



## INNOVATION NEWSLETTER

++++ August 2011 +++++

### *Special: EU-Programmes for SMEs*

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## EU FUNDING

### OVERVIEW

At the Community level, the Union possesses several funding instruments to support research and innovation. The three key funding schemes are:

- **Research:** 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration activities and the 7th Euratom Framework Programme for Nuclear Research and Training Activities (FP7)
- **Innovation:** Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
- **Cohesion Policy:** Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund (SF)

Companies, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can benefit from these programmes.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/supporting-id\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/supporting-id_en.html)

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### PRACTICAL GUIDE TO EU FUNDING

The European Commission has developed a practical guide in order to help potential beneficiaries of the EU programmes to find their way through the three funding schemes (FP7, CIP, SF) and to find the most appropriate funding instrument for them. The guide includes a concise description of the funding sources. It

explains how these fund-

ing schemes can be combined in practice.

The guide is available in the following languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Polish.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html)

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### INFORMATION CENTRES

There are several national contacts which provide information about the EU programmes in all EU languages.

- a. **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** supports SMEs on the European market. The EEN is a network of business support organisations from 49 countries and helps SMEs in
  - Develop your business in new markets
  - Source or license new technologies
  - Access EU finance and EU funding

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FIND YOUR NATIONAL EEN:

[http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)

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- b. **National Contact Points (NCPs)** are financed by the governments of the EU Member States and the countries associated to FP7 and CIP. The NCPs provide individual support, guidance, assistance and provide practical information on all aspects of participation in the FP7 and CIP programmes. It includes



- Advice on technical and administrative questions
- Partner search
- National priorities
- National co-financing possibilities

The structure of the NCP differ in various countries, from highly centralised to decentralised networks. The NCPs can be connected to universities, ministries, research centres, specialist agencies and private consulting companies.

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Find your National Contact Point:

FP7: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html)

NCPs for the CIP – IEE programme:

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/contact/national\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/contact/national_en.htm)

NCPs for the CIP - ICT - PSP:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/contacts/ncp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/contacts/ncp/index_en.htm)

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c. **Managing Authority of the Structural Funds** of the Cohesion Policy funding programmes are national and regional authorities. They can give advices and help with questions connected to the funding opportunities and procedures under the Structural Fund programme in their area.

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FIND YOUR MANAGING AUTHORITY OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>

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## CHECKLIST FOR EU-FUNDING

The European Commission developed a checklist for EU innovation and research funding. This checklist helps to determine which pro-

gramme or funding source fits best. The checklist is based on 6 key questions:

- Step1: Am I eligible for a given programme or funding source?
- Step 2: Is my type of research, innovation or enterprise development activity eligible?
- Step 3: What about my timeframe?
- Step 4: What type of financial support can I obtain?
- Step 5: Who else is involved in the project?
- Step 6: Can I apply for funding in my location?

These key questions guide you in order to find the optimal programme for your idea.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/checklist\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/checklist_en.html)

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## SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (FP 7)

### GENERAL

The **Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)** with a total budget of over 50 billion Euro for the period 2007-2013 aims at supporting research and development activities. It provides funding to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects. FP7 has been grouped into four categories:

- a. **Cooperation:** supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation; aim: leadership in key scientific and technology areas; 32,413 million Euro



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|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Cooperation</b> | <b>Ideas</b>      |
| <b>People</b>      | <b>Capacities</b> |
| <b>Euratom</b>     | <b>JRC</b>        |

FP7 Programme: structure  
 Source: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

- b. **Ideas:** Investigator-driven “frontier research”, within the framework of activities commonly understood as “basic research”
- c. **People:** entirely dedicated to human resources in research
- d. **Capacities:** enhance research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use; 4,097 million Euro; it includes the area “Research for the benefits of SMEs”

For each category there are specific programmes (the actual programmes are the work programmes 2012) corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy. The FP7 aims at promoting and encouraging the creation of European poles of excellence.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

### RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFITS OF SMES

This sub-programme of “FP7-Capacities” aims at strengthening the 'innovation capacity' of SMEs in Europe and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets. SMEs can use the pro-

gramme to outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, and bridging the gap between research and innovation.

This support aims at SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to providers of research services ('RTD performers') such as universities, research centres or other, more specialised SMEs.

The programme aims at creating new knowledge or achieving results with clear potential to improve or develop new products, processes and services, which meet the needs of the participating SMEs.

See below “open calls”!

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIdentifier=FP7-SME-2012>

### RUSSIA AND BELARUS

Most of the FP7 schemes allow International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) to participate on the research projects. In both countries there are National Contact Points which can provide information and advices in Russian language.

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National Contact Point Belarus:

<http://fp7-nip.org.by/>

National Contact Points Russia:

<http://fp7-bio.ru/biotech/nkt-in-russia/>

LIST OF THE ICPC COUNTRIES:

[http://rp7.ffg.at/upload/medialibrary/cooperatio n-general-annexes201101\\_en\\_p2-3.pdf](http://rp7.ffg.at/upload/medialibrary/cooperatio n-general-annexes201101_en_p2-3.pdf)



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## COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (CIP)

CIP aims at fostering the competitiveness of European Enterprises. The overall budget amounts to 3.6 billion EURO between 2007 and 2013. The CIP is divided into three operational programmes:

- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)** aims at supporting innovation and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the EU, focusing on:
  - Access to finance
  - Business Service (EEN)
  - Improving innovation policy
  - Eco-innovation
  - Innovation and SME policy making through contracts and grants
- **Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)** seeks to stimulate a wider uptake of innovative ICT based services and the exploitation of digital content across Europe by citizens, governments and businesses, in particular SMEs.
- **Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)** aims at meeting the EU targets on climate change and energy. The funding amounts to 730 million EURO for the period 2007-2013. In annual calls the programme supports concrete projects, initiatives and best practices.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>

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## STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND COHESION FUND (SF)

The Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund – ERDF and European Social Fund - ESF) and the Cohesion Fund aim at strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion through the reduction of disparities in the level of development among regions and Member States. Operational programmes for the period 2007-2013 have been developed for each region or Member State. The Structural Funds cover many thematic areas including research, innovation, and enterprise. The total funding for this period amounts to 86 billion EURO. The funds vary between the Member States and regions according to their level of development. Unlike FP7 and CIP, the management of the Structural Funds is decentralised to regional or national bodies.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/funding-partners-public/nance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/funding-partners-public/nance/index_en.htm)

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## OPEN CALLS

### Research for the benefits of SMEs

- **Call identifier:** FP7-SME-2012.1
- **Deadline:** December 6, 2011, 17:00 Brussels local time
- **Topics:** bottom-up scheme; any research topic across the entire field of science & technology
- **Partner structure:**
  - at least 3 independent SMEs from 3 different Member States (MS) or Associated States (AS)
  - at least 2 RTD performer (universities, research centre, etc.)



- optional: other enterprises and end-users (they can contribute to the project and address specific needs of SMEs, but SMEs keep their predominant role in the consortium)

**Indicative budget:** 150 million Euro

**Consortium:** small consortia, typically 5 partners, not exceeding 10 partners

**Budget per project:** 500.000 – 1.500.000 Euro

**Duration:** 1-2 years

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIdentifier=FP7-SME-2012>

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## RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFITS OF SME ASSOCIATION

- **Call identifier:** FP7-SME-2012.2
- **Deadline:** December 6, 2011, 17:00 Brussels local time
- **Topics:** bottom-up scheme; any research topic across the entire field of science & technology
- **Partner structure**
  - At least 3 independent SME- Associations in 3 MS/AS OR 1 European SME association in 1 MS/AS made up of 3 independent legal entities in 3 MS/AS
  - At least 2 RTD performers (universities, research centre, etc.)
  - Min 2 and max 5 SMEs from 2 different member states: SMEs should ensure that the results meets the SME needs; scope: validation, take-up, training, dissemination activities
- **Indicative budget:** 49.7 million Euro
- **Consortium:** small consortium, 5-15 participants
- **Budget per project:** 1.500.000 – 3.000.000 Euro

- **Duration:** 2-3 years

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIdentifier=FP7-SME-2012>

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## European Union Womens Innovator Prize

The EU Prize for Women Innovators will be awarded to three women entrepreneurs, who were at some point during their careers beneficiaries of funding for projects under the RTD Framework Programme (FP) or the Competitive and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

- **Deadline:** 20 September 2011 at 17.00 (Brussels local time)
- **Prizes:**
  - 1st prize: €100 000
  - 2nd prize: €50 000
  - 3rd prize: €25 000

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?section=women-innovators](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=women-innovators)

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## 9TH ERASME CALL FOR TRANS-NATIONAL COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project consortia of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Research and Technology Organisations from at least 2 different EraSME countries and regions are invited to submit proposals for joint cooperative research projects.

**Deadline:** September 30, 2011 (12 noon)

The call is organised and funded by national and regional ministries and agencies participating in EraSME through their existing funding programmes. Therefore it is important for all candidate project partners to consult in an early stage with their respective agencies during the preparation of the proposal to secure



compliance with the applicable national and regional criteria.

The following national/regional funding programmes are involved in the 9th EraSME Call:

- Austria
- Belgium-Flanders
- Belgium-Wallonia
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- The Netherlands

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://www.cornet-era.net/introduction\\_9th\\_erasme\\_call.html](http://www.cornet-era.net/introduction_9th_erasme_call.html)

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### **ALL CALLS OF FP7**

All FP7 calls are listed on the Participant Portal. The Participant Portal is the entry point for electronic administration of EU-funded research and innovation projects. It hosts the services for managing your proposals and projects throughout their lifecycle.

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Calls in "Cooperation":

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation&state=open#>

Calls in "Ideas":

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/ideas>

Calls in "People":

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people>

Calls in "Capacities":

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities>

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### **ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is an exchange programme which provides entrepreneurs who intend to start a business or have recently started one the chance to learn from

experienced owners of small businesses in other European Union countries.

The young entrepreneur stays with a host entrepreneur, which supports the new entrepreneur and helps to acquire the skills he/she need to run his/her own business. The host benefits from fresh perspectives on his/her business and gets the opportunities to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets.

The stay is partially funded by the European Union.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/erasmus-entrepreneurs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/erasmus-entrepreneurs/index_en.htm)

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Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instruments).

