

Welcome to the InnoSME Newsletter!

Issue 2, 2007



Whats new

InnoSME SWOT Analysis started

Following the scheduled Work plan, InnoSME has started to provide with their corresponding SWOT Analysis to the companies participating in the project.

The SWOT Analysis provided by the InnoSME project comes from the data obtained in the Innovation Management self-diagnosis done by the company. The entire

results depend of the value introduced by the Company as an answer to the different questions.

The section 'Strong and Weak points' establishes these, in general (referred to the eleven criteria of the questionnaire) and in detail (referred to the fifty five questions), taking into account the individual answers of the company and the average of the answers of all the companies.

The section 'Improvement key points' establishes the points that must be improved by the company with three different priorities:

- a.** Priority 1 (high) – In these points there are big differences between the specific company value and the average company value and the general average value. There is a high risk of non-competitiveness.
- b.** Priority 2 (medium) – In these points there are significant differences between the specific company value and the average company value and the general average value.
- c.** Priority 3 (low) – In these points there are small differences between the specific company value and the average company value and the general average value.

The Company must use these points to define their improvement plans at short and medium term.

If your company is based in one of the New Member States of the European Union, you can use these tools and services (please, visit www.innosme.eu)

InnoSME SMEs Report available

InnoSME has produced a Report about the situation of the SMEs in some of the New Member States.

The SMEs Report is based in the data obtained from two sources:

1. the information provided by SMEs when they are registered in the InnoSME database, and
2. the information provided by SMEs when they fill-in the self diagnosis questionnaire.

These two series of data allow the analysis of the whole innovation system and capabilities in the companies and, at the same time, produce some general characterisation of the companies regarding their location, activities and products and size.

This Report is available here (pdf)

<http://innosme.eu/filebank/SMEs%20Report.pdf>

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InnoSME training modules available

From now, the InnoSME training modules, corresponding to the eleven criteria of the Innovation Management self-diagnosis, will be available, starting for the correspondent to the 'Leadership' criteria.

The criteria are: Leadership, Strategy and Planning, Human Resources, the Outside World, Global Quality, Design and Development, Marketing, Production, Logistics and Post-sale. Purchasing and Subcontracting and Performance.

You can see the structure and contents of the training modules in the On-line training modules User Guide (pdf) <http://innosme.eu/filebank/On-line%20training%20modules%20User%20Guide.pdf>

InnoSME Project

InnoSME intends to identify potentially innovative SMEs from the different ICT subsectors located in the new Member States (NMS), assess their capabilities, and improve their conditions in order to make them fitter for participation in RTD and Innovation projects of the FP7 and the CIP.

To reach this objective, the first step is to set-up National and Regional Networks, in all of these targeted countries, in order to facilitate the access to the existing SMEs, allowing their identification and participation in the activities of the project.

InnoSME project will make available for all these stakeholders a set of web services addressed to the SMEs, in their national language, integrated by:

- Self-diagnostic tools for SMEs at three levels: innovation management diagnosis at strategic level, internal and external innovation adoption diagnosis at operational level, and assessment of the risks and benefits associated to the involvement in RTD projects
- Training materials, personalised following the results of the different diagnostic processes, and
- Advice based on the results of the assessment done, in order to improve their weak points and to reinforce their strong ones

The result will be to provide each SME with a personalised improvement work plan, generated from the application of the previous services.

The set of tools could be available for SMEs in the InnoSME Web

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.

The involvement in the InnoSME project will provide to the SMEs with some clear advantages:

- To know their innovation positioning and capabilities through self diagnosis tools
- To improve their innovation skills through personalised assessment and training
- To benchmark results and share best practices and experiences
- To participate in FP7 & CIP Calls for proposals through advice and matching

The project is a chance for the stakeholders Organisations to team up with experts on EU programmes and projects and address SME members with high research and innovation potential with valuable funding information.

InnoSME Workshops

InnoSME Workshops in Debrecen and Budapest (Hungary)

Two important Workshops of InnoSME project will be done in Debrecen (September 18th) and Budapest (September 20th), hosted by Innova, the Innovation Agency of the North Plain Region, and MGYOSZ, the Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists.

The forecasted Agenda includes the following items:

- Introduction to FP7 and CIP framework programmes
- Overview of national / regional SME Programmes in Hungary
- Description of InnoSME project (objectives, target groups, tools, services)
- Hungarian best practices in FP6
- Experience with InnoSME
- Round table discussion with companies

Key speakers are expected to develop the different items, including NCP, representative of National and Regional Governments and InnoSME project.

InnoSME Workshop in Varna (Bulgaria)

A Workshops of InnoSME project is initially scheduled to be done in Varna (October 17th), hosted by the Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations – Varna.

More details will be provided in a few days.

InnoSME Workshop in Szczecin (Poland)

The first Workshop of InnoSME project has been done on May, 21st in Szczecin, Poland, hosted by the Scientific and Technologic Park of Szczecin (Szczeciński Park Naukowo-Technologiczny).

The objective of the Workshop has been to learn about the InnoSME tools and services offered to SMEs and to set-up a partnership with regional stakeholders.

The first communication about InnoSME project was sent to 1000 regional SMEs, from different innovative sectors. Finally, a small group of these companies has been selected to participate in.

In the meeting has participated the Szczecin University of Technology, Regional Contact Point for FP7 in Szczecin. Representative of ten companies have attended the Workshop and have interchanged information about their interests and fields of possible collaboration. Some ideas for projects have been found and ways to check it and to develop have been open.

More information can be found in the Web page of the Park: http://www.spnt.pl/aktualnosci_dla_przedsiębiorcow/innosmes._innowacyjne_przedsiębiorstwa.html

InnoSME Workshop in Bucharest (Romania)

An important Workshop of InnoSME project has been done on May, 29th in Bucharest, Romania, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania (CCIR).

More that 70 SMEs have been registered in the event, and key speakers have shared their experiences with the attendants.

In the morning session, the objective was to disseminate the InnoSME project services and potential impact, as well as their overall framework: FP7 & CIP and national/regional programmes. After the presentation done by Ms. Anemari Marcusanu, from CCIR, the Agenda has follow:

- * Presentation of FP7 & CIP, by Ms. Camelia Dogaru, NCP for the ICT programme
- * Presentation of National SMEs programmes, by Ms. Mihai Bulea, from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- * Presentation of InnoSME project and InnoSME tools and systems for SME participation, and comments on SWOT analysis and strong/weak areas results in the companies using InnoSME tools by Mr. Francisco Loras, InnoSME project manager
- * National Innovation Strategy, by Mr. Alexandru Borcea, President of the Romanian Association for Electronic and Software Industry (ARIES)
- * Practical case studies of good practices from SMEs, by Mr. Marius Alexa, from Kapital, Mr. Sorin Basan, from IPA, and Mr. Nicolae Giurescu, from 3Pro-Lab

In the afternoon, an informal networking session has been done with a reduced group of SMEs, agreeing the participants to follow the work and to check ideas for projects in the next future.

Until now, 27 Romanian SMEs have registered in InnoSME and are using the InnoSME set tools and services to improve their innovation capabilities and skills.

More information can be found in the Web page of CCIR: www.ccir.ro

Events

InnoSME mid-term meeting

Brussels, Belgium

October, to be decided

InnoSME mid-term meeting is scheduled for the end of October.

FP7 project proposal training course

Rome, Italy

September, 12-14

A training workshop on writing successful project proposals for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) will take place in Rome.

The aim of the workshop is to provide the necessary tools to help would-be FP7 participants better structure their

project proposals. The workshop will outline the structure of FP7 and the available financial instruments.

European Congress on Biotechnology

Barcelona, Spain

September, 16-19

The European Commission's Research DG will participate in the European Congress on Biotechnology, taking place in Barcelona.

The international and multidisciplinary event will bring together biotechnologists from Europe and beyond. It will present cutting-edge science in all the disciplines of biotechnology, as well as partnering services. The 13th edition of the congress.

First EURO-TRANS conference

Warsaw, Poland

October, 17-18

The first EURO-TRANS_Days conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland from 17 to 18 October.

The aim of the event is to bring together small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and major European research and development (R&D) players and industrial stakeholders in surface transport to enhance cooperation.

The EURO-TRANS_Days conference will focus on perspectives of cooperation with Polish industrial ... read more
International congress on food and nutrition

Istanbul, Turkey

October, 22-24

An international congress on food and nutrition will take place in Istanbul.

The congress will highlight current areas of research, and will explore topics that are likely to be important in the future.

The event will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and views between leading scientists (including food scientists, technologists, nutritionists and medical professionals).

ICT standardisation and research - towards FP7

Brussels, Belgium

January 2008, 17

A conference entitled 'ICT standardization and research - towards FP7' will take place on 17 January in Brussels, Belgium.

The conference brings together stakeholders involved in the research and standards interfacing process. Senior representatives from both the information and communication technologies (ICT) research and standards communities, as well as from the European Commission, will attend the event.

ICT in FP7

The FP7 ICT Work Programme 2007 defines the priorities for the calls for proposals to be launched in 2007. The priorities are faithful to the FP7 Framework Programme and Specific Programme decisions and in line with the main ICT policy priorities as defined in the i2010 initiative. They reflect the input received from the Programme Committee and Advisory Group, the European Technology Platforms and a series of detailed consultations with the main stakeholders.

The ICT Work Programme under FP7 is divided into seven 'Challenges' of strategic interest to European society, plus research into 'Future and emerging technologies' and support for horizontal actions, such as international cooperation:

- Challenge 1 - Pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructures
- Challenge 2 - Cognitive systems, interaction and robotics
- Challenge 3 - Components, systems and engineering
- Challenge 4 - Digital libraries and content
- Challenge 5 - Sustainable and personalised healthcare
- Challenge 6 - Mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency
- Challenge 7 - Independent living and inclusion
- Future and emerging technologies (FET)

Detailed information can be obtained in the ICT Work programme (pdf)

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/ict-wp-2007-08_en.pdf

ICT in CIP

The first "Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP)" is a coherent and integrated response to the objectives of the renewed Lisbon strategy.

The three specific programmes in the CIP framework are:

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme
- ICT Policy Support Programme
- Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme

The ICT Policy Support Programme will build on the aims of the previous e-TEN, Modinis and e-Content programmes and will support the aims of the new integrated strategy i2010 - European Information Society 2010.

The ICT programme will stimulate the new converging markets for electronic networks, media content and digital technologies. It will test solutions to the bottlenecks that delay wide European deployment of electronic services. It will also support the modernisation of public sector services that will raise productivity and improve services.

Actions under the ICT-policy support programme will

- underpin regulatory and research actions of the Commission to stimulate emerging digital economy based on the convergence between network services, media content and new electronic devices
- provide a bridge between research investment and wide adoption, by providing a testing ground for pan-European electronic services in both the public and private sectors
- reinforce European cultural and linguistic identities by support for the production and distribution of European digital content
- assist the development of an open and inclusive European Information Society through stimulating innovative approaches to inclusion, quality of life and public services.

About TRN

TeleRegions Network is preparing an Innovation Day, which will be held in Brussels in October of this year.

This event will have the objective to provide Regional Governments and other key players with the up-to date information about the instruments in place to facilitate their work promoting innovation in their regions and in their enterprises, especially SMEs.

More information will be in www.teleregionsnetwork.org, when the initial arrangements will be done.

Links

Community Research & Development Information Service
www.cordis.lu

Information and Communication Technologies service 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/>