



Malta Council for Science and Technology

# Research Opportunities for SMEs

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1. Brief overview of MCST
2. Research in Malta
3. Seventh Framework (FP7)

# MCST - Malta Council for Science and Technology

# MCST

- Public body established by government in 1989 to provide policy advice in the area of Science and Technology
- Small organisation – 12 employees
- Offices in Bighi

# MCST

- **Mandate: Science and Technology, Research and Innovation**
  - Development of policy
  - Promoting research and innovation
- **Responsibilities**
  1. Research and Innovation Strategy
  2. EU Policy initiatives
  3. National Contact Organisation for FP7
  4. Programme owners of R&I Programme

# MCST: R&I in academia, public sector and industry

## We work with

- Malta Enterprise: industry, including R&I
- Ministry of Education / NCHE: science education and popularisation
- FOI

# National Strategy

## National Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation 2007 – 2010

- Developed on the basis of wide consultation
- Makes over 60 recommendations to promote research and innovation

# Research in Malta

Is there research in Malta?

# Research

“ . . . creative work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the knowledge base, and the use of this knowledge to devise new applications” (OECD Frascati Manual)

# Research

- **Does not include**
  - Purchase of new machinery
  - Routine ICT development
  - Book research into what already exists
  - Adoption of off-the-shelf technology
- **Could include**
  - Optimisation of manufacturing processes
  - Cutting edge ICT
  - combining existing technologies to achieve superior results

# Research in Malta

NSO statistics for 2006: 0.62% of GDP

- 0.42% private
- 0.21% public & Higher Education

**€31 million**

# Public Sector

- Investment of **€10 million** (central government, FP7, etc)
- University of Malta & Institutes
- AFM, AirMalta, Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences, Government Farm, Heritage Malta, MCST, ME, MEPA, MEYE, MRA, MRAE, MoH, NSO, Plant Health Division, WSC

# Private Sector

- Investment of **€21 million** (mainly private funding, FP7, etc)
- **NGOs:** FTZ, Genista, Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna
- **Industry:** Abertax, Acrosslimits, Actavis, AIS, Aquabiotech, Carlo Gavazzi, Dold, ESDL, Hetric, ICP, IRM, Medelec, PIM, Seifert, . . .

# Research in Malta

Target expenditure **0.75%** GDP by 2010 (**€43 million**)

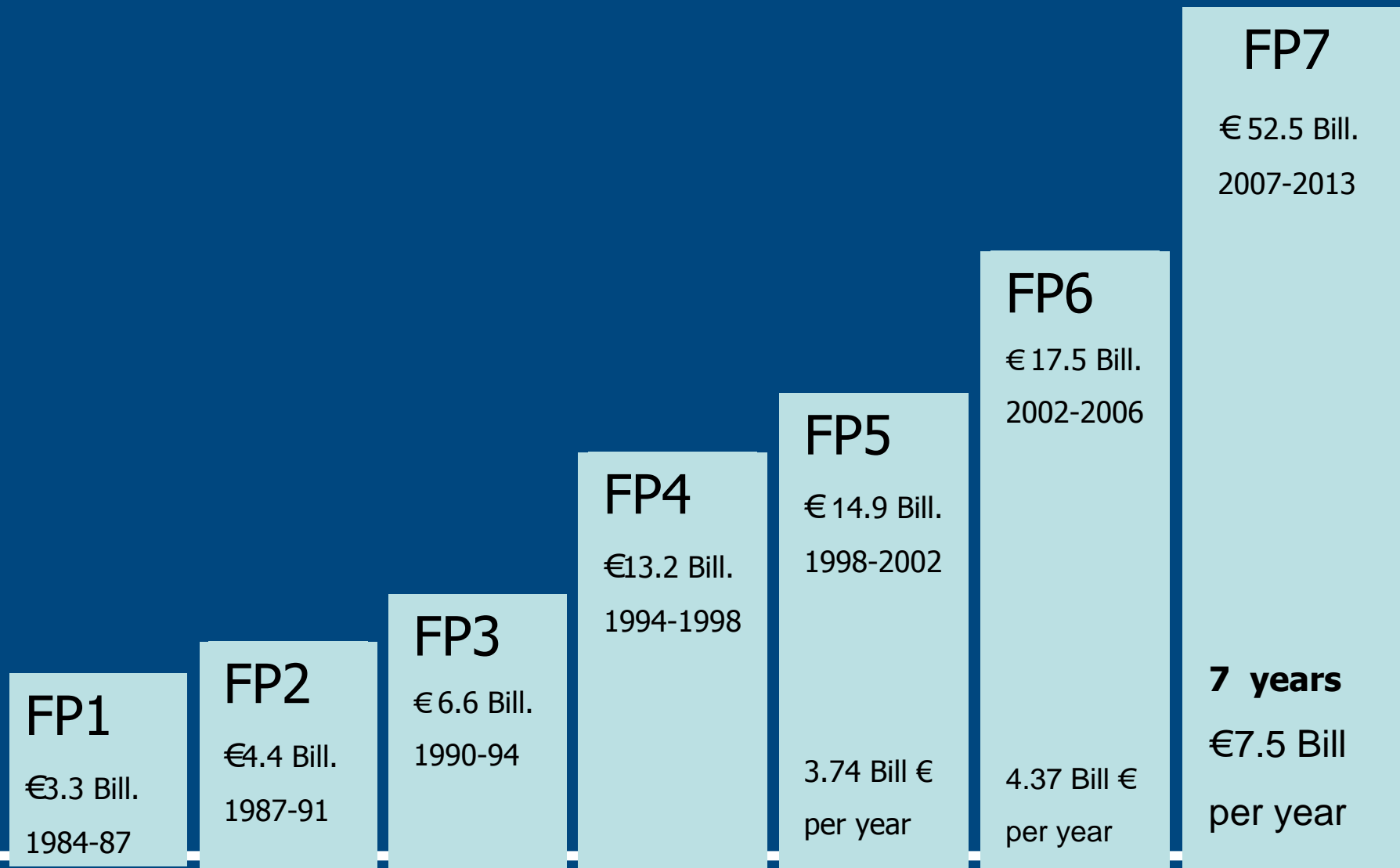
- Structural Funds – over €30 million allocated mainly for infrastructure and PhD bursaries
- Structural Funds – Malta Enterprise scheme for industry research
- Government funding - €700k for R&I Fund administered by MCST
- Increased participation in FP7
- Increased investment by industry



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# EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research

# FP Financial Allocation



# FP7 overview

7-year programme (2007-2013) with budget of €53 billion

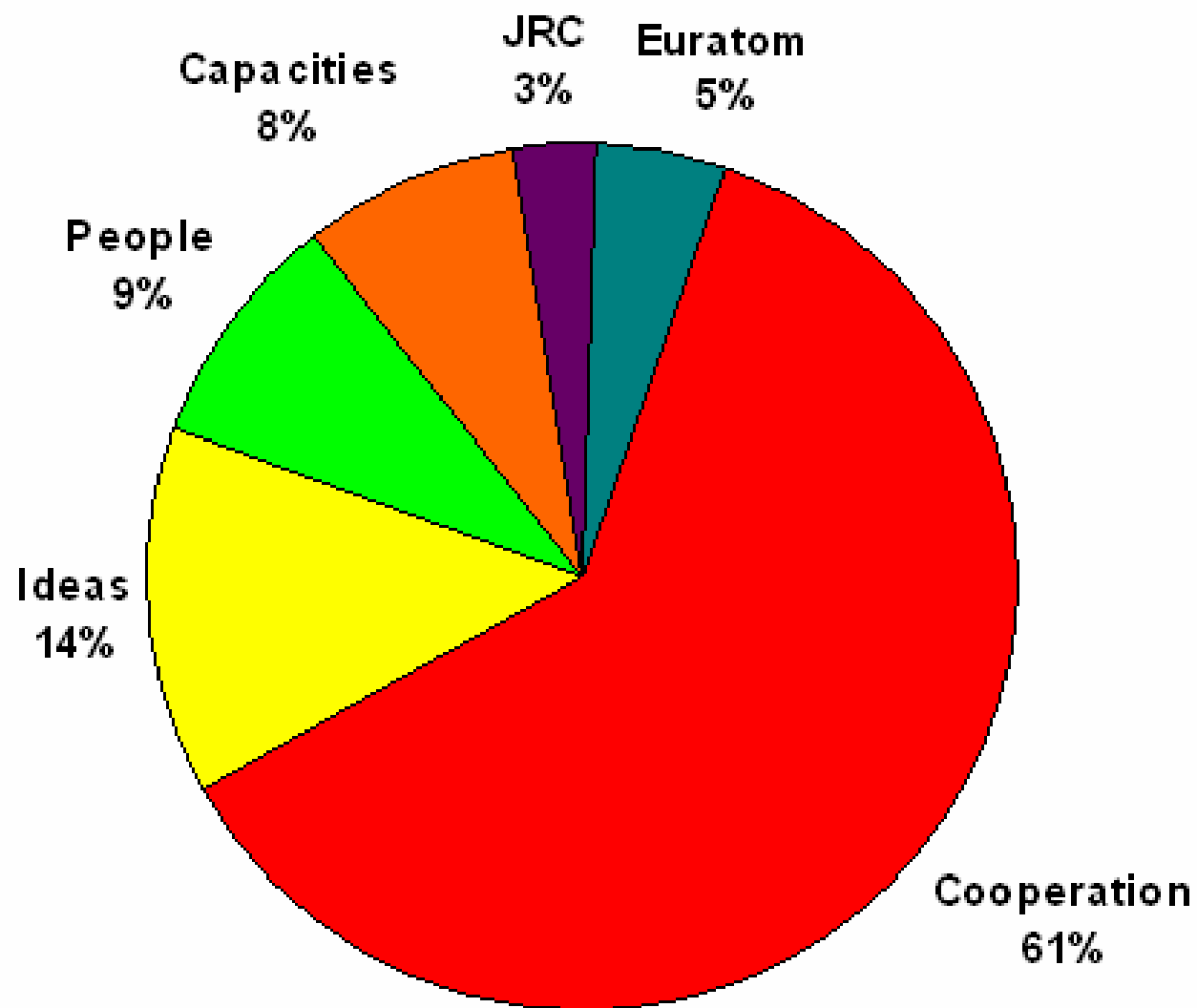
*Cooperation* – Collaborative research

*Ideas* – Frontier Research

*People* – Marie Curie Actions

*Capacities* – Research Capacity

# FP7 Financial Allocation



# Opportunities for SMEs

- Industry participation is strongly encouraged
- Specific programme for SMEs under Capacities programme
- Each subprogramme includes specific measures addressing SMEs

# How it works

- Annual work programme and competitive call for proposals
- Interested parties form consortia and submit proposal
- Evaluation and selection on basis of excellence
- Success rate 20 – 25%
  
- Funding in advance tranches
- 75% funding
- Administration and record-keeping is manageable

# Malta's Performance

- **FP6 (4 years)**
  - 125 Maltese partners (academia, industry, gov) across most fields
  - Around €10 million in funding, of which over €3 million to industry
- **FP7 (1 year)**
  - 41 projects with value of €3.5 million in funding
  - Individual projects of up to €400,000

# How MCST can help

- We offer personal meetings, presentations and discussion of your interests and needs
- Helping identify project coordinators
- Advice and resolving queries
- Help in drafting proposal