



Malta Council for Science and Technology

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

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EU Definition - SME

Is the organisation an enterprise ie is it engaged in economic activity?



Does it have fewer than 250 employees?



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



Is it autonomous?



FP7 at a Glance

- EU's funding tool for 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.

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-operation.
 - Fresh ideas and novel approaches are important for SMEs to compete in a globalised market
 - Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions taken at a national one

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
<p>Research Performing SMEs</p> <p>Thematic Areas: Health, ICT, Environment, Energy, Transport, FAFB, Space</p>	<p>Research Performing SMEs</p> <p>Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways</p> <p>Initial Training Networks</p>	<p>SMEs outsourcing research</p> <p>Bottom-up approach</p>

SMEs in FP7 “Cooperation”

- Dedicated SME strategy under each Theme
- Specific call dedicated to SMEs in particular work programmes, eg NMP
- 15% target for SME participation
- Simplified financial and administrative procedures (e.g. 75% funding rate for SMEs, no bank guarantees)

SMEs in FP7 “People”

- Individual Actions
- Initial Training Networks
- Industry-academia partnerships and pathways between public and private research organisations based on a common research project that aims to increase the exchange of skills between the two sectors:
 - Staff secondment between academia and industry including SMEs
 - Temporary hosting of experienced researchers from outside partnership
 - Possible financial contribution to small equipment related to SME participation

SMEs in FP7 “Capacities”

Research for the Benefit of SMEs

- 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

Research for SMEs

- Supports small groups of innovative SMEs in solving technological problems
- SMEs direct beneficiaries
- Outsource most of the research to RTD performers and gain the know-how to develop new or improve existing products, systems, processes or services
- Access international networks for business development

Research for SMEs cont...

- 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 SME Associations

- The EC supports SME associations to develop technical solutions to problems common to a large number of SMEs
- Projects must be driven by the associations which outsource research to RTD performers (eg. Universities, research performing SMEs...)
- Projects must involve a number of individual SMEs
- Project must have a strong plan for the dissemination of the research results to the SME members (end-users)

Research for SME AGs cont...

- Consortium must have:
 - at least 3 SME-AGs
 - at least 2 RTD performers
 - between 2-5 enterprise and end-users

The role of the SME will focus on:

- validation
- take-up
- training and dissemination activities
- NOT research activities

Funding Limits

	Non-profit public bodies, secondary & higher education, research organisations & SMEs	All other organisations
Research & Technological Development activities	75%	50%
Demonstration Activities	50%	50%
Coordination & Support Actions	100%	100%
Management, audit certificate and other activities	100%	100%

Getting Support

- National Contact Points
 - The network of NCPs is the main structure to provide guidance and practical information
 - Personalised support during the project
- FP7 Enquiry Service
 - A service provided by the Europe Direct Contact Centre

MCST

MCST as the National Contact Point Organisation for FP7 offers assistance through:

- Email and telephone support
- Website
- Meetings
- Events
- Partner-searches through NCP network

Thank you for your attention

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Other useful Sites:

FP7 Malta: http://www.mcst.gov.mt/index_fp7.aspx

FP7 General: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>