



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Perspektiven für KMU im 6. und 7. Forschungsrahmenprogramm der EU

Europäische Kommission
GD Forschung
Forschung und KMU
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SMEs



SMEs in the knowledge economy

- **SMEs are at the core of the European industry and are a key component in the chain of transformation of knowledge into exploitable products, processes and services**
- **SMEs are faced with increasing competition in the internal market and globally and need to increase their research intensity and networks and expand their business on larger markets**
- **A growing number of SMEs are directly concerned by research activities**



SMEs in FP6 (2002-2006)

1. 7 Priority Thematic Areas:

Budget 1.865 B€ is allocated to SMEs

- Integrated Projects
- STREPS
- Network of Excellence

7 thematic
priorities areas

2. SME Specific schemes:

Budget 473 M€

- Co-operative Research
- Collective Research

Any R&D field





SMEs in FP6

7 Priority Thematic Areas

- EC objective = allocate 15% of the 7 thematic priorities to SMEs
- So far, 13% achieved
- To promote SME participation in the 7 Thematic Priorities Areas → NCPs, Economical and Technological Intelligence
- SME Task Force
→ Action Plans of Thematic Priorities

1. Life science
2. Information society technologies
3. Nanotechnologies
4. Aeronautics and space
5. Food quality and safety
6. Sustainable development
7. Citizens and governance



SMEs in FP6

SME Specific schemes

Two specific schemes for SMEs on any subject across the whole range of Science and Technology

1. **Co-operative Research**

To support small groups of SMEs to respond to their needs for RTD.

Projects are centered on the innovation needs of the SMEs which outsource research to RTD performers and must demonstrate a clear exploitation potential for the SMEs concerned.



SMEs in FP6

SME Specific schemes

specific schemes for SMEs on any subject across the whole range of Science and Technology

2. **Collective Research**

To expand the knowledge of large communities of SMEs via the participation of their associations. RTD is outsourced to RTD performers.



Collective Research RTD Issues

- Research to meet regulatory requirements (health & safety, environmental performance)
- Pre-normative research to provide base for European norms and standards
- Research aimed at reinforcing the technological base of particular sector(s)
- Development of “technological tools” (e.g. diagnosis, safety equipment)





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SMEs in FP7

Specific Programme Proposals

SMEs



- Optimized participation of SMEs across the specific programmes
- Strengthened SMEs specific actions in the "Capacities" programme: "Research for the benefit of SMEs"
- Article 169 initiative in the field of research performing SMEs, building on EUREKA
- Competitiveness and Innovation Programme: complementary services encouraging the participation of SMEs in FP7



Optimized participation of SMEs (I)

- “Cooperation” programme:
 - SME research needs and potential are taken into account in developing content of thematic areas, and topics of particular interest to SMEs will be further identified in work programmes
 - Improved and simplified financial and administrative procedures
 - Increased flexibility in choosing the appropriate funding scheme
 - Joint Technology Initiatives will encourage the involvement of SMEs, where appropriate.



Optimized participation of SMEs (II)

- “People” programme:
 - Special emphasis on the involvement of SMEs
 - “Industry-academia partnerships and pathways”: dedicated scheme for knowledge sharing in partnerships between the public and private sector, including in particular SMEs.

To open and foster dynamic pathways based on longer term co-operation programmes with a high potential for increasing knowledge-sharing and mutual understanding of the different cultural settings and skill requirements of both sectors.

- “Ideas” programme:
 - SMEs will also be able to participate in this programme: individual teams from SMEs may compete on grounds of excellence.



Optimized participation of SMEs (III)

- “Capacity” programme:
 - Infrastructure
 - Research for the benefits of SMEs
 - Etc.



Research for the benefit of SMEs Objectives

- Strengthening innovation capacities of SMEs and their ability to benefit from research
- Enhancing the contribution of SMEs to the development of new technology based products and markets by helping them to:
 - Outsource their research activities
 - Increase their research effort
 - Extend their networks
 - Better exploit research results
 - Acquire technological know-how



Research for the benefit of SMEs Approach (I)

- SMEs are at the core of European industry and a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transforming knowledge into products, processes and services
- European SMEs are faced with increasing competition in the internal market and globally and therefore need to increase their knowledge and research intensity and internationalize
- Member States actions relevant to SMEs often do not encourage or support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer
- Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions taken at national and regional level



Research for the benefit of SMEs Approach (II)

- Specific actions will be implemented to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to universities and research centres (“RTD performers”)
- Actions in the entire field of science and technology (bottom-up approach)
- Evaluation of SME specific project proposals will take due account of the expected economic impact for the SMEs, within overall criteria of excellence, impact and implementation



Research for the benefit of SMEs

Target population

- **Research for SMEs:**

all SMEs that need to outsource research activities

- mainly 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 which are normally best placed to know or identify the common technical problems of their members



Research for the benefit of SMEs Activities (I)

Research for SMEs:

- Support of small groups of innovative SMEs to solve common or complementary technological problems.
- Relatively short term projects centred around the innovation needs of the SMEs which outsource research to RTD performers
- Demonstrate a clear exploitation potential for the SMEs concerned and promote the effective dissemination and take-up of results



Research for SME associations:

- Support to SME associations to develop technical solutions to problems common to a large number of SMEs in specific industrial sectors or segments of the value chain
- For example, research needed to develop or conform to EU norms and standards, and to meet regulatory requirements in areas such as health, safety and environmental protection
- Projects, with a duration of several years, must be driven by the SME associations



For more information

- CORDIS: http://sme.cordis.lu/research/fp6_support.cfm
- SME TechWeb: http://sme.cordis.lu/research/fp6_support.cfm
- SME National Contact Points:
<http://sme.cordis.lu/assistance/ncps.cfm>



- General website on **FP 7**:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm
- Proposal for a **DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL** concerning the seventh framework programme:
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0119en01.pdf
- Proposal for a DECISION OF THE COUNCIL concerning the **specific programmes** of the seventh framework programme:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/documents_en.cfm
- Proposal for a DECISION OF THE COUNCIL concerning the **specific programme "capacities"** of the seventh framework programme
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/pdf/specifc_programmes/fp7sp_capacities_en.pdf

