



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

SMEs

SMEs in the



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European Commission
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1. Why are SMEs and R&D important?
2. Funding for SMEs from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)
 - SMEs in “Cooperation”
 - SMEs in “People”
 - SMEs in “Capacities”
 - Research for the benefit of SMEs
3. Where to get support near you.

Why should SMEs bother about R&D?

1. The facts:

- Global challenges: Environment, Energy, Ageing, Security, Food supply,...
- SMEs form 99% of all companies in Europe and are major contributors to growth and employment
- SMEs have to respond increasingly to a strong competition in the internal market and globally

SMEs and R&D

Why R&D for SMEs?

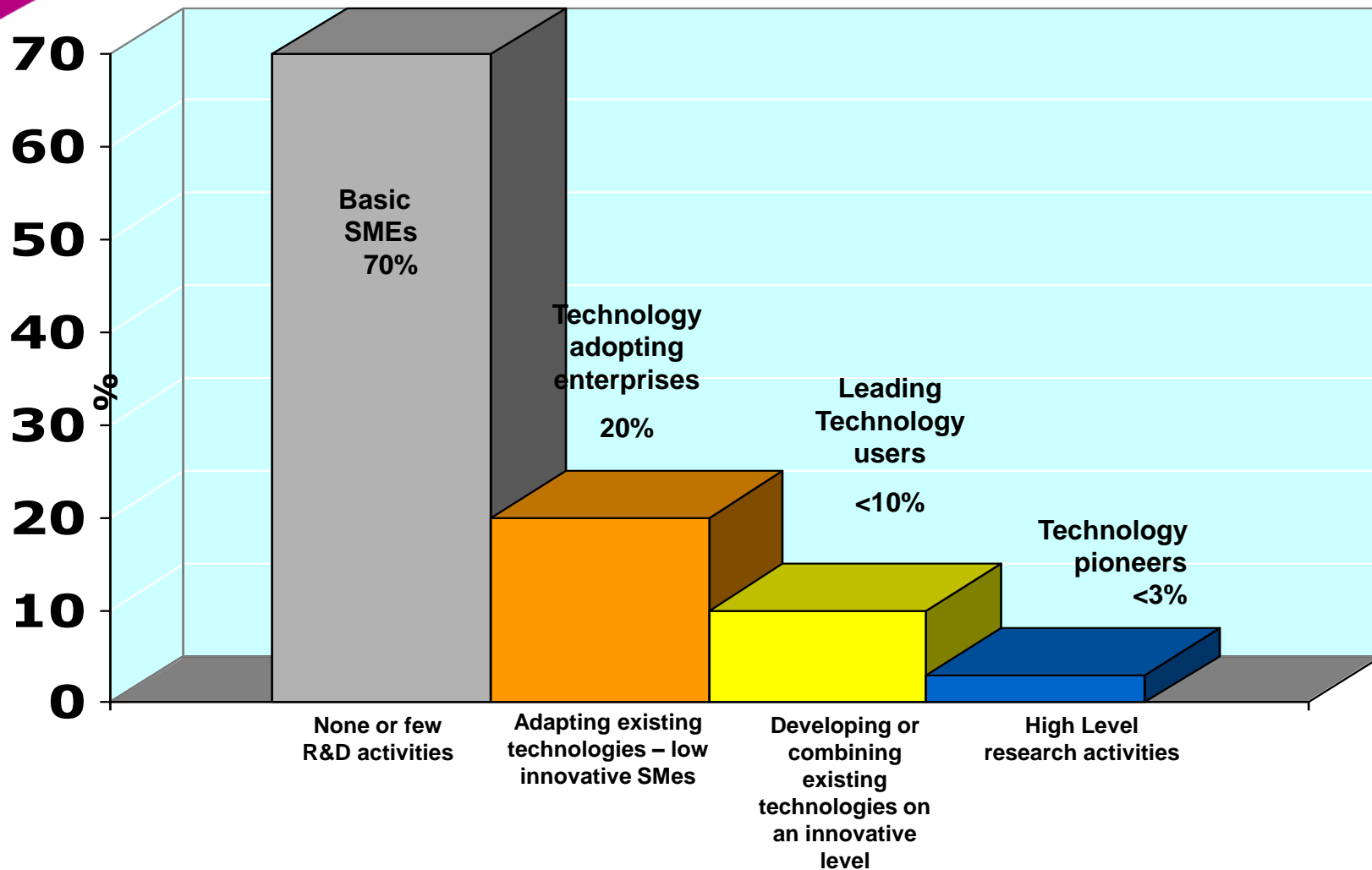
2. Possible answers:

- SMEs should seize the opportunities offered by the transition to a knowledge-based economy & society
- The “global challenges” are opportunities for the SMEs, e.g. the “low-carbon economy” opens many new perspectives
- R&D results should enable SMEs to develop new products, processes and services to enhance their competitiveness

3. Added value of the EU:

- Foster transnational R&D cooperations involving SMEs
- Actions at EU level complement actions taken at national and regional level

R&D Topology of SME



Aim: SMEs and Research: creating knowledge for growth (turning knowledge into profit)

Target: research & technology-driven innovation

Means:

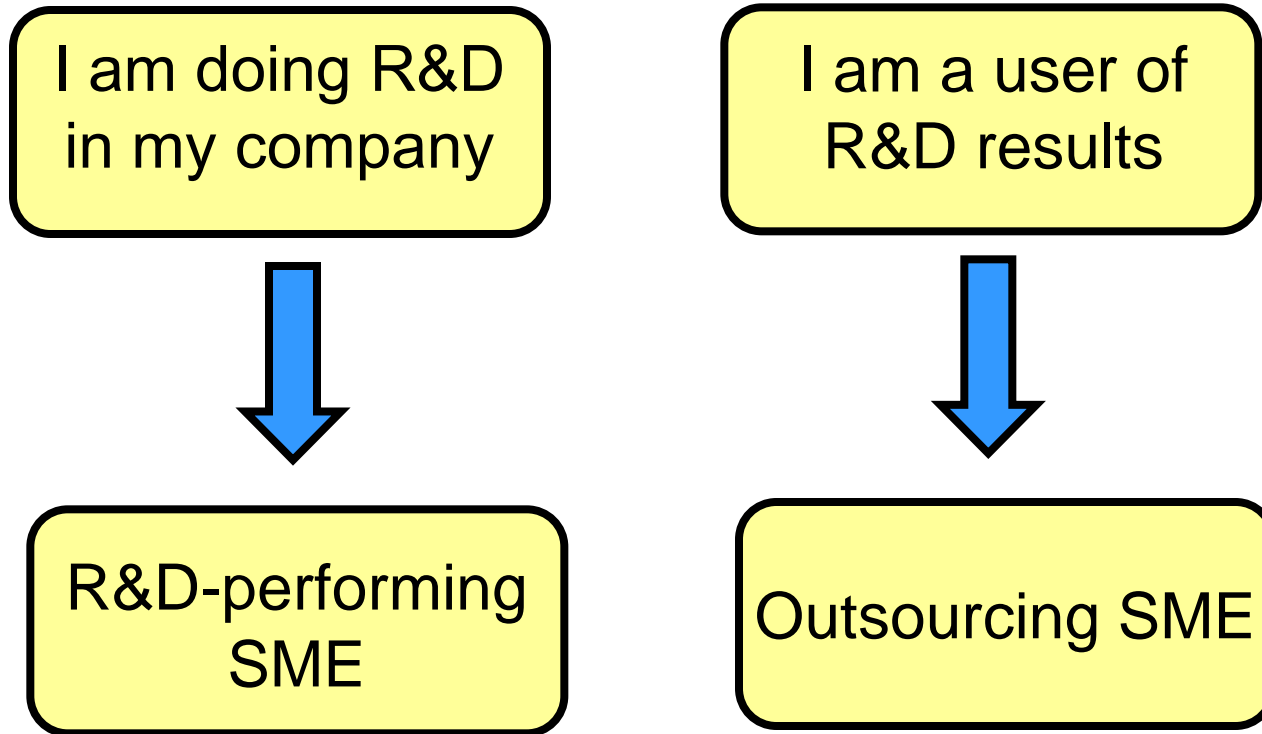
FP7 provides financial support for trans-national research for and by SMEs wishing to innovate and improve their competitiveness, by enhancing their investment in research activities to acquire new knowledge for growth in Europe's knowledge based economy.

7th R&D Framework Programme and SMEs

Definition: "SMEs" = ?

- SMEs employ fewer than 250 persons and have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million. Additional conditions for autonomy apply.

Question: what type of SME are you?



Seventh Framework Programme Opportunities for SMEs

R&D-performing
SME

R&D Outsourcing
SME



Cooperation

Research for the
benefit of SMEs

FP7



Participation in Joint Programmes
of Member States

Funding for SMEs from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

SMEs in “Cooperation”

SMEs in “People”

SMEs in “Capacities”

- Research for the benefit of SME

FP7 2007-2013 'Cooperation' budget

I. Cooperation	Budget (€ million, current prices)
1. Health	6 100
2. Food, agriculture and biotechnology	1 935
3. Information and communication technologies	9 050
4. Nanotechnologies, materials and production	3 475
5. Energy	2 350
6. Environment	1 890
7. Transport	4 160
8. Socio-economic research	623
9. Space	1 430
10. Security	1 400
Total	32 413*

* Not including non - nuclear activities of the Joint Research Centre: €1 751 million

- **Simplified financial and administrative procedures**
- **Dedicated SME strategy** under each Theme
- **Identification of areas of particular interest** to SMEs in the individual work programmes
- **75% funding** for SME participants
- **Target of 15 % funding**

- **Russian SMEs can participate on the same terms and conditions as EU entities as additional partners**

Industry-academia partnerships and pathways (IAPP)

between public and private research organisations based on a common research project and aim to increase the exchange of skills between the two sectors:

- Partnership must include one or more universities/research centres and one or more enterprises. (SME participation is encouraged.)
- The different partners have to be from at least 2 different EU member states or FP7-associated countries
- Staff secondment between academia and industry including SMEs
- Temporary hosting of experienced researchers from outside partnership
- 10% financial contribution to small equipment related to SME participation
- ➔ bottom-up approach, no thematic focus

“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

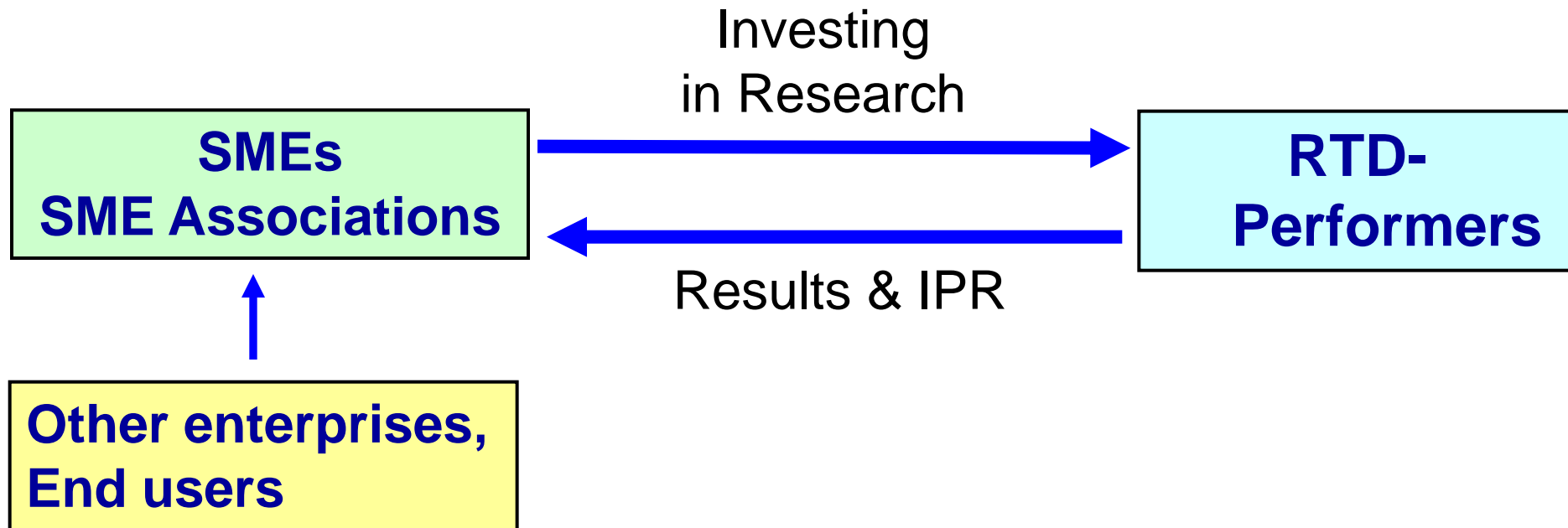
Objectives

Strengthen the innovation capacities and competitiveness of SMEs, to develop new products and markets by **outsourcing of research.**

Clear exploitation potential with economic benefits for the SMEs (or for the SME members of the associations) involved.

163 projects have signed Grant Agreements by 10 Sept. 2009.

Research for the benefit of SMEs



Special IPR-principle

The default regime leaves full ownership of all project results and IPR with those who pay, i.e. the SMEs or the SME Associations.

The consortium may however reach a different agreement in their own best interest, as long as the SMEs or SME associations are provided with all the rights needed for their use and dissemination of the results, and they do not pay the full costs of the RTDs.

Research for the benefit of SMEs

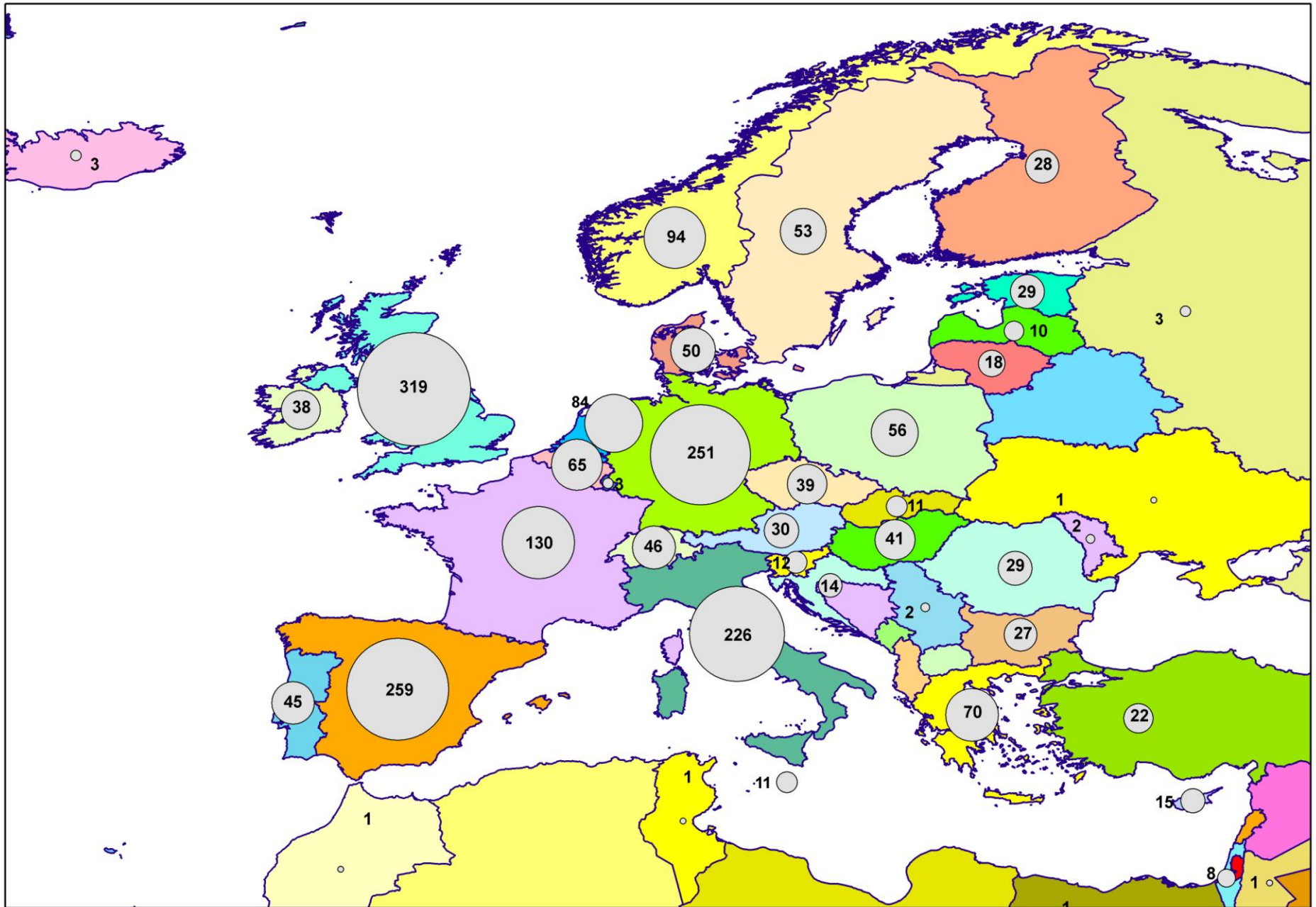
	Research for SMEs	Research for SME associations
Duration	1-2 years	2-3 years
Number of partners	5-10	10-15
Total budget	€ 0.5 – 1.5 Million	€ 1.5 – 4 Million
Activities	R&D, demonstration, management, other activities	R&D, demonstration, management, other activities

Capacities: New calls

- **Call FP7-SME-2010-1 : Research for SMEs**
 - Publication: 30 July 2009
 - Closing : 03 December 2009
 - Indicative budget: 136.84 M €
- **Call FP7-SME-2008-2 : Research for SME Associations**
 - Publication: 03 September 2008
 - Closing: 18 December 2008
 - Indicative budget: 78.55 M €

closed

Capacities – Research for the Benefit of SMEs Beneficiaries in signed GA by country until 31/12/2008



Important documents

- Workprogramme "Research for the benefit of SMEs"
- Guides for applicants "Research for SMEs" and "Research for SME associations"
- Guide to Intellectual Property Rules for FP7 projects
- Rules for the submission of proposals

These documents and additional information about the open calls are available on the following webpage:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7OpenCallsPage>

SME Techweb

ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb

National Contact Points (NCPs) for FP7

The NCP network is the main provider of advice and individual assistance in all Member States and Associated States to FP7. Since NCPs are appointed for each of the areas of FP7, when seeking support you should contact the NCP relevant to the area of interest.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html

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