

FP7 Capacities

Research for the benefit of SMEs

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What funds will be available?

- Budget 2007 – 2013 of around 1'336 million Euros
- Main calls are expected on an annual basis as shown in this table
- First call: Beginning 2007

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
n	n	n	n	n	n	n

n Planned calls

Detailed information on calls: www.euresearch.ch/calls

What are the objectives and background of Research for the benefit of SMEs?

Objectives

The objective of this programme is to help increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by funding research and development activities in cooperation with qualified public or private research performers (universities, institutes of technology, industry, SMEs). There is no restriction in terms of research topics (bottom-up approach), provided the research meets the needs of the SMEs involved and has clear potential for exploitation.

The principle is as follows: qualified research institutions (e.g. universities, research centres) work with SMEs and associations of SMEs to develop solutions for the SME's problems. Those performing the research are funded 100% and the SMEs are obtain exclusive rights to exploit the results.

Background

SMEs are at the core of European industry. They should be a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transformation of knowledge into new products, processes and services. Faced with an increasing competition in the internal market and globally, European SMEs need to increase their knowledge and research intensity, enhance the exploitation of research, expand their business activities on larger markets and internationalize their knowledge networks. Most Member states actions relevant to SMEs do not encourage and support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer. Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions undertaken at national and regional level. In addition to the actions "Research for SMEs" and "Research for SME associations", the participation of SMEs will be encouraged and facilitated, and their needs taken into account, across the Framework Programme.

www.euresearch.ch/sme-O&B

What areas will be funded during FP7 under Research for the benefit of SMEs?

General

Specific actions in support to SMEs are conceived to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to universities and research centres: mainly low to medium tech SMEs with little or no research capability.

Research intensive SMEs may participate as providers of research services or to outsource research to complement their core research capability.

Actions will be carried out in the entire field of science and technology with a bottom-up approach. Actions will include support of demonstration and other activities to facilitate the exploitation of results ensuring complementarity with the instruments to promote innovation in SMEs under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

Research for SMEs

To support small groups of innovative SMEs to solve common or complementary technological problems

Research for SME associations

To support SME associations and SME groupings to develop technical solutions to problems common to large numbers of SMEs in specific industrial sectors or segments of the value chain.

www.euresearch.ch/sme-R&D

What other areas of FP7 might I apply for?

- All thematic domains (Link zu "opportunities for business")
- Funding of fellowships: www.euresearch.ch/people

www.euresearch.ch/sme-more

What key stockholders should I be aware of?

- EraSME will network national and regional programmes promoting co-operation between SMEs and research organisations <http://www.era-sme.net>

www.euresearch.ch/sme-key

How do I find partners, for example to join a consortium?

Find partners by:

- Contacting researchers/private industries you know personally
- Attending conferences and events
- Screening the project databases of former successful EU projects
- Reading about the experiences of others who have obtained EU

www.euresearch.ch/partnersearch

What other information could be helpful?

Key documents

- [SMEs in STREPS](#) under FP6 This 19 page brochure explains how SMEs can become involved in STREPS (Specific Targeted Research Projects) which have particular advantages for SMEs.

Key websites

- sme.cordis.lu

www.euresearch.ch/sme-key

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Who is the Swiss National Contact Pont for Research for the benefit of SMEs?

Gerhard Gass – Tel. +41 (0) 31 380 60 15 – Gerhard.gass@euresearch.ch

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