

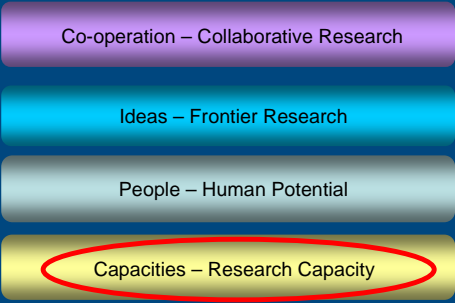
## The “Capacities” Programme in FP7


- Enhancing the EU’s research and innovation capacities

Anthea Frendo

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## FP7 Structure



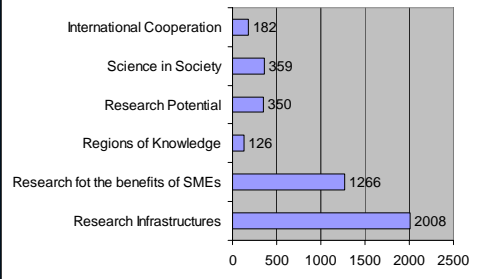
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## Capacities


- Research Infrastructures
- Research for the benefits of SMEs
- Regions of Knowledge
- Research Potential
- Science in Society
- Activities in International Cooperation + Coherent Development of Policies

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## Budget in Million Euros



| Category                          | Budget (Million Euros) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| International Cooperation         | 182                    |
| Science in Society                | 359                    |
| Research Potential                | 350                    |
| Regions of Knowledge              | 126                    |
| Research for the benefits of SMEs | 1266                   |
| Research Infrastructures          | 2008                   |

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## Research Infrastructures

- Objectives:
  - Optimise use and development of best existing research infrastructures in Europe
  - Help create necessary new infrastructures of pan-European interest
  - Help industry strengthen its base of knowledge and technological know-how

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## Research Infrastructures (cont.)

- Support to existing Research Infrastructures:
  - Trans-national access
  - Integrating activities
  - Research e-infrastructure
- Support to new Research Infrastructures:
  - Construction of new infrastructures and major updates of existing ones
  - Design Studies

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## Research for the benefits of SMEs

- Building on success of FP6
- Strengthen innovation capacity of SMEs
- Support SMEs or SME associations in need of:
  - Outsourcing research,
  - Increasing research efforts,
  - Extending networks,
  - Exploiting research results,
  - Acquire technological know-how

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## Research for the benefits of SMEs (cont.)

2 schemes:

- Research for SMEs – support small groups of SMEs to solve common or complementary technological problems – mainly focusing on low to medium tech SMEs with little or no research capability.
- Research for SME associations – support SME associations and groupings to develop technical solutions to solve problems common to large number of SMEs

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## Regions of Knowledge

- Development of regional “research-driven clusters”
- Two objectives for European Research:

Strengthen their capacity for investing in RTD and carrying out research activities

Maximising their potential for a successful involvement of their operators in European research projects

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## Regions of Knowledge (cont.)

Projects will cover:

- Joint analysis of research agendas of regional clusters
- “Mentoring” of regions with a less developed research profile by highly developed ones
- Improving research networking and access to sources of funding as well as better integration of research actors and institutes in regional economies

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## Research Potential

- Unlock the potential of research groups in convergence and outermost regions of Europe
- Activities:
  - Two-way secondments and recruitment of researchers
  - Acquisition or development of research equipment
  - Workshops/conferences for knowledge transfer
  - Evaluation facilities

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## Science in Society

- Support creation for social and cultural environment that allows successful and exploitable research to be carried out.
- Key concerns:
  - Insufficient public participation in priority setting
  - Growing concerns about scientific developments
  - Perceived isolation world of science from everyday life
  - Objectivity of scientific evidence to support public policy

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## Science in Society (cont.)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Action Line: A more dynamic governance of the science and society relationship
  - Strengthening and improving the European Science system
  - Broader engagement to anticipate and clarify political, societal and ethical issues
  - Better understanding of the place of S & T in society
  - The evolving role of Universities

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## Science in Society (cont.)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Line: Strengthening potential broadening horizons
  - Gender and research
  - Young People and Science
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Action Line: Science and Society Communicate
  - Descartes Prize
  - Support for the development of a European scientific press resource facility

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## International Cooperation

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe;
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

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## International Cooperation (cont.)

- Co-operation with third countries on FP participation
  - Candidate countries
  - Mediterranean partner countries (MPC), Western Balkans countries (WBC) as well as the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries (EECCA)
  - Developing countries. This includes third countries neighbouring the outermost regions.

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Thank You!

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