

INTAS Press Release  
14/01/2005

**INTAS' future scientific policy and funding for Calls 2004 adopted by INTAS' Council of Scientists and General Assembly**

The Council of Scientists (CS) and General Assembly (GA) of INTAS– the International Association for Promoting Scientific Cooperation with the New Independent States (NIS) of the Former Soviet Union – met on 29-30 November and 13-14 December 2004 respectively to take final decisions on the results of the 2004 calls and to discuss the planning and financing of 2005-2006 activities, as well as reflecting on INTAS' future in the evolving Science & Technology scene of Europe and the NIS.

For the Calls 2004 with a deadline on 3 September 2004 and the calls for Accompanying Measures with deadlines in Spring and Autumn 2004, INTAS received 1122 proposals in a broad range of scientific areas, both fundamental and applied. After initial checks by the INTAS Secretariat, eligible projects underwent a two-step peer review evaluation process. First, independent experts evaluated the proposals, the results of which were then consolidated by the Council of Scientists. On the basis of this peer review, the General Assembly approved to fund 288 projects, amounting to 10 M€ to more than 300 teams of scientists.

The 288 projects are divided under the Thematic (39) and Collaborative Calls (27), Young Scientists Fellowships (177), Innovation Grants (9), Summer Schools (17), Infrastructure Actions (5) and Strategic Scientific Workshops (14). The INTAS Secretariat has informed all participants of the outcome of their proposal and started working on completing negotiations, signing contracts and launching successful proposals during the first quarter of 2005. INTAS is also anticipating to open the next call for proposals in April 2005.

During the CS meeting, INTAS Secretariat also initiated an important debate on INTAS' scientific policy for the years to come. This debate was particularly welcomed by the CS, which agreed to engage more actively in INTAS' renewed scientific policy. The GA approved the new orientations proposed and reflected them in the Activity Plan for 2005. The GA also welcomed the results of the external evaluation of INTAS conducted by a panel of external independent experts chaired by Prof. P. Idenburg (Netherlands), as an important element for the debate on the future of the Association, particularly in preparing for the Seventh EC Framework Programme. For this purpose a working group has been formed to submit a proposal on the future position of INTAS in the overall apparatus of Science and Technology cooperation between Europe and the NIS.

A more extensive announcement on the INTAS calls can be viewed on [www.intas.be](http://www.intas.be), in the News section. For general information on INTAS, please contact the Public Relations team at [info@intas.be](mailto:info@intas.be)