

FP7-SME-2010-1 Call

CALL OUTLINE

Objective:

Strengthening the **innovation capacity of European SMEs** and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets by helping them outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know how, bridging the gap between research and innovation through European level collaboration.

Key Messages from the objective:

- strengthening innovation capacity of European SME
- enabling the SMEs to *outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their research networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know how*

Activities to fulfill the objectives

1. *Supporting SMEs outsourcing research activities.*

SMEs will be offered an opportunity to outsource research activities to research and technology development (RTD) performers (e.g. universities, research institutes, large enterprises, research performing SMEs, etc.).

- FP7-SME-2010 programme, provides financial support to SMEs so that they can outsource research and technological development, with the view of acquiring intellectual property rights for, preferably ownership of, the project results.

Note: This is in contrast with collaborative projects (in the FP7 Cooperation programme) where participants cooperate on equal terms with regard to the research undertaken and with the same access rights to the knowledge each of them generates.

- Generally, model of a consortium that is formed in response to this call could be viewed as follows:

SMEs are clients of the research performing organizations, such that the RTD performing organisations are in essence paid by the SMEs for doing research and technology development activities.

2. *Developing and coordinating support to SMEs at national level.*

This is about support actions at the European national level.

3. *Enhancing the impact of SME participation in European Research.*

More support actions: this is about enhancing the participation of European SMEs in the Framework Programme.

International Cooperation

Although international cooperation is *not the main aim of this programme*, it can play a small part. SMEs can outsource work to RTD-performers from any country, including third countries, if these have **the right expertise** and the **research activity provided is cost-effective**.

This may also be **helpful to SMEs to expand their markets**. In addition, information and good practices based on the European experience in relation to SMEs and **research can be disseminated to third countries** in order to enable them to create the necessary structures and support mechanisms for the creation of viable and effective SME support activities.

Guideline Considerations for South African Participants

It would be advisable for South African research organizations to answer the following questions (amongst others) when considering responding to this call:

1. What European SMEs (industries, and specific enterprises) would benefit from the kind of research that the South African organization aims to do?
2. How could such European SMEs expand their markets into our region (and emerging economies in general)?
3. Would *handing over intellectual property rights* to such SMEs be worthwhile for South Africa?

Detailed information about this call can be found at this link:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=216

More information about Research for the benefit of SMEs is available through this link:

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

Please consider the above as primary sources of information for responding to the call.