitors to the event,
- ✓ the balance between the ambition of the project and the capacity of the project leader to respect the time deadline.

Commitments

The Ministry will be responsible for:

- ✓ renting out the Grand Palais and any financial expenses incurred in fitting out the space,
- ✓ the overall lay-out of the European City of Science,
- ✓ welcoming and providing catering facilities for the exhibitors (badges and meal vouchers),
- ✓ providing support for the exhibitors,
- ✓ publishing the event and highlighting the different projects.

Project leaders must:

- ✓ respect the instructions for installing and removing projects (time schedule, safety regulations relevant to the exhibition space),
- ✓ respect the time schedule for the overall installation of the City of Science :
 - ◆ provide a precise description of the project and its scientific interest, a description of the exhibition stand with its technical elements and its interest to different types of visitor,
 - ◆ provide data about the project (brochure, web site), necessary for communication purposes, for the overall exhibition,
- ✓ must co-operate so that the overall event is a success,
- ✓ respect all instructions of the French Presidency of the European Union, relating to communication on all aspects of the event.

How to apply and the procedures to follow

All proposals submitted must include the following elements:

In a first phase,

a preliminary proposal will include a declaration of willingness to participate and a brief description of the project (concept, scientific theme, partners, how the exhibition booth will be used, proposed activities, props to be used, category of visitor liable to be attracted by the project.

In a second phase,

a detailed application including:

- ✓ a scientific and technical description of the project,
- ✓ a description of the project focusing on its cultural aspect,
- ✓ a list of the partners involved,
- ✓ a description of the proposed lay-out,
- ✓ a description of the potential impact on visitors,
- ✓ la description de l'impact potentiel du projet auprès du public,
- ✓ budget with an estimate of the global cost as well as an itemized list and different financial sources.

How to submit a proposal

Proposals must be submitted in two formats:

- ♦ by electronic-mail to the following address:

ville-europeenne-des-sciences@recherche.gouv.fr

an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by e-mail.

- ♦ on paper, by mail, posted not later than 29 March 2008 (postmark) to the following address:

Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche

DGRI – DS/A52

Mission de l'Information et de la Culture Scientifiques et Techniques

Ville Européenne des Sciences

1 rue Descartes - 75005 - Paris

Expected Timeframe

Call for proposals

7 February 2008

Deadline for the submission of declaration of willingness to participate

6 March 2008

Deadline for the submission of completed proposal

29 March 2008

Publication of results

5 may 2008

Attachments:

Declaration of intention form

Contact: 33 (01) 55 55 91 50