

## **Genomics Research in European Programmes**

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The European Commission through its recent Research Framework Programmes has supported trans-European and wider international scientific cooperation in a range of biosciences and other disciplines.

Genomics/genomics-related research in the areas of human health, crop plants, livestock and micro-organisms has featured strongly.

A brief overview of these activities will be given as well as an outline of future opportunities for submitting research proposals with particular reference to the Themes 'Health' and 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnologies'.

Since European Commission research funding represents only a small fraction of the overall European effort, it is vital that, to maximise research output, a more coordinated and coherent approach is developed across Europe in terms of pooling research activities, biological infrastructures and resources, and where appropriate, in collaboration with countries outside the EU. In recent years there has been progress towards realising a more complete European Research Area in the biosciences but further advances are still needed. Several Technology Platforms are playing an important role in this respect, together with a number of coordination actions (ERANETs) which bring together managers/funders of national programmes from different countries with a view to developing complementary priorities, joint calls and possibly, ultimately, common programming.