



RIPARTIZIONE IX
RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

SAPIENZA FP 7 PROJECTS: OVERVIEW

*Presentation of Sapienza's participation in the
2007-2013 framework programme for research
and technological development*

SAPIENZA FP7 PROJECTS OVERVIEW

PRESENTATION OF SAPIENZA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (2007-2013) FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The International Relations Office (IRO) in accordance with Sapienza's objectives of developing international studies, teaching and research provides support and technical assistance aimed at promoting and facilitating international research at Sapienza.

IRO is a reference point for departments, research centres and faculties that intend to make use of EU and international funds for research projects. The office provides information on funding opportunities, offers support during the application process, and assists professors and researchers in the financial and administrative management of approved projects.

In the context of supporting international research as well as the provisions of article 2 of the regulations on activities carried out by EU and international programmes (role of central administration in EU and international programmes) IRO publishes and manages a database of contracts signed by the University's Centre of Expenses under the Seventh Framework Programme, the EU's main financial tool for research and technological development.

This booklet presents the data collected and analyzes the University's participation through a brief overview of the most relevant indicators (number of approved projects, specific programmes, themes, departments involved, etc.)¹.

We believe the information contained in the database is a valuable tool for showcasing the high level of participation of Sapienza in FP7 and promoting further international research and collaboration. It also helps stimulate use of EU research and technological development funding to an even greater extent in the future.

International Relations Office Director
Antonella Cammisa

¹ Data updated as of 3 March 2012

Sapienza's Participation in the Seventh Framework Programme

Overview

The database of contracts signed by Sapienza's Centre of Expenses under the Seventh Framework Programme contains a total of 151 projects, approved by the Commission for the 2007-13 funding period. Eligible costs are nearly €61 million, while EU contributions makeup over €49 million. The database does not contain a further 20 approved projects for which grant agreements are currently being negotiated.

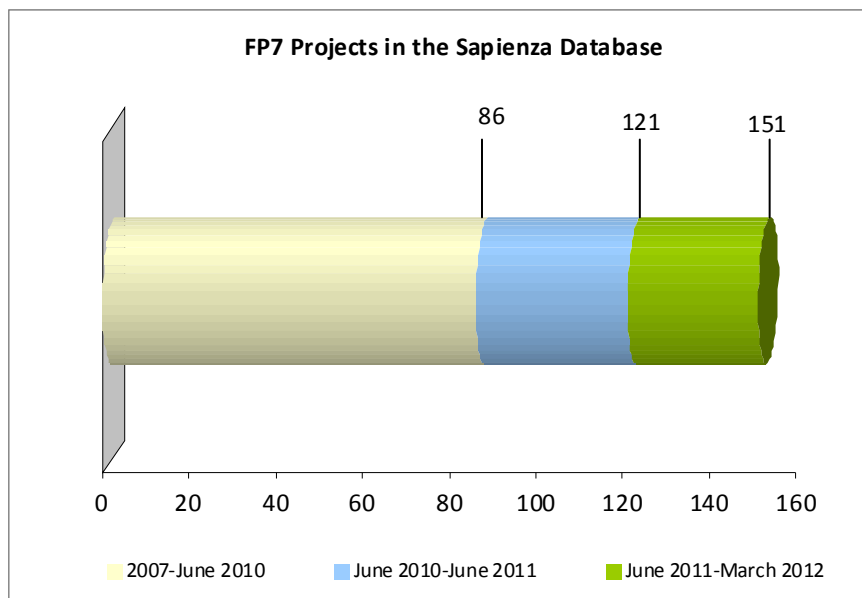
By comparing the number of approved projects, costs and EU contributions, we can note a significant and steady growth in Sapienza's participation in FP7, in both absolute (table 1 and graph 1) and percentage terms (graph 2).

Table 1: Sapienza's participation in the FP7, by number of approved projects, costs and contributions

	2010	2011	2012
Signed contracts	86	121	151
Eligible costs	€41,208,865,88	€49,467,221,55	€60,873,649,95
EU Contributions	€30,742,774,17	€41,208,865,88	€49,628,466,68

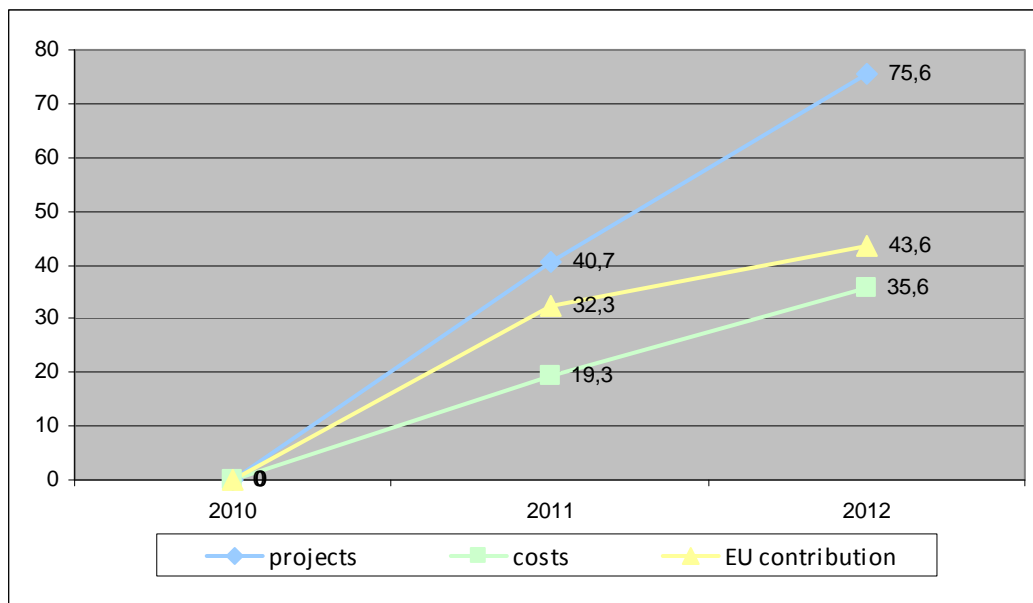
Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Graph 1: FP7 projects in the Sapienza database, by year



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

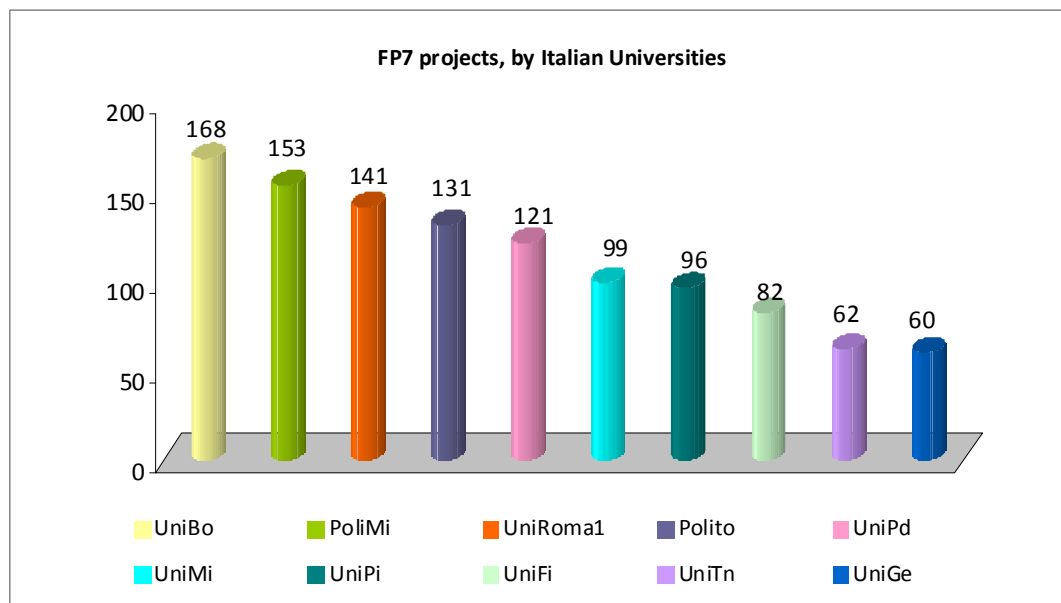
Graph 2: FP7 participation growth since 2010, in percentage terms, by projects, costs and contributions



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Comparing Sapienza's FP7 participation with that of other Italian universities, through Corda data (computer data archive of the Commission for Framework Programme projects) recently released by APRE (Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea² – Agency for the Promotion of European Research), it is evident that Sapienza is a leader in terms of approved projects (graph 3) and contributions received (graph 4).

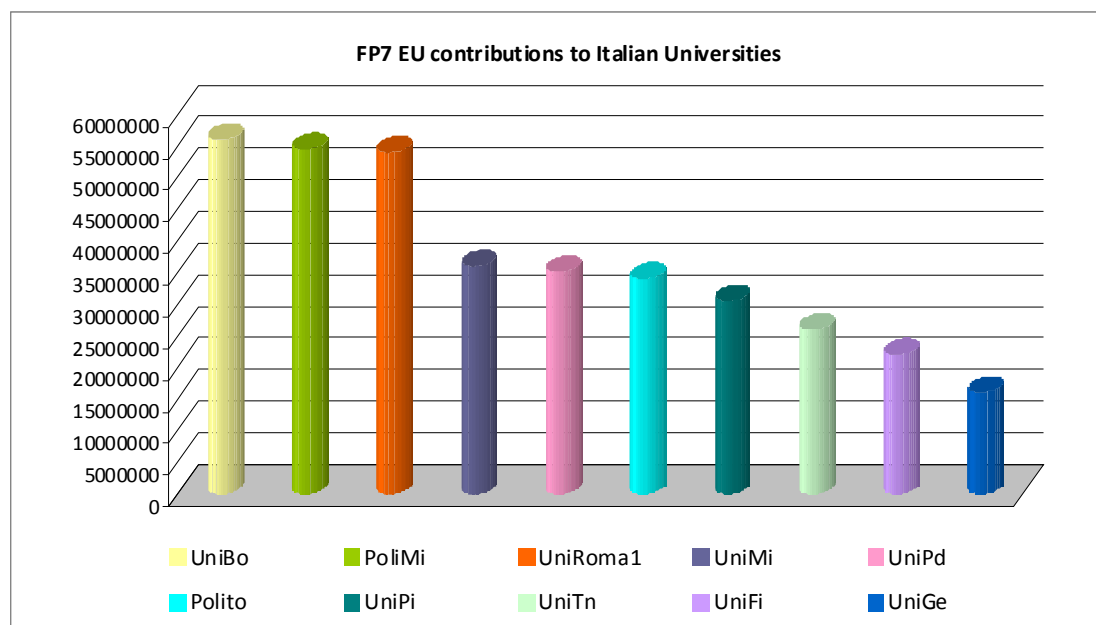
Graph 3: Funded FP7 projects in Italian Universities



Source: APRE elaboration through CORDA, Jan. 2012

² "Discussion Paper: Competitiveness and Smart Specialisation Strategies. Boosting Competitiveness through "Regional Innovation Strategies" – G. Di Bello e E. Andreta, APRE 2012

Graph 4: FP7 Contributions, by Italian universities



Source: APRE elaboration through CORDA, Jan. 2012

Moving on to the distribution of Sapienza projects for "Specific Programmes" (see Table 2 and graphs 5-6), one notes the prevalence of participation in COOPERATION projects, which receive the most FP7 funding.

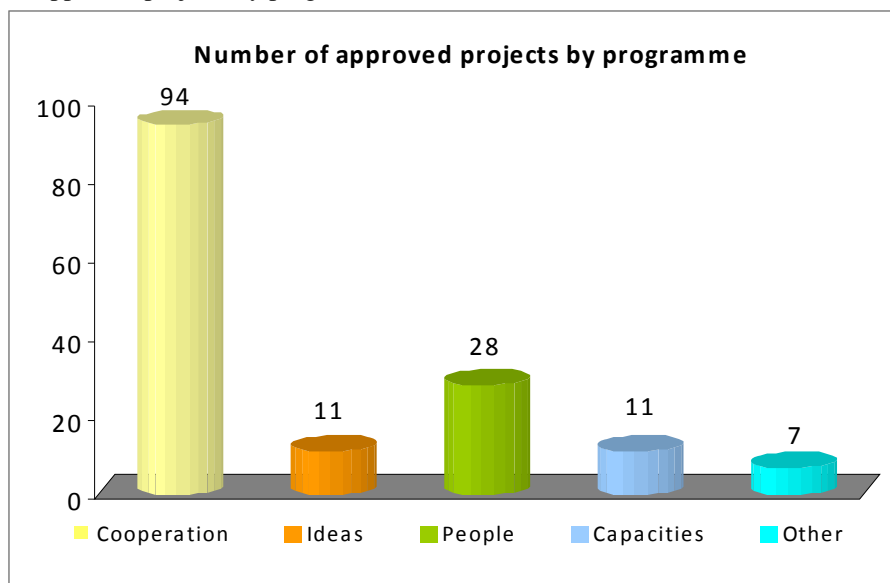
There is a prevalence in both number of projects (94 out of a total 151, 62% of the total) and contributions received, although in this case the percentage of COOPERATION projects is reduced to 54%, reflecting the greater importance in financial terms of IDEAS projects.

Table 2: Approved projects, by themes (in units, cost and contributions)

Programmes	Projects	Costs	Contributions
Cooperation	94	€37,168,438	€26,804,382
Ideas	11	€13,475,292	€13,475,292
People	28	€5,824,692	€5,824,692
Capacities	11	€2,614,513	€2,345,570
Other	7	€1,790,713	€1,178,529
Total	151	€60,873,649	€49,628,466

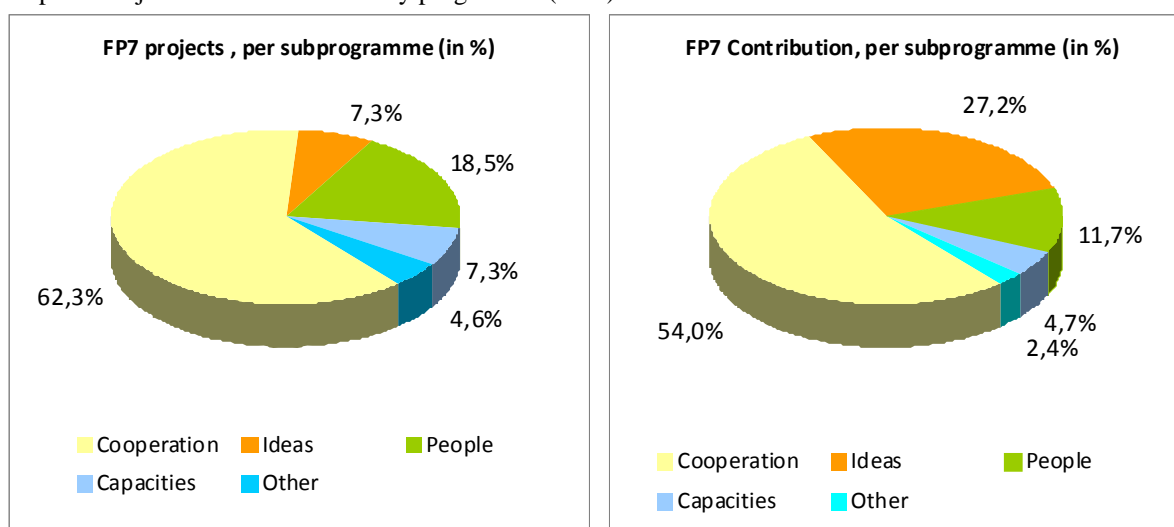
Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Graph 5: Number of approved projects by programme (in units)



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Graph 6: Projects and contributions by programme (in %)



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

The 11 IDEAS projects for which Sapienza is the Host Institution represent only around 7% of the total 151 approved projects but account for more than 27% of community contributions.

This difference is due to the fact that that these projects aim at high-impact research and are considered projects of excellence; thus, to ensure their sustainability, more funding than other FP7 programmes is guaranteed and their costs are fully reimbursable by the commission (while only 75% of COOPERATION project expenses are reimbursed).

If Sapienza IDEAS projects represent a higher percentage in financial terms than total numbers, data for PEOPLE projects demonstrates the opposite: 28 approved projects (18.5%) of which community contributions amount to nearly €6 million (11.5%).

This figure is related to the fact that in most cases, PEOPLE projects are aimed at the development and mobility of individual researchers (or groups of researchers) for whom there are no particularly high cost items (eg. equipment or consumer goods).

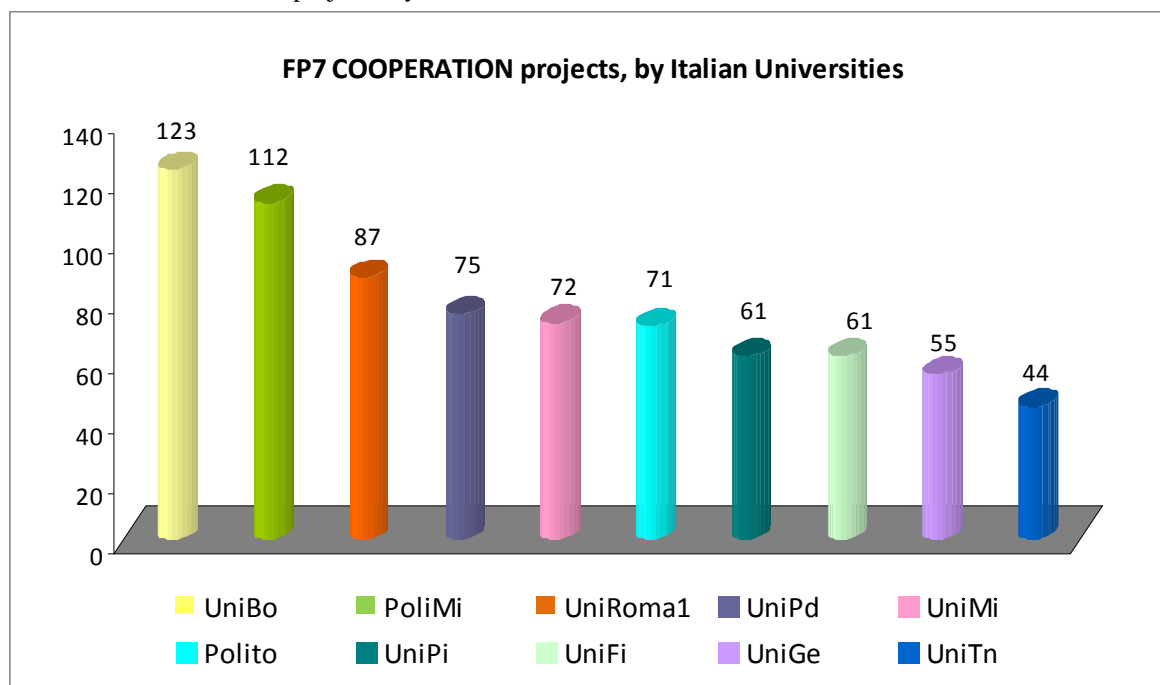
It should also be pointed out that IDEAS and PEOPLE projects are often exclusive projects (in that the Grant Agreement with the Commission is arranged by a single entity and does not necessarily imply participation of other universities or institutions) and contribute to raising the number of projects coordinated exclusively by Sapienza: 35 out of 151 (23.1%), of which only 8 of 94 are COOPERATION projects (8.5%).

This figure is also partly a consequence of the fact that some universities prefer to coordinate projects as part of their partnership and leave management (and therefore the role of director) to the Inter-university Consortia of Research of which Sapienza is a member.

Comparing Sapienza's FP7 total participation by specific programmes to other Italian universities (Graphs 7-9), it appears clear that Sapienza is first in both IDEAS and PEOPLE projects, and slightly below average for COOPERATION projects (30 projects behind the leading university, University of Bologna).

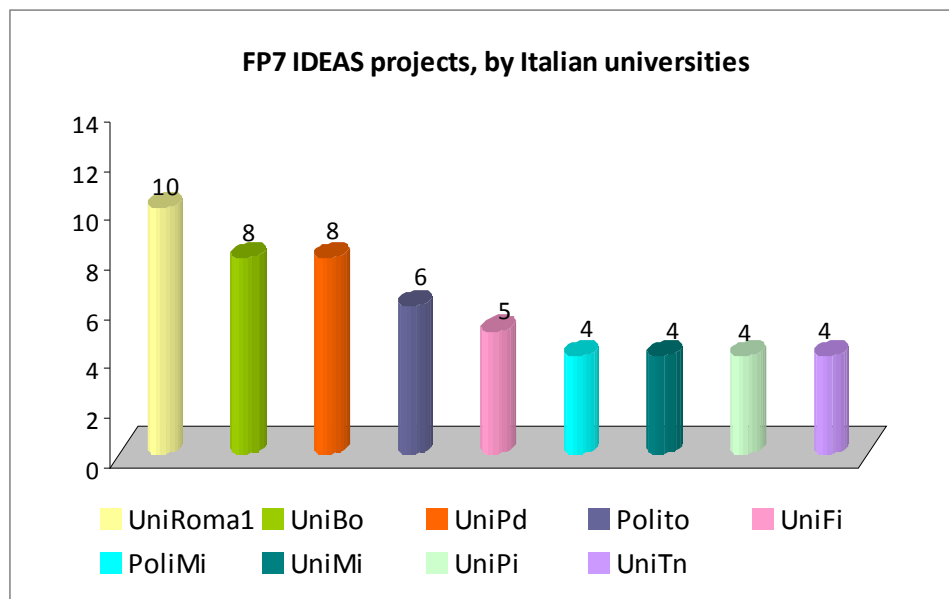
This difference, if we consider the specific nature of the programmes examined, may be due to the unwillingness of potential participants at Sapienza to take part in international research groups working on FP7 projects or a preference to receive the type of funding where research is determined by the candidate and not defined by a commission.

Graph 7: FP7 COOPERATION projects, by Italian Universities



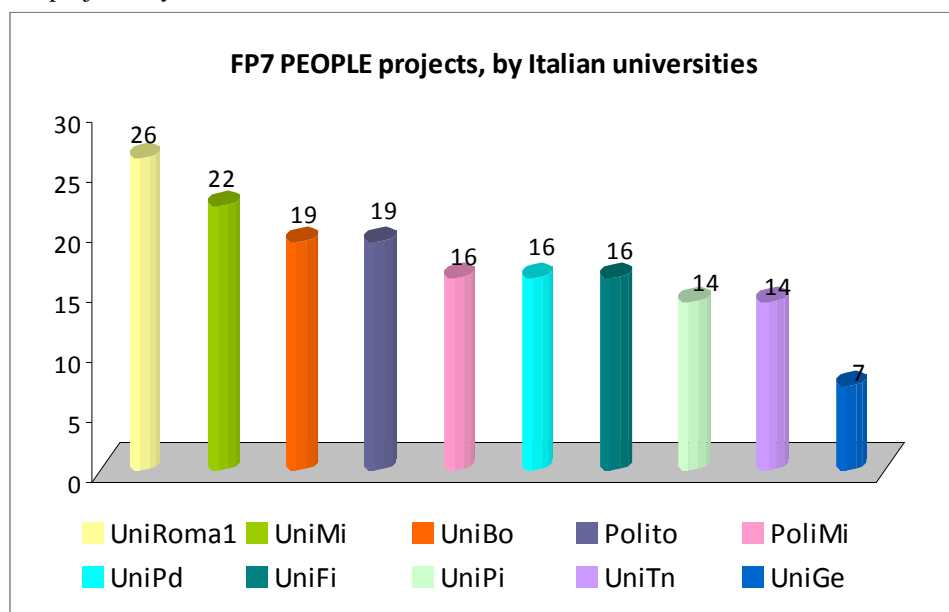
Source: APRE elaboration through CORDA, Jan. 2012

Graph 8: IDEAS projects, by Italian universities



Source: APRE elaboration through CORDA, Jan. 2012

Graph 9: PEOPLE projects, by Italian universities

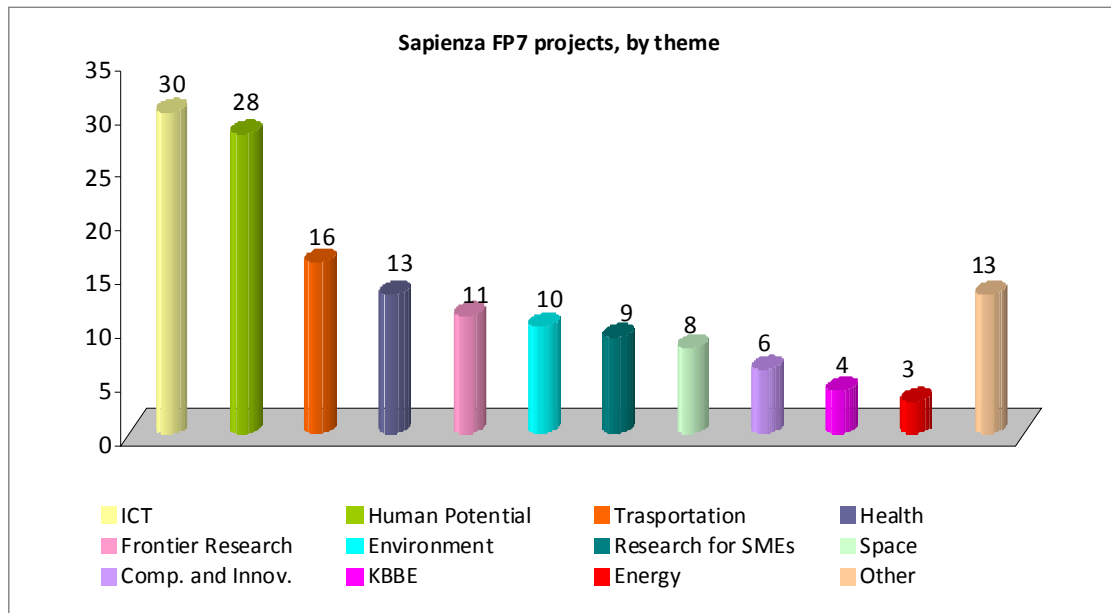


Source: APRE elaboration through CORDA, Jan. 2012

Division of approved projects by theme (charts 10-11) shows that Sapienza's projects cover all areas, especially scientific and technological ones (a result of greater funding opportunities provided by the Framework Programme budget). The areas of ICT, Transportation, Health, Environment, Competition and Innovation are the most significant. Also very important is the presence of overlap such as Human Potential and Frontier Research where topics are chosen with a bottom-up approach.

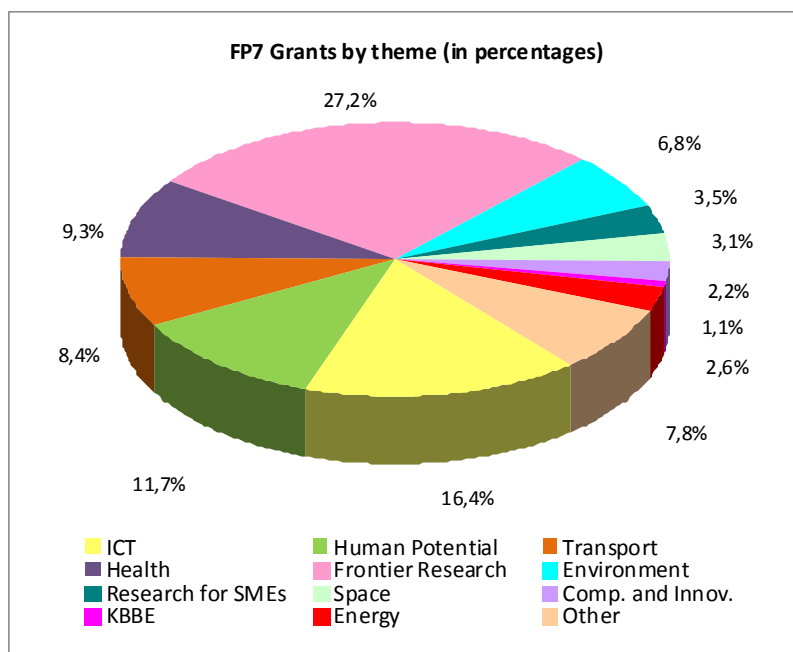
The growing financial importance of IDEAS projects supporting Frontier Research can also be seen by observing the percentages of each field while taking into consideration the number of signed projects and the funding reserved for Sapienza.

Graph 10: FP7 Sapienza projects, by theme (in units)



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Graph 11: Grants by theme (in percentages)



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Comparison of approved projects by Centres of Expenses (table 3 and graph 12) shows that many departments and research centres participate in FP7: 34 departments (over half the total) and 9 research centres have signed at least one FP7 project agreement. Levels of participation however are not homogeneous as over 60% of projects are concentrated in the following 9 departments:

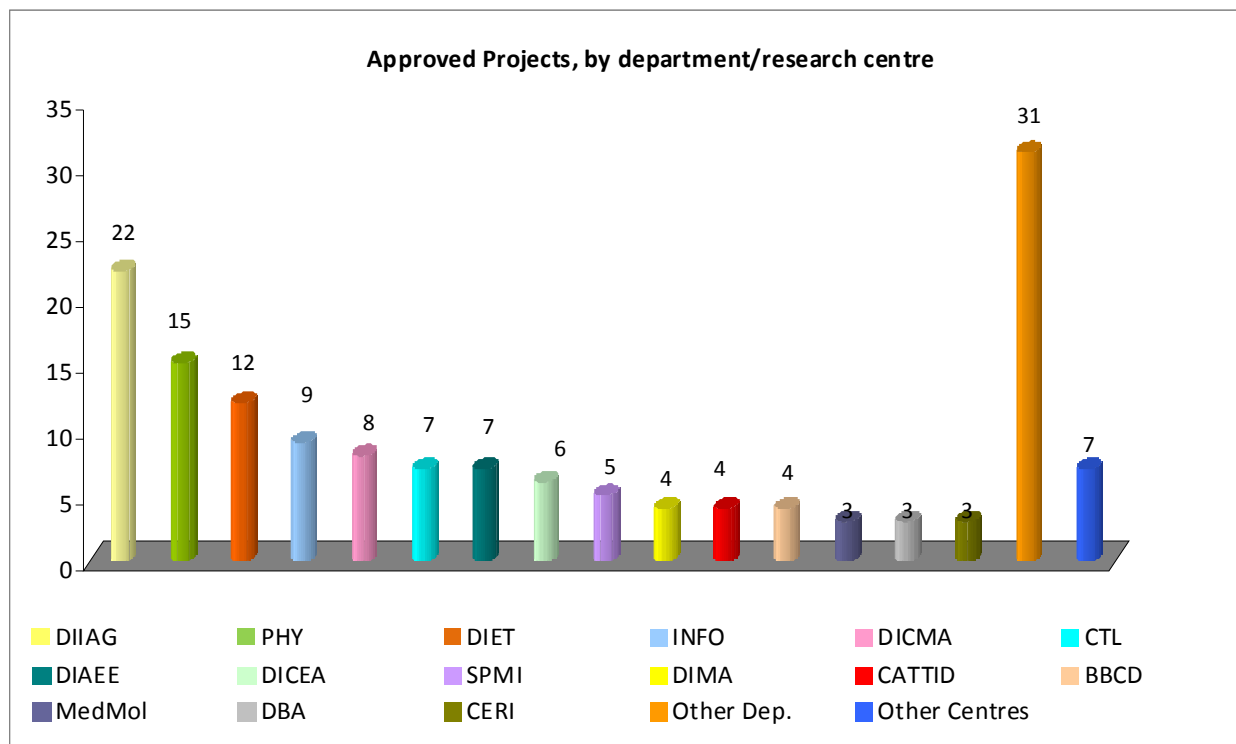
- Computer, Control, and Management Engineering (DIIAG)
- Physics;
- Information Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunication (DIET);
- Computer Science (INFO);
- Chemical materials, environmental engineering (DICMA);
- Research Centre for Transport and Logistics (CTL);
- Astronautics, Electrical and Energetics Engineering (DIAEE);
- Public Health and Infectious Diseases;
- Civil, Constructional and Environmental Engineering (DICEA)

The significant concentration of projects within few structures can be observed also in the fact that 28 of the 43 Centres of Expenses involved, manage no more than 2 projects, demonstrating that it is in most cases an occasional participation.

Table 3: Approved Projects, by department/research centre

Department or Research Centre		Projects
Computer, Control, and Management Engineering	DIIAG	22
Physics	PHY	15
Information Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunication	DIET	12
Computer Science	INFO	9
Chemical materials, environmental engineering	DICMA	8
Centre for Transport and Logistics	CTL	7
Astronautics, Electrical and Energetics Engineering	DIAEE	7
Civil, Constructional and Environmental Engineering	DICEA	6
Public Health and Infectious Diseases	SPMI	5
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	DIMA	4
Research centre for Information and Communication Technology	CATTID	4
Biology and biotechnology "Charles Darwin"	BBCD	4
Molecular Medicine	MedMol	3
Environmental Biology	DBA	3
Research centre for geological risks	CERI	3
Other Departments		31
Other Research Centres		7

Graph 12: Approved Projects, by department/research centre



Source: Department IX International Relations Database, Sapienza, March 2012

Table 3: Approved Projects, by department/research centre

- 151 projects (171 including those in negotiation)
 - ✓ 94 COOPERATION
 - ✓ 11 IDEAS
 - ✓ 28 PEOPLE
- Total project cost: €60,873,649,95
- Total EU funds: €49,628,466,68
- 35 projects managed as a coordinating body (of which 8 COOPERATION)
- Numerous fields covered (with a prevalence of ICT, Aerospace and Transportation, and Health)
- 34 departments involved (50.7%). Most active are: Computer, Control, and Management Engineering; Physics; Information Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunication; Computer Science; Chemical materials, environmental engineering; Research Centre for Transport and Logistics; Astronautics, Electrical and Energetics Engineering; Public Health and Infectious Diseases; Civil, Constructional and Environmental Engineering.
- 9 research centers involved. Most active are: CTL; CATTID; CERI
- 115 professors scientific directors of at least one project (21 of 2 projects, 9 of 3 and 5 of 4)
- More than 1000 partners

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