



FP6/FP7 support for SMEs

SME Environment Newsletter
www.sme-environment.org

First Issue
September 2005.

Dear Colleagues,

You are reading the first issue of the regularly published SME Environment Newsletter, which aims to inform you about the objectives of the project, the latest changes and news in European environmental and energy policies, programmes.

The first issue will inform small and medium-sized enterprises of New Member States and Candidate Countries (NMS and CC) on their possibilities to join the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development of the European Union.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE SME ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

SME ENVIRONMENT project helps to SMEs to develop project proposals to the FP6, 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development of the European Union.

SMEs gain assistance to take part in European projects, build international relationships and implement their strategic scopes. There will be limited number of project proposals developed with the help of professional project developers and managers for free of charge!

The SME ENVIRONMENT offers free training, free consulting services and lot of useful information on EC project development and management for FP6, only for environmental SMEs. The SME ENVIRONMENT will provide robust e-training solutions for free of charge that will give hands-on assistance to managers of environmental SMEs from the proposal writing phase, through the contracting process till the management of funded projects.

PHASES OF THE PROJECT

- » In the first phase the work will start with a research study, which will serve as a basis for the development of innovative strategies in order to mobilise the target group (environmental SMEs) and increase their participation in FP6.
- » In the second phase different practical e-training services and their IT support system shall be developed. The main task will be the development of an operational e-learning training course that will offer a practical education on developing and managing environmental projects in FP6 .
- » At the same time the Consortium will establish the interactive e-consultancy service, which can offer continuous practical guidance for its users and follow-up project proposal development work.

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest and registration. The SME Environment consortium is working on helping you to prepare and submit successful proposals to the Global 4 and Energy 4 Calls.

What is the next step?

1. Finding partners

SME Environment will provide a bridge between the registered small and medium-sized enterprises and the coordinators of projects under development.

We inform coordinators of future projects through many channels on the existing SME Environment database and services. The interested partners send us their project ideas, and from the database we select the most appropriate SMEs for the particular project. In case your expertise fit the project idea, we will arrange the contact building between the coordinator and the registered SME. This way we avoid useless communication between organisation without common interest.

2. Proposal development

- a) Guides: The project members developed useful guides for SMEs in order to provide a clear picture on proposal development steps, possible problems and their solution.
- b) On-line consultation: Experienced members of the consortium provide continuous help in proposal development for the SMEs. The experts will give samples, hints, examples that can be used by the proposers.

What should you do?

In case you have a **project idea**, **send it to us**, we will help you to fit it to the exact call.

In case you *need partners* for your project, **send us** the description, we will give you advice where to find appropriate partners, or provide contacts in case your idea fits to some partners expertise.

In case you are **developing a proposal**, **send us** your questions, problems, we will support your work.

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Info@sme-environment.org

CONSORTIUM

Co-ordinator: Geonardo Ltd. (Hungary):

<http://www.geonardo.hu>

Geonardo is a high-tech consulting firm specialised in environmental, and regional project development and consulting. The professional competence and experience of the company crew regarding EC project development is truly exceptional in Central Eastern Europe.

Innostart National Business and Innovation Centre (Hungary)

<http://www.innostart.hu>

Innostart Foundation is an organisation working for the innovation of SMEs. Innostart is also full member of the EBN, IRC, BIC initiatives among other local and international networks

Helsinki University of Technology, Lifelong Learning

Institute Dipoli, (Finland)

<http://www.dipoli.tkk.fi>

The Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli (Finland) is a separate unit of the Helsinki University of Technology, employing some 120 staff members. Currently 20 staff members are working in the area of technology-enhanced learning, its methodology, pedagogy and technology.

Economic University of Vienna, Small Business Department (Austria)

<http://www.wu-wien.ac.at>

The first chair for Small Business at the University of Economics and Business Administration Vienna was established in 1936. The general long term research policy of this department is designed to increase the knowledge about management problems and solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises following both the traditional functional and the more recent life cycle perspective.

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (International)

<http://www.rec.org>

REC is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).



THE SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

At the Lisbon summit in March 2000, EU governments called for a better use of European research efforts through the creation of an internal market for science and technology - a 'European Research Area' (ERA).

FP6 is the financial instrument to help make ERA a reality with EU funded R+D projects and the following seven thematic priorities. FP6 has a total budget of 17 500 million euros that is distributed amongst both RTD and demonstration activities and Nuclear (Euratom) activities.

The Lisbon European Council Summit held on in March 2000 set an objective to 'make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010'. This has since been interpreted as requiring focused community-wide investment in research, and the improvement of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Where previous Framework Programmes have been divided into several 'vertical' Programmes around research topics and 'horizontal' Programmes that cut across research areas, FP6 is divided into just two Specific Programmes.

The first Programme has two objectives - 'Integrating and Strengthening' the ERA, while the second Programme has the objective 'Structuring' the ERA.

The SME Environment project helps to SMEs to develop project proposals to the FP6.

Those small and medium sized enterprises that conclude the e-learning course will have the opportunity to receive further professional assistance to develop project proposals under any priority of the FP6. The ideas of environmental SMEs will mainly fall under the sixth thematic priority of the Framework Programme.

Sixth priority focuses on sustainable development, global change and ecosystems. It has three sub-priorities, such as sustainable energy systems, sustainable surface transport, and global change and ecosystems



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GLOBAL CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEMS PRIORITY - GLOBAL 4 CALL

The aim of the SME Environment is to help small and medium-sized enterprises to get involved in FP6 projects in the field of Energy and Environment. On 19th July the European Commission published the last Call for Proposals under the Sixth thematic priority of the FP6: Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems (Global 4 Call).

Global Change and Ecosystems sub-priority is addressing seven areas relative to the issues of:

- I. Impact and mechanisms of greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric pollutants on climate, ozone depletion and carbon sinks
- II. Water cycle, including soil-related aspects
- III. Biodiversity and ecosystems
- IV. Mechanisms of desertification and natural disasters
- V. Strategies for sustainable land management, including coastal zones, agricultural land and forests
- VI. Operational forecasting and modelling including global climatic change observation systems
- VII. Complementary research

For details please visit:

<http://www.sme-environment.org/sustdev.php#topics>

SME Environment services

- » Providing practical information on the FP6 programme and related policies (static data-bases, useful links, help desk)
- » Information on actual FP6 calls and deadlines
- » E-learning courses on proposal writing and project management, how to write proposals under the 6th framework programme (based on successful EU projects with lots of practical information)
- » Partner search functions with direct links to FP6 search engines
- » Static and interactive consulting services for SMEs in all fields related to the development of FP6 projects
- » Specific functions and tools to promote the participation of women and other special target groups under FP6.
- » Forum for discussion and establishment of partnerships: a discussionplatform for potential project proposers (research centres, universities, and SMEs)

Are you an environmental SME from a New Member State or a Candidate Country?

Do you face one of the following barriers?

- » Missing relevant information of the conditions of SME participation in the FP6
- » Only theoretical knowledge on development of project ideas - how it works in FP6 on a real-life-scale?
- » No access to networks
- » There are no real examples available that could help
- » It is hard/expensive to get professional help from experts
- » Writing a proposal in just the beginning, but how to implement a project

SME Environment provides the following solutions

- » A training course with comprehensive overview on FP6 and possible roles of SMEs in an FP6 project
- » Putting the focus on the practical side of project development. Development of a real project proposal with professional help.
- » Creation of an open discussion platform for SMEs universities, research organisations
- » During the course there will be real project proposals available for examination.
- » The project is funded by the FP6 programme by 100%. All the services are free of charge for environmental SMEs based in NMSs and ACCs.
- » The e-learning course consists a project management module in order to improve the management skills of SMEs.

SME ENVIRONMENT HELP FOR GLOBAL 4 CALL

SME Environment would help environmental SMEs from **New Member States and Candidate Countries** in their proposal development and consortia building.

For this reason the project partners created a special database where **only small and medium sized enterprises can register which are working in the field of energy and environment** and are interested in participation of projects submitted under the Global 4 Call.

SME ENVIRONMENT DATABASE

Benefits of the database:

- » All data are checked previously.
- » The data are relevant and expertise listed refer to the topics of the Global 4 Call.
- » The SMEs can search other partners with relevant expertise

» Coordinators can search for SMEs in the region in order to improve their consortia.

Please register at www.sme-environment.org

SME ENVIRONMENT GUIDES

The project experts created two special guides in order to help both sides in successful project development.

1. The **GUIDE FOR SMES** gives practical assistance, a step by step guide on project proposal development, consortium building, and offers solutions for many potential problems.

You can download the Guide at www.sme-environment.org

2. The **GUIDE FOR COORDINATORS** helps coordinators understand better the problems that SMEs face in the region and describes the potential knowledge base and benefits of involvement of the SMEs into research projects. The Guide also gives practical hints on how to overcome the problems and barriers of NMS/ACC SME participation.

You can download the Guide at www.sme-environment.org

How to benefit from the SME Environment services?

In case you are a small or medium sized enterprise, based in New Member State or Candidate Country, working in the field of energy/environment:

- » Register to the database
- » Send your project idea to info@sme-environment.org, and we will help you to develop your proposal or find appropriate partners.
- » Download the guide tailored to your needs

In case you are a coordinator who is searching for partners, more precisely for small or medium sized enterprise, based in New Member State or Candidate Country, working in the field of energy/environment:

- » Search for partners in our database
- » Download the guide which helps you to involve easily these SMEs
- » Send your project idea to info@sme-environment.org, and we will help you to find appropriate partners from our database

Do not forget, the deadline of submitting projects under the Global 4 call, the last call in FP6 is **3 November 2005**.

GENERAL PARTNER SEARCH

CONSEN (EEIG) Euro-Group European Economic Interest Grouping, is an alliance of European SME's who have agreed to cooperate as Euro-Cluster in RTD+I, projects and tenders throughout Europe.

"Politehnica" University of Timisoara, Department for Mechatronics is interested in Sub Area VI - Operational forecasting and modeling : Air pollution modelling and simulation (homonym book published in 2000). The University or the **MTA TM LTD company** in Timisoara could work in the domain of modeling and simulation or carry out a "trainer training" program in Romania on environmental protection.

A **Belgian research group** is looking for partners or wishes to participate within a proposal for "Area V: Strategies for sustainable land management, including coastal zones, agricultural land and forests" especially "V.1.1 Strategies for sustainable urban, peri-urban and rural land use relationships" and/or "V.1.2 Development of tools for impact assessment of land uses policies on the sustainable development of developing countries."

Their expertise lies in visual and numerical interpretation of land use and occupation in Europe and/or Africa, its evolution in time, its analysis and its modelisation.

Research & Development National Institute for Chemistry and Petrochemistry (ICECHIM - Bucharest ROMANIA) is interested in Global 4 Call under 6FP: "Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems", e.g SUSTDEV-1.2.5 "New and advanced concepts in renewable energy technologies - Biomass

DETAILED PROFILES CAN BE FOUND ON
WWW.SME-ENVIRONMENT.ORG

PROJECT IDEAS SUBMITTED TO SME ENVIRONMENT

STREP - Wastewater

We are currently preparing a STREP proposal on the removal of organic micropollutants and disinfection of wastewater and would like to expand the consortium with SMEs developing new technologies in this area. (Coordinator from Belgium)

Dissemination - FP6-2005-TREN-4. with a Deadline 22 December 2005

Dissemination actions for the Sustainable Energy Systems 6FP RTD Programme

→ The coordinators seek organisations having expertise in the following areas:

- Publishing, Editing, Journalism, copy writing, proof-reading, and
- Event organisers, Conference organisers

→ The responding organisations should have previously worked with government agencies and ideally with the European Institutions.

→ Any special publishing/journalistic experience in the field of energy is particularly sought.

Concerto II

We are looking for partners for a Concerto II funding application.

We are seeking partners from other EU Member States with expertise/experience in the following fields

- Professional proposal writers and/or project managers
- Suppliers of innovative wood biomass combustion and district heating technologies
- Experts in the design of electricity generation and distribution systems
- Experts in control, energy monitoring and data analysis
- Researchers in the field of eco-villages, eco-buildings, electricity grid development and biofuels
- Organizations experienced in dissemination activities

We are in negotiation with potential partners in the starred fields but would be pleased to speak to others.

We would also welcome links with:

- Similar type communities (cluster of villages, small towns)
- Target areas with low renewable energy penetration and low levels of energy efficiency

The project is quite well advanced further details are available.

ARE YOU INTERESTED? WRITE TO
INFO@SME-ENVIRONMENT.ORG