

WORK PROGRAMME 2010

CAPACITIES

PART 2

RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF SMES

(European Commission (2009)5905 of 29 July 2009)

Capacities Work Programme: Research for the Benefit of SMEs

The available budget in 2010 for the 2010 work programme is EUR 139.59 million.

In this 2010 work programme, it is proposed to use EUR 136.84 million for the call Research for SMEs, which closes on 3rd December 2009. This will ensure continuity of calls, one each year, in the interest of SMEs and SME Associations.

EUR 1 million will be devoted to one call for tender aiming at the development of training modules on the Framework Programme with the aim to better inform, advise and facilitate SME access to the Framework Programme through the Enterprise Europe Network but also other SME support networks.

Other activities will consist of the funding of the SME Conference under the Belgian Presidency in the second half of 2010 (indicative cost EUR 250.000).

EUR 1.5 million will be allocated to the costs of evaluations (experts).

I	CONTEXT	4
II	CONTENT OF CALLS IN 2010.....	9
	Activity: 2.1 Research for SMEs.....	9
III	IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS	14
	<u>Call title: Research for SMEs Call 3</u>	14
IV	OTHER ACTION	16
IV	INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS	20

RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF SMEs

Objectives:

Strengthening the innovation capacity of European SMEs and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets by helping them outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know how, bridging the gap between research and innovation through European level collaboration.

I CONTEXT

A major objective of FP7 is to strengthen industrial competitiveness. SMEs generate most jobs and develop innovative products and services in the European economy. They are therefore key actors for the implementation of FP7.

The main aim of the Capacities programme for SMEs is to enhance the research and innovation capacities of European SMEs which have little or no research capacities themselves and have to outsource research to specialised RTD-performers. This is usually achieved through two types of measures - 'Research for SMEs' and 'Research for SME Associations' - which constitute the core activities of the programme. The aim is that the participating SMEs become more competitive and their capacity to collaborate with the 'research community' is enhanced, addressing in such a way the ERA objective of bringing industry closer to research and academia.

Furthermore, enhanced SME participation in the Research and Innovation activities (both in quantitative and qualitative terms) is pursued through coordination and support actions.

In the Cooperation programme, SMEs participate themselves in the research, as part of a consortium of research organisations. A target has been set so that at least 15% of the funding available under the 'Cooperation' programme should go to SMEs. Specific measures, including support actions to facilitate SME participation, are implemented in the 'Cooperation' programme in the framework of a strategy developed under each theme. The Commission will continue the quantitative and qualitative monitoring of SME participation in the Framework Programme against the objectives set.

The 2010 work programme is essentially a continuation/consolidation of core measures already presented in the previous Work Programmes with some new support actions.

A. To achieve the objectives, the following three groups of activities will be implemented:

- 1) Supporting SMEs outsourcing activities

The increasing number of proposals under this programme demonstrates the interest of SMEs for the scheme and the economic return they expect to generate. Therefore, despite the limited funding available, at least one of the two core activities is the object of a call for proposals each year in order to ensure continuity in the support offered to SMEs.

The 2009 work programme did not contain a call for 'Research for SMEs'. Therefore, the 2010 work programme will do so.

'Research for SMEs' targets mainly low to medium technology SMEs with little or no research capability, but also research performing SMEs which need to complement their core research capability. These SMEs outsource research to research services providers ("RTD performers") such as universities, research centres or research performing SMEs. Other enterprises and end-users, which belong to the same value chains as the participating SMEs, can participate, if it is in the interest of the project.

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.

The scheme follows a bottom-up approach, meaning that it can be carried out in the entire field of science and technology. In addition to research, technological development and demonstration activities, projects are encouraged to include other activities such as training, to facilitate the dissemination and exploitation of results.

It provides financial support to SMEs to outsource research and technological development, with the view of acquiring intellectual property rights, preferably ownership, of the project results. It contrasts with collaborative projects (in the Cooperation programme) where participants cooperate on equal terms with regard to the research undertaken and with the same access rights to the knowledge each of them generates.

The indicative budget for the 'Research for SMEs' call will be about 136 M€, which represents a gradual increase compared to the previous calls.

2) Developing and coordinating support to SMEs at national level

The coordination of national support programmes for SMEs is part of the broader strategy to promote joint programming in research¹:

- Joint Programming makes it easier to address common challenges together, to develop common solutions and to speak with one voice in the international arena.
- It helps to optimise the scope of research programmes across Europe, to eliminate wasteful cross-European programme duplication and to increase programme depth.
- By supporting cross-border project collaboration, Joint Programming facilitates the pooling of data and expertise scattered across several countries or throughout Europe as a whole, enables the rapid dissemination of research results, promotes cross-border mobility and training of human resources, and increases the scientific, technological and innovative impacts of public research.
- It helps to strengthen coordination with other related policies by virtue of greater programme visibility, reduces programme management costs, enables cross-border policy learning and improves the accountability and transparency of public research programmes.

¹ Brussels, 15.7.2008 COM(2008) 468 final

In this context, a financial support of 4 M€ has already been allocated under the 2007 Work Programme to 2 ERA-NET projects aimed at supporting respectively SMEs (ERASME) and SME Associations (CORNET) with the following objectives:

- further integration of national and/ or regional programme activities;
- further expansion of the existing ERA-NET consortium to other national and/or regional programmes;
- significant increase of the number of common calls and of their budgets.

It was also foreseen that in the longer term, a possible outcome of both projects could be that transnational research for SMEs might be managed through networks of national/ regional programmes with the support of the Community.

Under FP6, predecessors to both projects had already received a total of 6 M€.

ERASME and CORNET will have reached the mid-term evaluation stage during the course of the calendar year 2009. The outcome of this mid-term assessment to be carried out with the assistance of external experts will be used for the planning of the future development of both projects.

3) Enhancing the impact of SME participation in European Research

In addition to the core activities, the 2010 work programme also includes activities aimed at supporting the SME participation in research and technology innovation.

The 2010 work programme will focus on enhancing the impact of existing EU support tools/services for SMEs. This approach is in line with the Small Business Act, and is explicitly supported by the SME Advisory Group and the 2008 SME Conference of the French Presidency.

The main aim of the proposed activity is to enhance SME participation in the Framework Programme. Recent statistics show that the SME target of 15% of the budget of the Cooperation Programme has not yet been met. Although the overall numbers of SMEs applying to the Framework Programme have nearly doubled compared to FP6, more work needs to be done to attract SMEs to FP7 as a whole.

This can be achieved both by fully integrating the SME perspective in the development of the work programmes of the Themes in Cooperation and by strengthening links between the existing SME support networks. In the area of SME support for Research and Innovation, the 2010 work programme aims at developing support tools for the complementary SME support service networks, in particular the SME National Contact Points (NCPs) and the Enterprise Europe Network in CIP but also the information networks of the Cohesion DGs and Eureka.

Within this context, a call for tender will be organised for the development and implementation of training modules, preferably e-learning modules, on the Framework Programme with the aim to better inform and advise SMEs about the Framework Programme and facilitate SME access to the Framework Programme through the Enterprise Europe Network but also other SME support networks. As a result, SMEs should become better aware of opportunities offered by FP7 and in a better position to exploit those. Likewise, SMEs which participate in FP7 should find easier access to support for the further

development and exploitation of the research results, in particular through the Enterprise Europe Network.

An indicative budget of EUR 1 million is foreseen.

Belgium has indicated that as part of their early planning for the presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2010, they are considering organising a European SME conference. This would build on the successful SME Conference supported during the French Presidency.

On condition that the Belgian presidency confirms their intention to organise such a conference on the opportunities offered to SMEs by Research and Innovation programmes in Europe and their expected economic impact, a Coordination and Support Action will be awarded².

The grant for the organisation of this conference will be awarded to Walloon Region; *"Service public de Wallonie, Direction générale opérationnelle Économie, Emploi et Recherche (DGOEER, Département des Programmes de Recherche, Direction des Programmes fédéraux et internationaux, Avenue Prince de Liège, 7 à B5100 Jambes/Namur"*.

Maximum possible rate of co-financing: the Commission shall finance up to 50% of the total eligible costs, up to a maximum of EUR 250 000.

B. Furthermore

The Commission will appoint independent experts to assist with the evaluations of proposals and the review of indirect actions financed under FP7 and the previous framework programmes, in accordance with Articles 17 and 27 of the Rules for Participation.

An indicative budget of EUR 1.5 million has been earmarked for these purposes.

- **International cooperation:** Although international cooperation is not the main aim of this programme, it can play a small part. SMEs can outsource work to RTD-performers from any country, including third countries, if these have the right expertise and the research activity provided is cost-effective. This may also be helpful to SMEs to expand their markets. In addition, information and good practices based on the European experience in relation to SMEs and research can be disseminated to third countries in order to enable them to create the necessary structures and support mechanisms for the creation of viable and effective SME support activities.
- **Dissemination actions** form an essential part of the SME-specific measures. They exist in first instance in the form of direct exploitation of the project results by SMEs. This presents, indeed, a core feature of the assessment of the potential impact of the project.

² In accordance with Article 14.a of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

- To fully exploit European research and innovation potential, **women entrepreneurs** and female researchers are encouraged to participate in the SME research specific measures.
- **Modalities of Implementation: The Research Executive Agency**

Calls for proposals under this work programme will be implemented by the Research Executive Agency (REA) once this is operating autonomously according to the provisions of the Commission decision C/2008/3980 of 31/07/2008 "delegating powers to the Research Executive Agency with a view to performance of tasks linked to implementation of the specific Community programmes People, Capacities and Cooperation in the field of research comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the Community budget".

II CONTENT OF CALLS IN 2010

Activity: 2.1 Research for SMEs

Technical content/ scope

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.

Topics

Research for SMEs is a bottom-up scheme: the projects may address any research topic across the entire field of science and technology³.

Participants

Research for SMEs projects require participants from the following two categories:

1. SME participants:

At least three independent SME participants, established in three different Member States (MS) or Associated countries (AC).

They must be SMEs as defined by Recommendation 2003/361/EC (http://europa.eu/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_124/l_12420030520en00360041.pdf).

However, SMEs that are research centres, research institutes, contract research organisations or consultancy firms are not eligible as SME participants.

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 which 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.

³ Research proposals within the scope of Annex I of the EURATOM Treaty, namely those directed towards nuclear energy applications, should be submitted to relevant calls under the EURATOM 7th Framework Programme.

2. RTD performers:

At least two RTD performers independent from any other participant.

RTD performers are legal entities carrying out research and technological development activities for the benefit of SME participants. Examples of RTD performers are universities, research organisations and industrial companies, including research performing SMEs.

In addition, **other enterprises and end-users** may participate by making a particular contribution to the project and in solving specific problems or needs of the SME participants involved, though not in a dominant role. They must be independent from any other participant.

Co-ordination tasks may not be subcontracted. The organisation acting as coordinator must have the necessary capacity and competence to ensure effectively the coordination tasks. Whilst the co-ordinator of a Research for SMEs project should normally be one of the SME participants or RTD performers, this role may be entrusted by the SMEs in duly justified cases to an organisation specialised in professional project management and participating to the project under the category “other enterprises and end-users” in support to the SMEs.

Type of activities

Research and technological development activities form the core of the project and the RTD performers should perform the bulk of these. SMEs should focus on initial specifications, and on testing and validation of project results and the preparatory stages for further use. Knowledge management and IPR protection should support the SMEs in protecting and using the research results to their best advantage, leading to a clear economic impact.

Demonstration activities are designed to prove the viability of new technologies that offer a potential economic advantage, but which cannot be commercialised directly (e.g. testing of product-like prototypes).

Other activities to facilitate the take-up of results by the SMEs, in particular training and dissemination:

- Training activities are performed in general by the RTD performers and are aimed at technical and managerial staff from the participating SMEs. Training should focus on results/technologies generated by the projects. Training activities should normally not exceed 10% of the total eligible project costs.
- Dissemination activities may include conferences, publications, workshops or web-based initiatives.

Management activities, over and above the technical management of individual work packages, provide an appropriate framework bringing together all project components and maintaining regular communications with the Commission.

Resources and duration

Indicative budget: EUR 136.84 million.

The size of the consortium should typically be between 5 and 10 participants. The overall budget of the project should typically be between EUR 500 000 to EUR 1 500 000 and the duration of the project should normally be between 1 and 2 years.

Funding Scheme that applies:

‘Research for the benefit of specific groups (in particular SMEs)’

The relationship between SMEs and RTD-performers under this Programme is a “customer-seller” relationship. To further develop their activities, SMEs buy knowledge from RTD performers, who sell their expertise and work. Specific research and development activities undertaken by SMEs with their own resources are essentially focussed on initial specifications and on the validation and testing of the acquired knowledge.

In this context, the real investment or cost incurred by SMEs includes a price they pay for the know-how they wish to acquire: i.e. the intellectual property rights and knowledge developed during the project.

The calculation of the Community contribution for projects is built upon the reimbursement, in whole or in part, of eligible costs (based on maximum rates of reimbursement specified in the grant agreement for different types of activities within the project) and shall not exceed the maximum Community contribution determined by the rules for participation.

Although the level of public funding provided is substantial, it will never cover all the costs, shortfalls will have to be covered by the participating companies or associations themselves. Therefore, from an SME perspective, the way the proposed research investment fits into its overall business strategy should be well verified and justified.

The financial support of the Community in accordance with Article 33 of the Rules for participation will be capped at a value not exceeding 110% of the estimated price to be invoiced by RTD providers to SMEs and/or other enterprises and end users as agreed amongst them prior to grant agreement signature in compliance with Article 120 of the Financial Regulation. Within this limit, the effective reimbursement of eligible costs will be subject to the applicable rates of the various activities (see Annex 3). Should the actual invoices be lower than the initially estimated price, the financial support of the Community will not exceed 110% of their actual value.

RTD performers will charge eligible costs only under ‘management activities’ and ‘other activities’ (including training and dissemination). Resources they use for ‘research and technological development activities’ and/or ‘demonstration activities’ will be invoiced to SMEs and/or other enterprises and end-users at an agreed price. The price and payment modalities agreed between RTD performers and SMEs should reflect the value of the intellectual property rights and knowledge acquired: the price of a licence should normally be lower than the price for ownership. RTD performers will be protected against the legal impossibility for an SME and/or other enterprises and end-users to honour the financial commitment towards them. RTD performers may be authorised to charge their eligible costs related to unpaid invoices for direct reimbursement by the Community. This reimbursement shall be subject to the funding rates applicable for ‘research and technological development

activities' and/or 'demonstration activities' in accordance with Article 33 of the Rules for participation and within the above-mentioned cap.

SMEs and other enterprises or end-users will charge eligible costs under the various available activities to the project. The payment of RTD performers' invoices will be considered as eligible cost and be reimbursed at the funding rate applicable for 'research and technological development activities' and/or 'demonstration activities'.

The RTD performers offer a research service for which they must be remunerated by the SME participants and/or other enterprises and end-users. In return the SME participants receive rights to the "foreground" (including intellectual property) generated in the project. All participants must agree on the appropriate conditions with respect to remuneration of the RTD-performers and rights relinquished to the SME-participants, and in the best interest of the SME-participants, before submitting the proposal.

By default, the preferred option is that the SME-participants retain the full ownership of the Foreground and the RTD-performers are remunerated accordingly. However, the SMEs may agree on other conditions with the RTD-performers. It is e.g. conceivable that the SMEs do not require property rights on "foreground" but that their economic interest is fully satisfied by a (non)-exclusive license. In such a situation, the RTD-performer could retain ownership of the IPR and certain use rights to valorise and get a return on its own investment. This in turn will affect the level of remuneration paid by the SMEs for the research services delivered.

Further detail on how to prepare a project proposal and apply the funding scheme is presented in the brochure "Research for SMEs & Research for SME Associations at a glance" which can be consulted at http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm?pg=publications on the SMETechWeb: http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm.

Expected impact

Projects under 'Research for SMEs' aim at strengthening the competitiveness of SME participants and contribute at programme level to improving industrial competitiveness across the European Union. The proposed Science & Technology approach should take into account the state of the art in the technology domain and demonstrate the capability and commitment of the consortium to implement a tangible RTD work plan at a high quality level.

The expected outcome post project includes new/improved products, processes or services with a distinct market potential: they should demonstrate a clear economic impact for the SME participants, improving their competitiveness by creating new or expanding existing markets. Collaboration and networking at EU level should enhance their access to markets and customers.

The expected impact should be clearly described both at qualitative and quantitative level, providing where possible an indication of the economic impact, e.g. on turnover, employment or target markets as well as expected patent applications or licence agreements. A dedicated strategy for the use of the research results is expected to ensure optimal and rapid innovation impact.

Projects follow basic ethical principles and include provisions for communication and dissemination of results. They should highlight any relevance to EU policies (i.e.

environment, energy, health, etc), encourage gender equality initiatives (i.e. gender action plans according to the size of the project), foster dialogue beyond the research community, explore wider societal issues and address possible synergies with education.

III IMPLEMENTATION OF CALLS

Call title: Research for SMEs Call 3

- **Call identifier:** FP7-SME-2010-1
- **Date of publication:** 30th July 2009⁴
- **Deadline:** 3rd December 2009, at 17.00.00 h (Brussels local time)⁵
- **Indicative budget⁶:** EUR 136.84 million⁷
- **Topics:** the call is open to all research fields

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Scheme
<u>2.1 Research for SMEs</u>	The call is open to all research fields ⁸	Research for the benefit of specific groups (in particular SMEs)

- **Eligibility conditions**
 - The general eligibility criteria for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme and in the guide for applicants. *Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable*".
 - The following additional eligibility criteria apply in this call:
 - At least 3 participants must be independent SMEs established in at least 3 MS or AC.
 - At least 2 participants must be RTD performers⁹ independent from any other participant.

⁴ The Directorate-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

⁵ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months

⁶ The final budget awarded to this call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

⁷ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budget authority.

⁸ Research proposals within the scope of Annex I of the EURATOM Treaty, namely those directed towards nuclear energy applications, should be submitted to relevant calls under the EURATOM 7th Framework Programme.

⁹ As defined in art.2 of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013): "RTD performer' means a legal entity

- **Evaluation procedure:** the evaluation will follow a single stage procedure; proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in annex 2 of the work programme

Please note that for this call, the threshold for the Potential impact criterion will be 4 (instead of 3) and, as a consequence, the overall threshold will be 11 (instead of 10).

Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS. The Commission may instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.

Furthermore, the procedure for establishing the priority order for proposals with the same score for this call will differ from Annex 2 as follows: the first step (point 'i') making reference to topics is suppressed, and point "ii" (now point 'i') indicates that the proposals will be prioritised first according to the scores for the criterion impact and, when these scores are equal, according to the scores for the criterion scientific and technological excellence (ref. Guide for Applicants).

- The following additional evaluation criterion apply in this call:

Within the Description of Work in the proposal, the rules on dissemination and use, including intellectual property rights management and the settlement of internal disputes, are described. In particular, the Description of Work should contain provisions related to the remuneration of the RTD-performers especially if different from the default regime, clearly indicating the ceiling for remuneration agreed within the consortium and the related consequences in terms of allocation of ownership and use and dissemination rights.

- **Indicative timetable:** evaluation results estimated to be available within 3 months after closure date. Grant agreement signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to the call will come into force 6 months after the closure date.

The objective is that all grant agreements will have been completed 9 months after the closure date.

- **Consortium agreements**

The participants will be required to submit a signed consortium agreement before the signature of the grant agreement.

It addresses issues such as the internal organisation of the consortium and the management of the Community financial contribution.

carrying out research or technological development activities in funding schemes for the benefit of specific groups as identified in Annex III to Decision No 1982/2006/EC".

- The forms of grants and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme
- A reserve list of proposals will be established

- **Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:**

In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.

IV OTHER ACTIONS

Besides grants subject to calls for proposals, other indirect actions under the Rules for Participation may be carried out in accordance with the topic profile pursued. These shall include public procurement and expert groups.

Funding scheme: CSA/ Public Procurement¹⁰

- A call for tender for "Training module of SMEs and FP7 for SME support network" will be launched in the second semester of 2009 with an indicative budget of EUR 1 million. It will fund the development of training modules, preferably e-learning modules, on the Framework Programme with the aim to better inform and advise SMEs on and facilitate their access to the Framework Programme, in particular through the Enterprise Europe Network but also other SME support networks. The training modules should comprehensively cover the practical aspects of participation in the Framework Programme by SMEs. The training modules should take account of the specific needs and expectation of SMEs.

Expected impact

The main impact for this action is to facilitate SME access to the EU RTD and Innovation programmes by better informing and advising SMEs. This in turn should lead to the SMEs making better informed decisions on their investment and participation in European Research and Innovation actions.

Funding scheme: CSA/Grant to named beneficiaries¹¹

- A European SME conference will be organised under the Belgian Presidency in the second half of 2010.

The grant for the organisation of the conference will be awarded to "*Service public de Wallonie, Direction générale opérationnelle Économie, Emploi et Recherche (DGOEER, Département des Programmes de Recherche, Direction des Programmes fédéraux et internationaux, Avenue Prince de Liège, 7 à B5100 Jambes/Namur*"

Maximum possible rate of co-financing: the Commission shall finance up to 50% of the total eligible costs, up to a maximum of EUR 250 000.

Expected impact

The main impact of this action is to present the opportunities offered to SMEs by Research and Innovation programmes in Europe and their expected economic impact,

¹⁰ In accordance with Article 14b) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

¹¹ In accordance with Article 14a) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

It will also improve the visibility of the SME research dimension in Europe. It will provide a European forum to the different stakeholders involved in the SME Research and Innovation activities.

Indicative budget¹² for the "Research for the benefit of SMEs" for the 2010 Work Programme

	2010 budget (EUR million)
<u>Actions 2010 Work Programme</u>	
Research for SMEs	
FP7-SME-2010-1	136.84
Other Activities:	
Call for tender	1
Belgian Presidency Conference	0.25
Expert Evaluators and Reviewers	1.5
Total	139.59 *

* An additional EUR 17 million of the 2010 budget will be dedicated to EUROSTARS (Art 169). These data have only an informative purpose.

Budget figures in this work programme

All budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. The final budgets awarded to actions implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for each call.

For actions not implemented through calls for proposals:

- The final budgets for evaluation, monitoring and review may vary by up to 20% of the indicated budgets for these actions;
- The final budget awarded for all other actions not implemented through calls for proposals may vary by up to 10% of the indicated budget for these actions.

¹² Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2010 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority

- **V INDICATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE CALLS**

The current planning foresees one call or more per year for one or more of the following activities: 'Research for SMEs', 'Research for SME Associations', 'Coordination and support activities'.