

Tutorial on consortium agreements for participants under FP6

This document has been prepared on the Regulation establishing the Rules for Participation and for the Dissemination of results under the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission. As EU funded projects are a notorious example of transnational collaboration, in which participants from different cultural backgrounds, with different working methods, communication tools, etc., work towards the same goal. These projects gather different kinds of entities e.g. multinationals, SMEs, laboratories, universities, research centres...all groups with different interests. Their management forces all of their members to make an effort towards mutual understanding and cooperation in order to solve all the difficulties relating to the differences in languages, methods and, perhaps, particular expectations.

Establishing internal rules and adequate provisions regarding intellectual property rights (IPR) management is vital in order to ensure the project's success. A strong project will demand a high level of understanding; and the consortium agreement is the instrument to try to achieve it from the very beginning.

One has to bear in mind that the contract between the consortia and the Community follows the same model issued by the Commission whatever the specific nature and purpose of the project. The same contract is used for hundreds of projects that have significant differences between them. It follows that such a contract cannot foresee all the specificities of every single project (this would be impracticable). Due to this fact, and taking into account the experience of previous Framework Programmes, the consortium agreement is envisaged as the instrument used by the consortia to develop and supplement the aspects that are particular to the specific project and that are not contemplated in the model contract.

Find document at: <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/docs/docs.EN/tutorialCA.html>