

7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

Opportunities for SMEs

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Structure of presentation

Opportunities for SMEs at EU level

- Structural Funds
- CIP
- RSFF

SMEs in the seventh Framework Programme

- Cooperation
- People
- Capacities



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STRUCTURAL FUNDS



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Regional Policy - Community Strategic Guidelines for Cohesion

Increase and improve investment in RTD

- Strengthen co-operation between businesses and public-private ventures:
 - ✓ supporting regional and trans-regional clusters of excellence
 - ✓ setting up trans-national European technology initiatives
- Support RTD activities in **SMEs**
- Complement 7th Framework Programme for RTD
- Support for regional cross-border and transnational initiatives

Knowledge
and
innovation
for growth

Objectives, Structural Funds and instruments

2007-2013

Objectives

Structural Funds and instruments

Convergence

ERDF

ESF

Cohesion
Fund

Regional Competitiveness
and Employment

ERDF

ESF

European territorial
Cooperation

ERDF

infrastructure,
innovation,
investments
etc.

vocational
training,
employment
aids etc.

environmental and
transport infra-
structure,
renewable energy

all Member States and regions

Member States with a
GNI/head below 90%



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CIP (Competitiveness and innovation Programme)



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CIP Structure: 3 pillars

From 2007 to 2013: € 3.621 million

Entrepreneurship
&
Innovation
Programme (EIP)

€ 2.170 million incl.
€ 430 for eco-innovation

Information
Communication
Technologies
-
Policy
Support Programme

(ICT- PSP)

€ 730 million

Intelligent
Energy
Europe
(IEE)

€ 730 million

SMEs, Eco-innovation

1st pillar: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

Objectives:

- Access to finance
- **SME** cooperation and information
- Innovation and eco-innovation
- Entrepreneurship and innovation culture
- Enterprise and innovation related reforms

Instruments:

- Financial instruments (equity and loan guarantees)
- Business support services
- Innovation projects (sectors, clusters, networks, regional, technology transfer, services...)
- Policy analyses, development and coordination



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RSFF (Risk-sharing Finance Facility)



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Risk Sharing Finance Facility

An innovative financing mechanism to:

- Foster increased private investment in research by improving access to EIB loan finance.
- Risk-sharing with EIB to allow:
 - Larger volume of risky lending to R&D
 - Financing of riskier, but bankable projects
- Generate a leverage effect so that the volume of extra lending by EIB is a multiple 4 to 6 of the Community funds allocated to the facility.

The case of SMEs

- **SMEs** fulfilling the conditions of eligibility can benefit from the RSFF mechanism to finance their R&D investments.
- Loan size must be taken into account: EIB cannot directly manage hundreds of small loans for SMEs.
- SMEs will thus be invited to join larger « Common legal entities » when they operate at European level
- If this is not realistic, SMEs will be able to benefit from sub-delegation schemes from EIB to local/national banks.



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SMEs in FP7



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SMEs in FP7 - why?

SMEs are at the core of European industry and key players in the innovation system.

SMEs have to respond increasingly to a strong competition in the internal market and globally.

- Need to increase their knowledge base and their research efforts in trans-national cooperation.
- Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions taken at national and regional level.

SMEs in FP7

Main initiatives

Complementary pillars of SME support in FP7		
Optimized participation of SMEs	Dedicated scheme with special emphasis on SMEs	Budget increase for the SME specific measures
<p>"Cooperation"</p> <p>Research performing SMEs</p> <p>Thematic areas</p>	<p>"People"</p> <p>Research performing SMEs</p> <p>Industry-academia pathways</p>	<p>"Capacities"</p> <p>SMEs outsourcing research</p> <p>Bottom-up approach</p>

SMEs in FP7 “Cooperation”

- **Simplified financial and administrative procedures** (e.g. 75% funding rate for SMEs, no bank guarantees)
- **Dedicated SME strategy** under each Theme
- **Identification of areas of particular interest** to SMEs in the individual work programmes
- **Greater flexibility** in choosing the appropriate funding scheme
- **15% target** for SME participation under Cooperation

SME friendly-activities WP2008

(in brackets WP2007 data)

		Sme-relevant topics	SME- targeted calls	CSA	studies
• Health	<i>no WP2008</i>	(12)	(1)	(3)	
• Food		1 (9)		3(-)	1
• ICT	<i>no WP2008</i>	(3)			
• NMP		4 (5)	4(7)	1(4)	
• Energy		3 (33)			
• Environment		9 (10)		4	
• Transport		2 (2)		2(2)	1
• Socio-Economic		- (2)			1
• Space		- (1)			
• Security		- (-)		3(3)	

NMP: SME targeted calls **budget** = 4.855 M€

+ «at least 35% of EC contribution will be allocated to the participating SMEs»



SMEs in FP7 “People”

- Enhancing diverse career possibilities for researchers in Europe, by increasing the industry involvement in all Marie Curie actions (in particular MCN for early-stage researchers - ITN)
- Industry-academia partnerships and pathways support cooperation between academia and industry encourage SME participation through
 - ✓ Staff secondments between academia and industry
 - ✓ Temporary hosting of experienced researchers from outside

Research for the benefit of SMEs: Objectives

Strengthen the innovation capacities of SMEs to develop new products and markets by **outsourcing of research:**

- Increase their research effort
- Acquire technological know-how
- Extend their networks
- Improve the exploitation of research results

Research for the benefit of SMEs Work programme 2007

1. Supporting SMEs outsourcing research activities

- Research for SMEs
- Research for SME associations

2. Developing and coordinating support to SMEs at national level

- Eurostars Article 169 Initiative
- ERA-NET
- Support to national and/or regional “Exploratory Awards”
- NCP-network

3. Support measures

- Coordination and Support Actions
- Studies

Total budget within FP7: Million €1.336

1. Supporting SMEs outsourcing research activities: Target group

Research for SMEs:

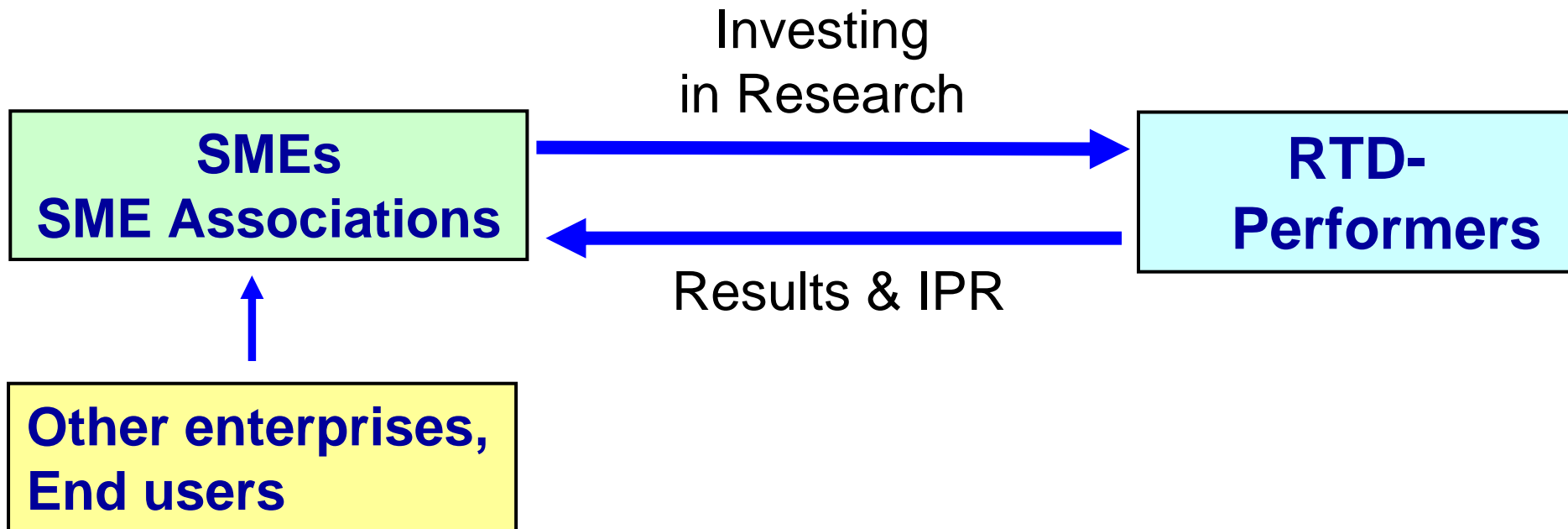
- Low to medium technology SMEs with little or no research capability
- Research intensive SMEs that need to outsource research to complement their core research capability

Research for SME associations:

- SME associations representing their members and their common technical problems

➔ bottom-up approach, no thematic focussing

Principle: Outsourcing scheme “customer-seller” relationship



2. Developing and coordinating support to SMEs at national level - EUROSTARS

CHARACTERISTICS:-

- Target group: R&D performing SMEs.
- 22 EU Member States (MS,*) and 5 States associated to FP7 (AS,**) are committed to the programme.
- Co-funded by the MS+AS and the Community
- Community contribution: EUR 100 million
- This will leverage at least EUR 300 million from MS and AS
- Result is a package of about EUR 800 million of public and private funding to boost R&D in SMEs

(*) Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

(**) Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

2. Developing and coordinating support to SMEs at national level

ERA-NET

- Continuation of FP6 ERA-NET projects: ERA-SME & CORNET
- Increase integration, coverage and number/budget of common calls.

Support to national and/or regional “Exploratory Awards”

- Establish durable schemes and services to increase the number of awards provided by the national and/or regional schemes.
- A first preparatory Coordination and Support Action dedicated to the development of implementation modalities.

Network of National Contact Points (NCPs)

- Identifying and sharing good practices, developing common tools.
- Supporting less experienced NCPs to rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries.

For further information:



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