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SMEs in European research programmes

Taking stock and moving forward

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29 January 2010**





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SMEs

in European research programmes

Issues to be addressed:

- Impact assessments FP5 and FP6:
SME SPECIFIC (FP5-CRAFT, FP6-COOP, COLL);
SME THEMAT (ongoing);
- FP7 Progress Report
- Interim evaluation of FP7
- EC policy actions (CSA projects, draft WP2011, procurement)



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Impact assessment highlights (1)

Profile of SME participants FP5/6

SME specific measures:

2/3rds limited or no R&D capability SMEs and 1/3rd medium- to high R&D capability SMEs;

COLL even lower R&D formalization than in COOP

Thematic Programmes:

< 50% R&D expenditure above 10%; 25% R&D intensive (<30% R&D expenditure);

60% industry and 40% service



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Impact assessment highlights (2)

SME SPECIFIC (outsourcing):

- economic impact 35% of SMEs;
- improved S&T knowledge, networking, improved market insight, increased visibility and project management skills;
- COLL – first step in R&D formalization;
- RTD performers in the lead;
- Many projects stop « too early » - validation, demonstration needed;

SME THEMAT: SMEs for access to new knowledge, leading edge technology

- regional/national programme = stepping stone to EU research collaboration;



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Impact assessment highlights (3)

Medium- to high-tech SMEs in SME SPECIFIC (outsourcing):

- bottom-up: focus on technical problem, not on thematic priority;
- closer to market (more application, less basic research);
- shorter project duration (1-2 years);
- smaller consortia (more influence on project implementation);
- complementary expertise – less economic risk;
- SME owns IPR;

Final Report to be made available on **SME TechWeb**:

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





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FP7 Progress Report

- monitoring SME participation in FP7,
- in particular, if targeted 15% of budget under the Cooperation Programme goes to SMEs;
- participation of SMEs in Capacities and People;
- 4th SME Progress Report published in Dec 2009 (data from 30 Sept 2009)
- Quality data – URF (Unique Registration Facility)



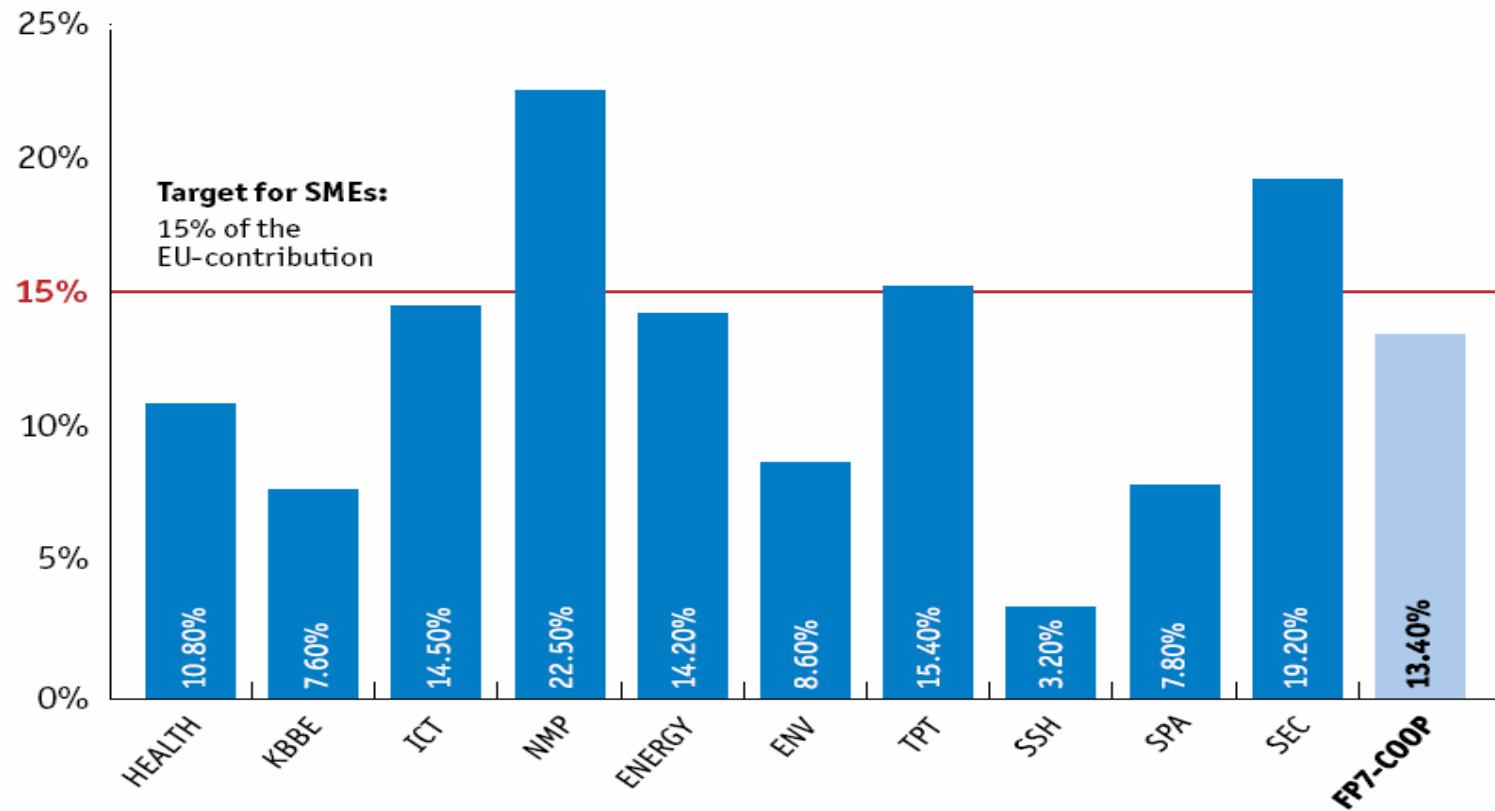


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FP7 Progress Report

Percentage of the EU-contribution going to SMEs





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FP7 Progress Report

Profile of SMEs in FP7 Projects:

- 42% of the SMEs: Work Package leader = high commitment;
- 10% of the projects are coordinated by an SME;
- Average “company age” of an SME: 10 years, (50% of the participating SMEs above and 50% below this age)

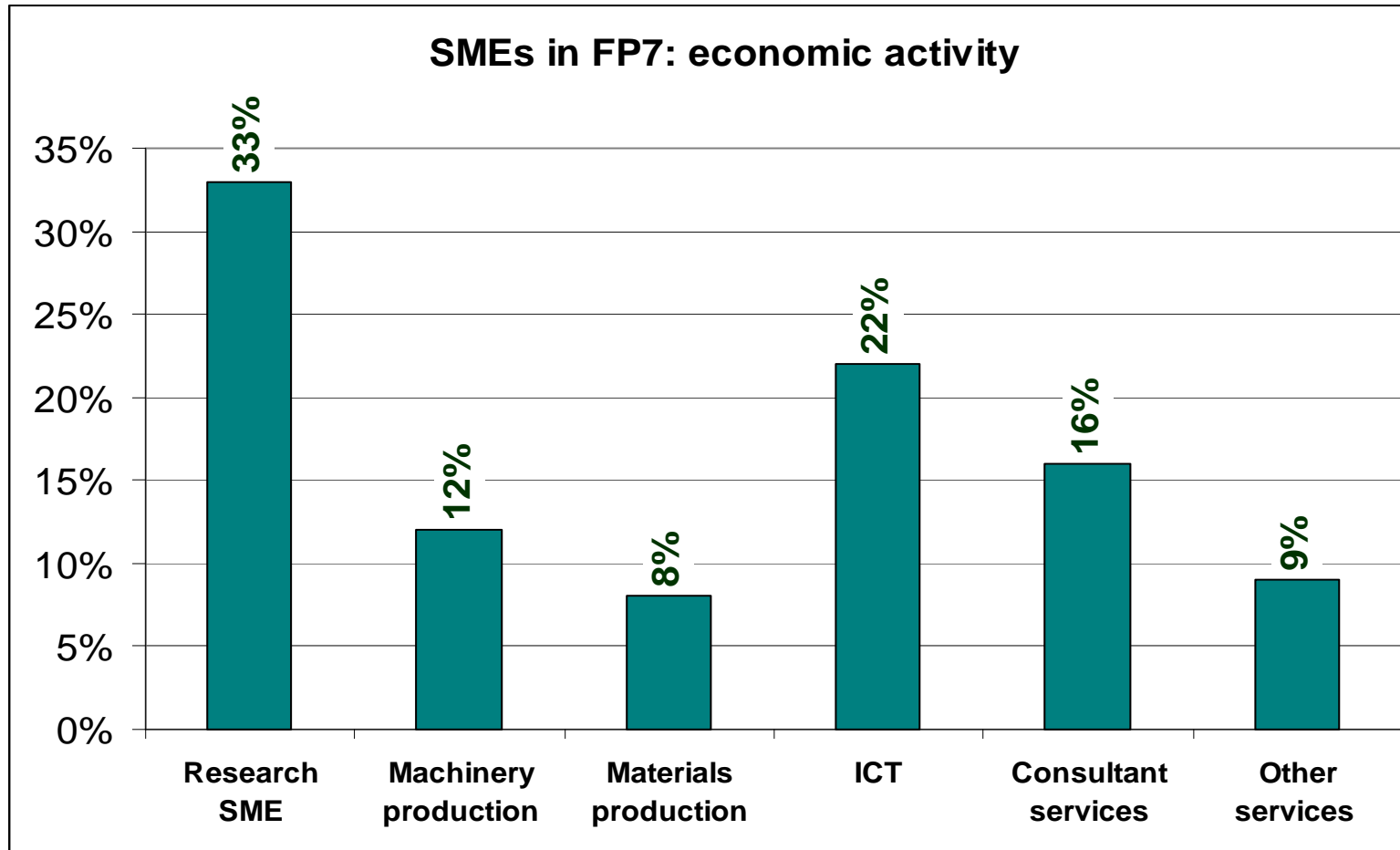




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Type of SMEs in FP7-Cooperation projects





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FP7 Progress Report



PARTICIPATION IN FP7 REPORT
AUTUMN 2009

Full report:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/fp7_report_autumn_2009_full.pdf





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Coordination and support action

FP7-SME-2007-3

Objective: to enhance the exploitation and dissemination of research results

- **EcoInno2SME** - eco-innovation (bio-tech, food, energy and environment)
- **Use&Diffuse** – ICT, health;
- **PRESTO** - facilitation of the identification of priority research topics for SME Associations through dialogue with European Technology Platforms in various sectors (construction, ICT, energy, new materials)





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Interim evaluation of FP7

- Adjustments to SME specific measures (outsourcing): market needs to be better addressed, support for demonstration activities, funding rules and requirements for international cooperation to be revisited, IPR, monitoring of dissemination (SME Associations);
- Potential synergies with CIP and Structural Funds and with regional/ national programmes to be investigated;
- Inadequate level of industry participation - 15% target, other means to improve SME involvement;
- Simplification and reduction of administrative burden;
- « access to new knowledge » to be facilitated: focus more on technology/knowledge transfer + extension of « open access » initiative;





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Policy action

Draft Work Programme 2011 – **pilot action for demonstration**

- **activities:** e.g. testing of product-like prototypes, scale-up studies, performance verification and implementation of new technical and non-technical solutions including market studies/business plans or market strategies;
- **eligible SMEs** (at least 3) participated in FP6 COOP/COLL project or FP7 'Research for the benefit of SMEs' project;





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Policy action

Procurement procedure: **eLearning Platform**

Objective: to provide quality info, guidance and advice for SME support network partners and SMEs

Components:

- Knowledge management platform;
- E-learning modules;
- Serious game;
- E-communities to be formulated;





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Policy action

Coordination and support action **FP7-SME-2009-1**

Objective: to benchmark SME research and innovation support activities at national, regional and European level that facilitate the knowledge production and acquisition of SMEs and increase SME innovation capacity

- **MAPEeR SME** - European approach; identify synergies and initiate structured dialogue btw various players at EU and national, regional levels through European Expert Panel on SMEs;
- **GPrix** - regional approach; examine SME research and innovation support programmes at regional level in 7 target regions and in traditional sectors (automotive, textiles, leather, ceramics, mechanical/metallurgy and food);
- **RAPPORT** - new forms of SME collaborations: open innovation and public-private partnerships, roadmap for embedding the more suitable practices and policies into ERA



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