

innovation for SME

transnational funding opportunities for European SMEs



Newsletter

October 2009

This newsletter is a means to inform SMEs, SME associations and research and technology organisations (RTOs) about funding opportunities, calls for proposals, events and other news related to CORNET and EraSME. Both initiatives are helping SMEs throughout Europe to acquire technological know-how, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, better exploit research results and bridging the gap between research and innovation.

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Strategic cooperation between CORNET and EraSME [↑](#)

CORNET and EraSME are moving steadily towards each other. On June 9 and 10, 2009 both CORNET Council and EraSME Board met for the first time in Vienna, whereas the last meetings (Budapest and Paris) were already opened for mutual participation. From now on future Council/Board meetings will be organised and held jointly.

CORNET and EraSME have also joined forces by creating a Common Office. The Common Office will - inter alia - provide organisational and administrative support to both initiatives, e.g.:

- editing and publishing marketing material (joint newsletter, general leaflet and call leaflets)
- assisting in integration of new partners
- dissemination of information (call statistics, programme portraits, project portraits, success stories)

Also other activities which are currently still performed by CORNET and EraSME individually, like call management, will be synergistically tuned to each other in the Common Office.



The Common Office presently combines activities from 12 persons working for CORNET and EraSME. The Common Office has established a common website which acts as a portal to both CORNET and EraSME websites. The common website will provide latest news on CORNET and EraSME calls, events, projects etc. and will act as a single entry point to SMEs and SME Associations which are in search of financial support for research activities they want to acquire.

The web-address of the Common Office is: <http://www.innovation-for-sme.eu>

The Common Office can be addressed by sending an e-mail to: office@innovation-for-sme.eu

New calls for proposals CORNET and EraSME



Both CORNET and EraSME have launched new calls for proposals. The calls follow a bottom-up approach, which means that topics are not pre-defined and can be chosen by applicants from any technological area and in any sector.

Funding is made available through national or regional programmes. Whether you are an SME Association or an SME both initiatives offer good opportunities to realise your innovation projects. Deadline for proposal submission for both calls is: **30 October 2009**.

More information is available on: <http://www.innovation-for-sme.eu>

Project building in EraSME



Join the EraSME partnering and project building site and get connected with RTOs, Universities, SMEs, large companies and other potential partners across Europe!

To serve proposers who wish to submit a project proposal and are in the process of building a consortium, EraSME has opened a forum to facilitate SMEs and RTOs in finding potential cooperation partners for participation in a joined EraSME project ([http://www.era-sme.net/public/Project building](http://www.era-sme.net/public/Project%20building)). All interested parties can post requests for Industrial Partners/SMEs or requests for Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) as well as offers for cooperation from Industrial Partners in EraSME projects. The forum could also include requests to finding a suitable coordinator in case they do not want to coordinate the project themselves.

Just create a short profile describing your project idea, special expertise you want to offer or techniques and skills you are looking for. This profile is to be send as pdf-document to project-building@era-sme.net.

SME Participation in FP7



SMEs collaborate with universities, research institutes and large enterprises as part of their innovation strategy. The recent leaflet by DG Research provides some key figures illustrating the overall achievements of SMEs two and a half years into FP7. It shows that SMEs are rightfully claiming a share of the benefits offered by FP7 but that there is still potential for further engagement.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm?pg=publications



Successful CORNET partnering event



The CORNET Partnering Event organised on September 3, 2009 in Vienna was a full success. The number of participants was much higher than expected: about 90 participants from six countries and regions met to create collective research proposals for the 8th CORNET call and to exchange experiences. The target group of the event were associations, professional federations, clusters and trade organisations, as well as research performing organisations interested in CORNET.

In the beautiful Great Hall provided by ecoplus, the Business Agency of Lower Austria, the participants presented their project ideas to the plenary, discussed with each other during parallel workshop sessions and extended their network during the break. Participants asked for feedback after the meeting were very satisfied with the results achieved. Based on these experiences, CORNET and EraSME are planning to organise several partnering events for future calls.

Contact information

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If you do not wish to receive any news, please send us an [e-mail](#).



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