



Michaela BITSAKIS
Research Programme Officer
SME Actions Unit

Research for the benefit of SMEs



First Class Support for Excellence in Research





SMEs in FP7: why?

- b2 SMEs are at the core of European industry and key players in the innovation system
- They represent 99% of all companies, 2/3 of employment and are major contributors to growth and innovation
 - SMEs have to respond increasingly to a strong competition not only internally but also globally
- **Need to increase their knowledge base and their investment in research through transnational cooperation**
- **Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions taken at national and regional level**

Slide 2

b2

bitsami; 15-09-2010



Complementary pillars in FP7

€6.2 billion for funding SME research

Dedicated SME strategy under each Theme

Optimized participation of SMEs	Dedicated scheme with special emphasis on SMEs	Budget increase for the SME specific measures
"Cooperation"	"People"	"Capacities"
Research performing SMEs	Research performing SMEs	SMEs outsourcing research
Thematic areas	Industry-academia pathways	Bottom-up approach



Capacities Programme

Budget: EUR 1336 million

A. Supporting SMEs outsourcing research activities

- **Research for the benefit of SMEs:**

Strengthen the innovation capacities of low to medium technology SMEs to develop new products, processes and services markets to acquire technological know-how and access intl. networks for business development

- **Increase their investment in research, improve the exploitation of research results to develop their competitive advantage**
- **Bridge the gap between research and innovation through European level collaboration**

→ Bottom-up approach, no thematic focussing



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Capacities Programme

2. Research for the benefit of SMEs Associations:

Targets SME associations which act on behalf of their members:

- To identify & address common tech. problems and promote effective dissemination and take-up of project results
- Projects can address pre-normative issues, new business, management, production & service models or technological problems related to the development and implementation of legislation
- Improve their industrial competitiveness

→ Bottom-up approach, no thematic focussing

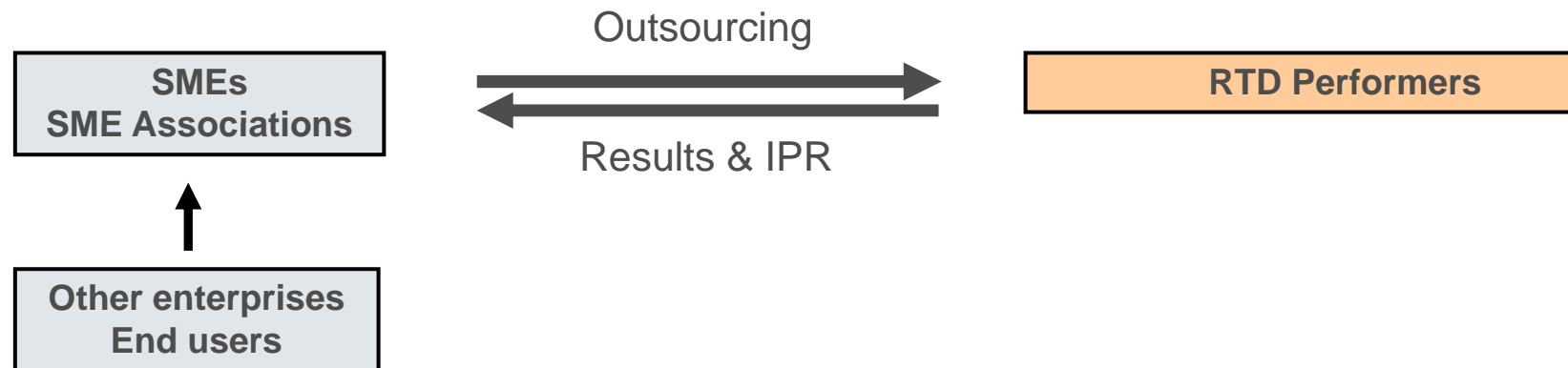


The Transaction

- Principle: **Outsourcing / “Customer-Seller” relationship**

Provides SMEs financial support to outsource research to RTD performers to acquire:

- ownership of project results
- access rights to intellectual property





Intellectual Property Rights

IPR Principle:

- The default regime remains full ownership of all project results ("foreground") and IPR by the SMEs or SME Associations
 - The consortium may however reach a different agreement, as long as the SMEs and SME associations are provided with all the rights that are required for their intended use and dissemination of the project results
 - **SMEs need to invest in what they need**
- Price should reflect the value of the IPR
- Agreement in the (economic) interest of the SMEs



Budget

EC Contribution:

- The value of the project is based on the subcontracted R&D activities, it is capped at a value not exceeding 110% of the estimated price invoiced by RTDs & paid by SMEs

Funding rates:

- R&D: maximum of 50 % or 75% (for SMEs)
- Demonstration activities: maximum of 50 %
- Management activities: maximum of 100 %
- Other activities: maximum of 100 %
(e.g. training, coordination, networking, dissemination)



Other Actions

B. Developing and coordinating support to SMEs at national level:

- Eurostars – Article 185 Initiative (ex Article 169)
- ERA-NET projects
- NCP-Network (TransCoSME)

C. Support Measures:

- Coordination and Support Actions
- Studies



Capacities Programme / Call Information

CALL: Research for the Benefit of SMEs - FP7-SME-2011

- Published: 20 July 2010
- Deadline: 8 December 2010
- Indicative Budget: EUR 204 million

ACTIVITIES:

- Research for SMEs
- Research for SME Associations
- **Demonstration Action: new test action aimed at funding demonstration activities with no thematic restrictions (funding scheme: Collaborative projects)**

Action to prove the viability of a new solution (e.g. prototype testing, scale-up studies, performance verification, solution implementation, market studies, business plans)





More Information

- **Research for the Benefit of SMEs:**

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme_en.html

- **SME TechWeb:**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm

- **Support:**

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html