



HANSE-PARLAMENT

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HANSE NEWS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

Hanseatic Conference "Innovation"

The 2007 Hanseatic Conference will take place in Hamburg from 14 to 16 June and will address the theme of "Moving from the past to the present and the future: knowledge transfer and innovation around the Mare Balticum". Knowledge transfer and innovation are today vital elements for survival within world competition and for achieving continuous increases in efficiency and quality, particularly with regard to new and attractive products.

A range of well-known speakers has already confirmed their availability, especially historians to deal with the historical aspects. We are still seeking interesting presenters for the areas of "the present" and for "the future" in particular, such as academics, entrepreneurs, politicians, government workers and the like who deal with the issues of "innovation and knowledge transfer".

We would be grateful if you could mention this to anyone fitting the bill from within your own areas of operation and request such persons to get in touch with us. You are also welcome to communicate your own ideas, suggestions and any names to us, and we will then contact these persons directly.

EU-PROGRAMME

7th EU Framework Programme for Research (FP7)

The new EU Framework Programme for Research for the period 2007 to 2013 is finished and has been published. It has a total budget of 53.3 billion euro, about fifteen percent of which is to be spent on small and medium-sized companies (SME's). The framework budget for SME's has not yet been exhausted. As the overall budget has now also been significantly increased, good opportunities present themselves for the promotion of innovation and for research and development measures for craft trades and the SME sector.

The following main thematic focuses have been stipulated within FP7.

1. Health
2. Food, agriculture and fisheries and biotechnology
3. Information and communication technology
4. Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new productions technologies
5. Energy
6. Environment (including climate change)
7. Transport (including aeronautics)
8. Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
9. Space
10. Security

SME's are eligible to receive funding for relevant measures within these thematic areas. In addition to this, there are two specific individual programmes which are reserved for SME's and which promote innovation irrespective of any main thematic areas (see below).

FP7 allows SME's to make joint applications for funding with universities, institutes of higher education, research institutes and so forth. The Hanseatic Parliament and individual chambers are not permitted to act as applicants. On the academic research side, the capacities of the Baltic Sea Academy (see below) are available when applying for and implementing the project.

We recommend you to inform your member companies of this significant funding opportunity. All EU countries also have national consultancy structures and information bodies specific to the overall programme.

Countries which are not members of the EU may generally participate in projects as partners. One of the aims is to continue to expand cooperation with third countries within the framework of this programme.

Within the scope of FP7, individual parts of the programme are now being published on an ongoing basis, deadlines for funding applications being stated. **Calls for proposals have already been issued in respect of the initial parts of the programme, meaning that deadlines are already running.** Further information is available on the Internet.



Specific promotion of innovation for SME's

FP7 also contains a specific individual programme for the promotion of SME's which relates to all relevant SME topics rather than being tied in to any main thematic area. Two specific types of project need to be differentiated here.

1. Research for SME's

This project aims to promote research and development measures conducted by individual SME's, the latter also constituting the funding applicants. This means that chambers and associations are not permitted to apply for support. On the academic research side, the capacities of the Baltic Sea Academy (see below) are available when applying for and implementing the project. **A first call for funding proposals has already been issued**, the main characteristics of which are as follows.

Type: Cooperative research, commissioned research

Participants: SME's, R&D organisations (see Baltic Sea Academy below); optionally other organisations, end users

Consortium: At least 3 SME's from a minimum of 3 countries, independent of one another; at least 2 research organisations, independent of the SME's; typically between 5 and 10 project participants

Object: No thematic stipulations; SME's issue research commission to R&D organisations

Duration: 1 to 2 years

Total project costs: € 0.5 to 1.5 million

Maximum funding: Extent of research commissioned + 10 %

Other regulations: SME's receive all results of the project; commissioned research fully financed via the funding

Call for proposals: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/> + FP7-SME-2007-1

Budget: € 100 million

Submissions deadline: 4 September 2007, single stage procedure (one funding application including planning of work and costs in respect of which a direct decision is made)

2. Research for SME associations

"Associations" refers to chambers, associations, bodies structured in similar ways to associations, SME groups, SME clusters and so forth conducting measures jointly with SME's and research institutions. Funding applicants are chambers and associations. On

the academic research side, the capacities of the Baltic Sea Academy (see below) are available when applying for and implementing the project.

A first call for funding proposals has already been issued in respect of this part of the programme, the main characteristics of which are as follows.

Type: Cooperative research, commissioned research

Participants: SME associations/chambers; R&D organisations (see Baltic Sea Academy below); SME's; optionally other organisations, end users

Consortium: At least 3 associations / chambers from a minimum of 3 countries, independent of one another or at least 1 European umbrella organisation with a minimum of 2 national subsidiary organisations; at least 2 R&D organisations, independent of associations; at least 2 SME's; typically between 5 and 10 project participants + 2 to 5 SME's

Object: No thematic stipulations; associations issue research commission to R&D organisations

Duration: 2 to 3 years

Total project costs: € 1.5 to 4 million

Maximum funding: Extent of research commissioned + 10 %

Other regulations: Associations receive all results of the project; commissioned research fully financed via the funding

Call for proposals: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/> + FP7-SME-2007-2

preliminary budget: € 10 million, will probably be increased

Submissions deadline: 1 June 2007, two stage procedure (1st stage submission of concept, if a positive decision is reached 2nd stage submission of a complete funding application (November 2007)

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Specific research programme: Capacities

This individual programme also forms part of FP7. Funding can be provided for areas and activities which contribute towards the strengthening of European research and innovation capacities. Plans are in place for an application for a Hanseatic Parliament support programme within the framework of the Baltic Sea Academy. We will discuss the details within our BSME Project working groups.



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Services in support of business and innovation

Across the European Union as a whole, the EU currently funds 270 Euro Info Centres and 250 Innovation Relay Centres. This funding comes to an end in March 2008, the aim being to replace it by new networks providing extended functions.

The intention is that the individual network partners should be able to take on the following functions in particular for small and medium-sized companies (SME's):

- information, company cooperation and internationalisation services supporting the cross-border activities of SME's;
- services for innovation and technology and knowledge transfer;
- services enabling a greater level of participation in EU support programmes on the part of SME's;
- intensive EU information on the requirements, views etc. of SME's.

The functions required are already largely being provided by the chambers today, and these are also in a particularly good position to fulfil the requirements stated. We therefore believe that it is important for trade and industry organisations themselves (chambers and associations) in particular also to receive the EU funding rather than merely third parties.

We have considered extremely carefully whether the Hanseatic Parliament is in a position to submit a joint funding application on behalf of its network of members. Unfortunately, a raft of reasons renders this impossible.

Since a call for proposals has already been issued in respect of this funding and in light of the fact that applications need to be submitted by April 2007, we urgently recommend the chambers and associations to establish contact with their regional Euro Info and Innovation Relay Centres and urge that they be included in the new funding.

Further information on the whole of the call for proposals is available on the Internet at: [Enterprise - Enterprise DG Grants for 2006](#).

The homepage also has links to the existing regional centres.

Because of its extreme importance, we will contact you again separately on this matter!

INFORMATION

Baltic Sea Academy

The development of a cooperative association for the implementation of research and development measures specific to small and medium-sized companies in the Baltic Region is being prepared jointly with the universities and institutes of higher education interested or participating in the establishment of dual Bachelor courses of study (Buxtehude, Hamburg, Gdansk, Vilnius, Pori/Finland, Lund/Sweden). The individual academic institutions will each cover certain main focuses (clusters), creating a vehicle for the establishment of an excellent innovation infrastructure for craft trades and the SME sector in the Baltic Region. The Baltic Sea Academy or the individual academic institutions will be available for involvement in all funding applications and measures within the scope of the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research. To get in touch with an appropriate contact partner, please contact the Secretariat of the Hanseatic Parliament.

HONOURS

Federal Cross for Merit awarded to Peter Becker, President of Hamburg Chamber of Skilled Crafts and Trades

Peter Becker, President of the Hamburg Chamber of Skilled Crafts and Trades, was honoured by the State of the Federal Republic of Germany in December 2006. The Federal Cross for Merit is awarded for political, economic and intellectual services rendered which contribute to the reconstruction of Germany and is intended as a commendation of all those whose activities add to the peaceful advancement of the country. Federal President Horst Köhler conducted the award personally at Villa Hammerschmidt, his official residence in Bonn, honouring Peter Becker for his commitment in the course of many years of excellent and voluntary service.