



## Article 169

### **Objectives**

Article 169 enables the Community to participate in research programmes undertaken jointly by several Member States, including participation in the structures created for the execution of national programmes.

### **Characteristics**

Article 169 is potentially a very powerful instrument:

- Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence integrate individual performers of research;
- Article 169 integrates national programmes.

Article 169 is adopted by a co-decision process between the European Parliament and the Council. The originality of Article 169 is related to the fact that the proposal comes from the Member States.

### **Players involved**

The political players from the Member States are the policy makers and the operational players are the programme managers of national programmes. The Commission is responsible for transforming each initiative into a formal proposal of Article 169 to the Council and Parliament who then decide through the co-decision process.

### **Basic criteria**

The basic criteria for the selection of the proposals of Article 169 are as follows:

- involvement of enough Member States to obtain a significant structuring effect and critical mass;
- topic of great interest to the Community and fits with the thematic priorities of the Framework Programme;
- principles of co-funding by Member States and Community, and of additionality are respected;
- significant European added-value;
- Article 169 is the only way the project could be implemented.

### **First achievements**

Several topics have been identified and one topic has been submitted as a formal proposal of Article 169: “European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership” (EDCTP). This proposal was adopted by the Commission, 28 August 2002 and has been transmitted to Council and the Parliament.