



Malta Council for Science and Technology

Opportunities for SMEs in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7)

Karen Fiorini

FP7 National Contact Point for SMEs

Overview

- EU definition of SME – does your co. qualify?
- EC encouraging SME's to participate
- Economic benefits for SMEs
- FP7 at a glance
- SME schemes in Cooperation; People and Capacities
- Work Programme
- Role of MCST

SME definition – do you qualify?

Your organisation is NOT an SME

NO

Is the organisation an enterprise, i.e. engaged in economic activity?

YES

NO

Does it have fewer than 250 employees?

YES

NO

Does it have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million? Or does it have a balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million?

YES

NO

Is it autonomous?

YES

Your organisation is an SME

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 transnational co-operations.
 - Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions taken at National level

Economic Benefits For SMEs



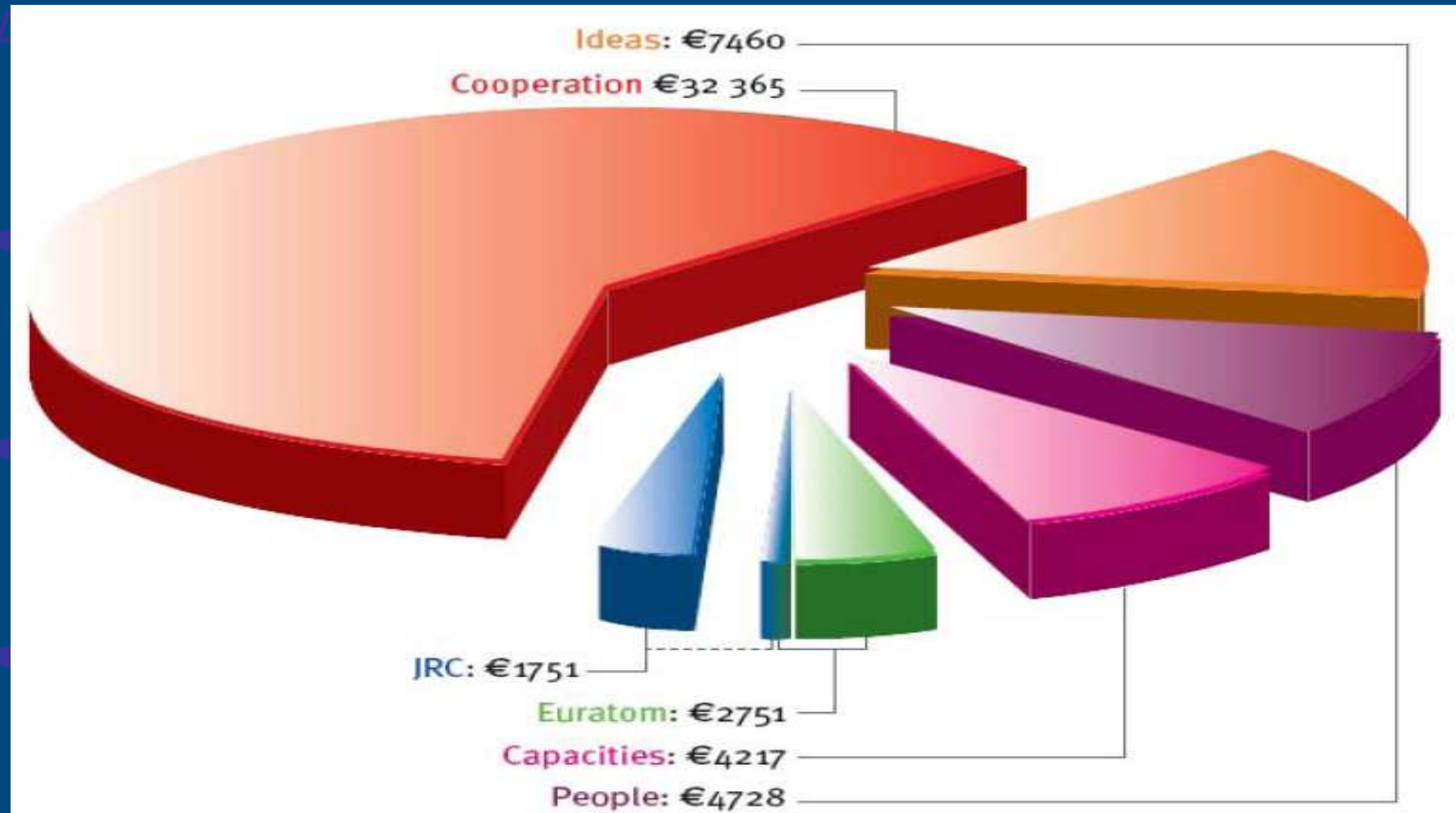
- Commercial risks are reduced
- Multiplier effect on yield of own research efforts, access to research results of the whole consortium
- networks can be used for further business relations and exploring new markets
- SMEs without research capacities: support for outsourcing research
- Staff development
- Long term perspectives

Successful FP participation can lead to stronger competitiveness of the enterprise

FP7 at a Glance

- EU's main funding tool for supporting research and technological development
- 2007-2013
- Total budget of over € 50 Billion
- Supports research in selected priority areas
- Objectives
 - to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry
 - to encourage international competitiveness, while promoting research that supports EU policies.

FP7 Budget



FP7 Structure

Cooperation – Collaborative Research

Ideas – Frontier Research

People – Human Potential

Capacity – Research Capacity

FP7 Pillars

Complementary pillars of SME support in FP7

Optimised participation of SMEs	Dedicated scheme with special emphasis on SMEs	Budget for the SMEs specific measures
Cooperation	People	Capacities
Research Performing SMEs	Research Performing SMEs	SMEs outsourcing research
Thematic Areas	Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways Initial Training Networks	Bottom-up approach

SMEs in FP7 “Cooperation” (1/2)



- The heart of FP7 (two thirds of overall budget)
- Aims to facilitate collaborative research across Europe through transnational consortia
- Dedicated SME strategy under each of the 10 Themes
- 15% target for SME participation
- Identification of areas of particular interest to SMEs in the individual work programmes

SMEs in FP7 “Cooperation” (2/2)

- Simplified financial and administrative procedures (e.g. 75% funding rate for SMEs, no bank guarantees)
- Particular attention to ensure enhanced SME participation
 - Research-intensive SMEs should play a leading role in such projects
 - Requested EC contribution to participating SMEs must in all cases be substantial

Complementary pillars of SME support in FP7

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SMEs in FP7 “People” (1/2)

- Marie Curie Actions are focused on training, mobility and career development of researchers
- Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways Scheme – aims to establish long term research cooperation between the public and the private sector

SMEs in FP7 “People” (2/2)

- Funding is provided for:
 - Staff exchanges
 - Recruitment of experienced researchers
 - Networking activities, workshops and conferences
 - Research costs
 - Equipment costs (for SMEs only)
- Bottom-up approach
- 100% funded

Complementary pillars of SME support in FP7

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	Initial Training Networks	

SMEs in FP7 “Capacities” (1/4)

- 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 focus

SMEs in FP7 “Capacities” (2/4)

Research for the Benefit of SMEs

- Aimed at SMEs and their associations who wish to outsource their research
- Intended to strengthen the innovation capacities of SMEs and help develop new products and markets
- Allows SMEs to increase their research efforts, acquire technological know-how, extend business networks and improve the exploitation of research results

Research for SMEs (3/4)

- Consortium must have:
 - at least 3 SME partners from 3 different MS or AC
 - at least 2 RTD performers from any country
- The size is typically between 5-10 participants
- Budget between €0.5 to € 1.5M
- Duration of project 1-2 years

Research for SMEs Call 3 (4/4)

- Call identifier: FP7-SME-2010-1
- Date of publication: July 30, 2009
- Deadline: December 3, 2009, at 17.00h (Brussels local time)
- Indicative budget: EUR 135 million
- Topics: the call is open to all research fields

Work Programme

Annual work programmes give a clear overview of what the EC is expecting

- Strategy/ approach, timing and content of calls (topics, funding schemes, budgets etc.)
- Evaluation criteria (S&T quality, impact, implementation)
- Particular requirements for participation, evaluation, implementation

Role of MCST in FP7

- MCST has appointed an NCP for every thematic and horizontal area in FP7.
- Every local NCP is part of a NCP network at the European level.
- Disseminates information on FP7.
- Identifies opportunities in current calls.
- Organises info days and training workshops.
- Advises in proposal writing and joining consortia

THANK YOU!

karen.fiorini@gov.mt

Tel: 23602 134