

InnoSME's latest Business News

Issue number 5

March 2008 edition

Meet InnoSME's Managers :

Wroclaw
Bratislava
Vilnius
Riga
Cyprus
Malta
Ljubljana
Sofia

Previous Meeting :

Bucharest
Debrecen
Budapest
Varna
Prague
Warsaw



The InnoSME Project
is supported by the
EU - DG INF SO

The RTD Project Memory - Focus

The RTD Project Memory is a new web based tool available on the innoSME website - : www.innosme.eu - that provides an easy guide to define and write proposals for RTD & Innovation projects.

This new web based tool is a next step in the support of SMEs to gain competitiveness in the enlarged EU market.

Concretely, SMEs that take part in the InnoSME project can get positive outputs of their participation on the short term, by assessing their business efficiency. To do so they need to register into the InnoSME database (section "SME" in the website), thus they will get a username and a password to access an on-line assessment tool (on-line questionnaire).

Once they have receive their personal diagnosis, the SMEs can improve their business efficiency, and think about applying for an EU RTD & Innovation project, what is a realistic objective for the short or mid term.

In other words, the InnoSME project offers two steps for the SMEs to improve their competitiveness: a self assessment tool for the short term, and a participation in EU RTD & Innovation Projects on the mid term.

For the long term, we do think that the environment will have changed before to reach it, so it will be necessary to adapt before and to stay in the short and mid term . The InnoSME project's manager have a constant will to help SMEs adapt to the EU competitive environment.



What's new in InnoSME ?

- **Opportunities** for Innovative SMEs in FP7 !
Research for the benefit of SMEs or SMEs associations:
Please have a look in page 3, InnoSME can help you.
- A new web based tool: the **RTD Project Memory** !
An easy guide to define and write proposals for RTD & Innovation projects.

Please visit

<http://www.sbaplace.com/questionnaire/index.php>

InnoSME in a nutshell...

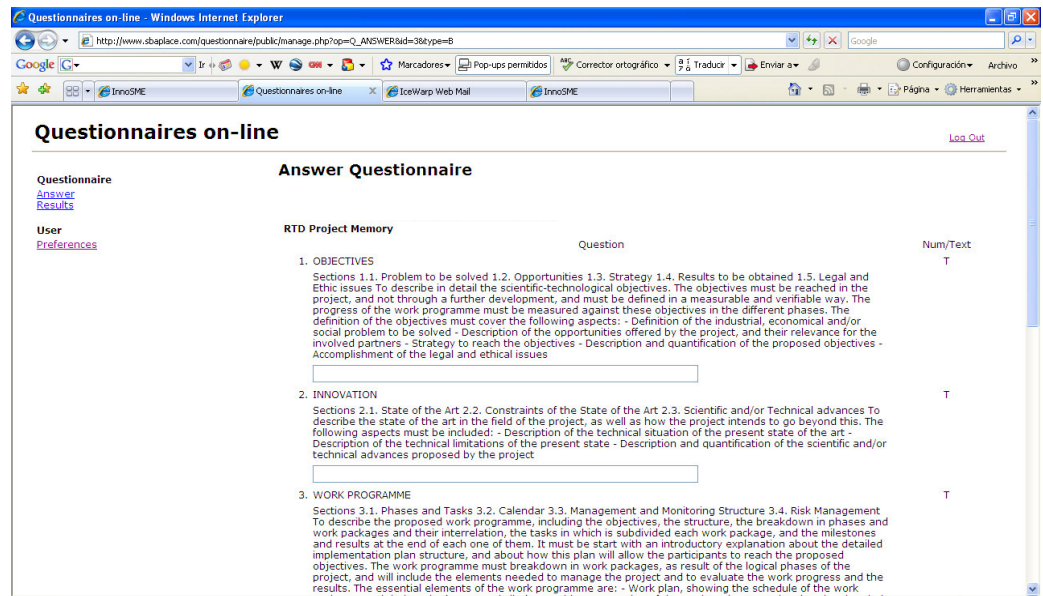
- **Strong partnership** between the regional stakeholders, the SME's and the EU ICT programs !
- **Improve your innovation** skills and boost your business's efficiency with InnoSME tools & services !
- **Extend your business** abroad through active cooperation with foreign SMEs !

« The RTD Project Memory helps define and write proposals for RTD & Innovation projects »

New tools for the InnoSME Project



The InnoSME Project has deployed a new web based tool: the **RTD Project Memory** provides an easy guide to define and write proposals for RTD & Innovation projects. The guidance notes have been taken from the requirements of the European Commission in FP7, as well as from another sources.



Please, try the tool on the InnoSME Web page www.innosme.eu direct link: <http://www.sbaplace.com/questionnaire/index.php>

All what you need is to register your Company in the InnoSME database on <http://www.innosme.eu/page.asp?p=15972&l=1> and shortly wait for to get your username and password so that to be able to use the tool.



KFE Euroforum in Warsaw

The InnoSME project's managers took part in the European Funds Advisor's Euroforum (KFE Euroforum) in Warsaw on February 22th.

KFE Euroforum gathers specialists from different European countries to share experience in range of the EU funds and projects management.

It was a great opportunity to create partnerships with Stakeholders coming from all the Polish regions and to increase the presence of Polish SMEs in the InnoSME project. The InnoSME project aiming to reach more and more SMEs in all the EU regions, KFE Euroforum



Workshop in Prague

An InnoSME Workshop was held in Prague on November 28th hosted by IPIS (Institute for Information Society) et Czech Trade (Czech Trade Promotion Agency).

The Workshop was focused on the non - technological innovation in the Czech SMEs, as well as on the InnoSME project's tools and services. The meeting allowed to create a strong partnership to help Czech SMEs taking part in EU projects, as well as gaining in competitiveness.

“a great opportunity to create partnerships with Stakeholders from all the Polish regions”

Opportunities for Innovative SMEs in FP7

RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF SMEs

The 2nd Call of the Research for the Benefit of SMEs programme is now open. The call, FP7-SME-2008-1, were published on November 30th, 2007, with a deadline on April 11th 2008, at 17.00.00 h (Brussels local time).

The indicative budget of the call is EUR 92.72 millions. The call is open to all research fields.

Research for SMEs supports innovative SMEs to solve common or complementary technological problems. Projects must be centred on the innovation needs of the SMEs which outsource research to RTD performers and must demonstrate a clear exploitation potential for the SMEs concerned.

At least 3 participants must be independent SMEs established in at least 3 member States, and at least 2 participants must be RTD performers (having the capacity to carry out research at the request of SMEs), independent from any other participant.

Other legal entities, such as other enterprises or end-users that make a particular contribution to the project and to solving specific problems or needs of SMEs may participate, though not in a dominant role. These other enterprises and end-users must be independent from the SME participants and the RTD performers.

Research for SMEs' targets mainly low to medium technology SMEs with little or no research capability, but also research performing SMEs who need to complement their core research capability.

Projects aim at creating new knowledge or achieving results with a clear exploitation potential to improve or develop new products, processes or services which meet the needs of the participating SMEs.

This scheme is not a suitable instrument to solve short-term technological problems, but can assist companies in acquiring technological know-how and accessing international networks for their medium to long term business development.

SMEs are the direct beneficiaries of the scheme: they outsource part of their research need by investing in research activities carried out by the RTD performers.

The grant will cover only part of this investment. The SME participants normally retain the full right of use and dissemination of any project results ("foreground").

Projects are centred around the economic interest of the SME participants who will take an active role by defining their specific technological needs and will ensure that the research performed complies with their requirements.

No decision in the consortium shall be taken against the collective interest of the SME participants. They will provide input and will contribute to the research activities where appropriate and will be directly involved in the take-up and exploitation of the research results to their own best advantage.



RESEARCH FOR SMEs ASSOCIATIONS

The 2nd call of the Research for SMEs Associations will be open in June 15th, 2008, with a deadline on September 26th, 2008.

Research for SME Associations supports SME associations to develop technical solutions to problems common to a large number of SMEs in specific industrial sectors or segments of the value chain through research, for example, to develop or conform to European norms and standards, and to meet regulatory requirements in areas such as health, safety, environmental protection and energy efficiency.

Projects must be driven by the SME associations which outsource research to RTD performers for the benefit of their members and must involve a number of individual SMEs.

Research for SME Associations' targets SME associations which act on behalf of their members to identify and address common technical problems and to promote the effective dissemination and take-up of the research results.

Projects in this activity may address e.g. pre-normative research issues, technological problems related to the development and implementation of legislation, and technological problems of industrial sectors that cannot be addressed by the 'Research for SMEs' scheme and which meet the needs of the SME members of the SME associations.

InnoSME can help you if you are interested!

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ZOOM ON...

The InnoSME project's methodology

The InnoSME project and its results are marketed and disseminated using a range of methods to share information and shape behaviour. Information and means of sharing it are tailored to the needs of each category of user group.

The methods cover: website, electronic newsletter, briefing papers, Network reports, case studies, policy toolkit, links to partner and other stakeholder websites, use of resource database. Intermediate interactive activities workshop and policy forum presentations, conference papers and displays, opportunistic enquiries to Network partners.

Events

The InnoSME project intends to carry some common activities with the stakeholders in two different ways:

- InnoSME Workshops – The project will organise two workshops in every country (one in 2007 and another in 2008) related to the participation of SMEs in FP7 and CIP. These workshops will be sponsored by InnoSME with the project funds.
- Stakeholder's events – InnoSME is ready to participate in the events organised by the stakeholders, collaborating with speakers, materials, etc.

About TRN : www.teleregionsnetwork.org

The objective of the TeleRegions Network is to promote the development of Information Society Technologies in European Regions.

This objective will be realised by several means, such as:

- The execution of projects, with the help of industrial partners and the European Union,
- Conferences for dissemination of best practices and Coordinated development of Information Society infrastructure in the regions concerned.

All regions in the European Union can become a member of the TeleRegions Network!

Links

- ◇ Community Research & Development Information Service:
www.cordis.lu
- ◇ Information and Communication Technologies for FP7 on CORDIS
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/>
- ◇ European Innovation Portal
<http://cordis.europa.eu/innovation/en/home.html>
- ◇ Search for partners in FP7
<http://www.ideal-ist.net/>



CORDIS