



# Innovating Your Future

A Smarter Business Guide to  
EU Funding for Innovation



**CHAMBERS  
IRELAND**  
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS



Membership of the European Union (EU) has been a significant factor in Ireland's economic and business development.

Chambers Ireland is committed to keeping the Irish business community informed on current opportunities that could help build on previous successes achieved from involvement with the EU.

There are a wide range of programmes that support research and innovation that your company may be interested in exploring.

Four programmes that may appeal to your business include:

### **1. The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)**

Aims at strengthening the scientific and technological base of industries, encouraging international competitiveness, and promoting research that supports EU policies.

### **2. The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)**

Supports innovation activities, provides more efficient access to finance, delivers business support services, and encourages use of information and technology.

### **3. EUREKA's Eurostars Programme**

Aims at enhancing European competitiveness by supporting businesses. Its main initiative is providing funding for SMEs that undertake research and development programmes.

### **4. European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)**

Enables the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. Contributes to opening the European research area to cooperation worldwide.

All of these programmes encourage joint European research initiatives which are supported by the European Union.





# Programmes

## What is FP7?

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) supports the European Union's efforts in education, research, and innovation. FP7 has been developed to provide a funding instrument for research in Europe and can be utilised by Irish businesses. It is organised into four themes:

1. **Cooperation: Collaborative Research**
2. **Ideas: Frontier Research**
3. **People: Marie Curie Actions**
4. **Capacities: Research and Innovation Capacities**

Each category represents a particular programme that is linked to EU research policy. Companies seeking to access this funding have various options open to them.

The objective of each programme is to increase the technological and scientific foundation of industries in Europe while promoting research that coincides with policies held by the European Union.

## Why Get Involved?

Whether you are a legally established company, organisation, individual, university, or research centre, you have the opportunity to apply for this funding.

The only requirement is establishing your entity's eligibility before presenting your collaborative project proposal.

To determine whether or not your organisation meets the requirements, or for more information, visit [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/who\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/who_en.html).

## FP7 National Contact Points

National contact points offer support for companies that are interested in participating in projects.

These experts can guide you through the process of identifying what will work best in addition to suggesting entities for your organisation to partner with.

To contact experts who are most pertinent to your company visit <http://www.fp7peoplenetwork.eu/national-contact-points/>



### **Areas of Interest for FP7**

Although the categories listed previously present numerous opportunities, options of particular interest to Irish businesses include:

1. **Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways;** and
2. **Research for the Benefit of SMEs.**

### **What is Marie Curie?**

The purpose of the Marie Curie programme is to assist companies to work with universities by paying for the placement and training of qualified researchers. The Marie Curie programme also supports strengthening of cross-border mobility and enhances public and private sectors of businesses.

### **Why is Marie Curie Important?**

The objective of the Marie Curie People Programme is to promote Europe as an attractive location for skilled researchers. Your company can use this programme to secure access to researchers who will be trained to enhance their career development and work in collaboration with your company.

### **How is Funding Awarded?**

The Marie Curie programme awards funds through a competitive process based on international peer review.

For more information regarding activities and access incorporated in Marie Curie visit <http://www.fp7peoplenetwork.eu/step-1-what-is-it/>

For information regarding the submission of proposals visit <http://www.fp7peoplenetwork.eu/step-3-services-and-support/>





# Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways

## What is IAPP?

Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP) aims to create links between public research organisations and private commercial enterprises. IAPP can help your company to partner with a public research organisation on a collaborative research and development project.

For more information visit [http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index\\_en.cfm?pg=people](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm?pg=people)

## Why is IAPP Important?

The target group for IAPP are SMEs. By collaborating with other SMEs you can achieve the scale needed to produce innovative research and development that can assist your company to ultimately create new products.

## What are the Requirements to Participate in IAPP?

### Industrial partners must be:

- Operating on a commercial basis.

### Different participants must be:

- From at least two different member or associated countries (one must be from an EU member state).

### Participants are expected to:

- Recruit and potentially host researchers;
- Contribute to the execution of cooperation programmes for the researchers; and
- Establish a line of objectives with the researchers for long-term success.

### Proposals must include:

- A minimum of one organisation from each sector.

To view a step by step guide on how the projects will be funded and how to participate, visit [http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index\\_en.cfm?pg=step\\_by\\_step](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm?pg=step_by_step)

## Are there Specific Requirements for Research Topics?

Research fields are chosen freely by participants. There is no restriction on research topics or core areas of focus for companies. The only requirement is that you must select a domain of research and technological development that is addressed under the EC-Treaty.



# Research for the Benefit of SMEs

## What is Research for the Benefit of SMEs?

SMEs represent 99% of all enterprises in Europe and provide millions of jobs in the private sector. Research for the Benefit of SMEs is a significant element of FP7 and an area for potential growth and employment. Research for the Benefit of SMEs falls under the “Capacities” category of FP7.

## How Can it Help Businesses?

1. Helps to outsource research
2. Strengthens research efforts
3. Expands contact points and networks
4. Helps to acquire technological knowledge
5. Supports up to 75% of the research costs

For more details visit <http://www.fp7ireland.com/page.aspx?SP=70>

The European Commission publishes calls for proposals at <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>.

For more information regarding Research for the Benefit of SMEs visit [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme_en.html)





# Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

## What is CIP?

With SMEs as its main target, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities, provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions.

## How is it Funded?

CIP has numerous schemes and a large budget which allows it to grant access to loans and equity finance for SMEs. The financial instruments are implemented on a trust basis and cover specific needs depending on the stage of development of the small business or organisation.

## How do I Access the Funds?

Visit <http://www.access2finance.eu/> and select your country and language preferences. Once selected, the website will tell you how to apply for the funds.

This website may also be useful if you have signed an agreement with the European Investment Fund (EIF).

For information regarding EIF visit <http://www.eif.europa.eu/>

## Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Help Desk

The IPR help desk is funded by the CIP. It has been created to provide information about IPR related to research or innovation projects funded by the European Union.

This information can be accessed at <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/home.html>



**cip** competitiveness and innovation  
framework programme  
2007-2013



# EUREKA's Eurostars Programme

## What is Eurostars?

The Eurostars Programme is the first European funding and support programme that is specifically geared towards SMEs. The aim of Eurostars is to allow SMEs to lead international collaborative research and innovation projects.

## Who Can Apply for the Funds?

Irish SMEs can apply for funding via <http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/where.do>

## What Activities are Supported by Eurostars?

Eurostars supports research completed by SMEs. The funding provided allows SMEs to participate in international competition thereby giving them the opportunity to become future leaders in their respective areas of business.

## How Does Eurostars Work?

The projects funded should:

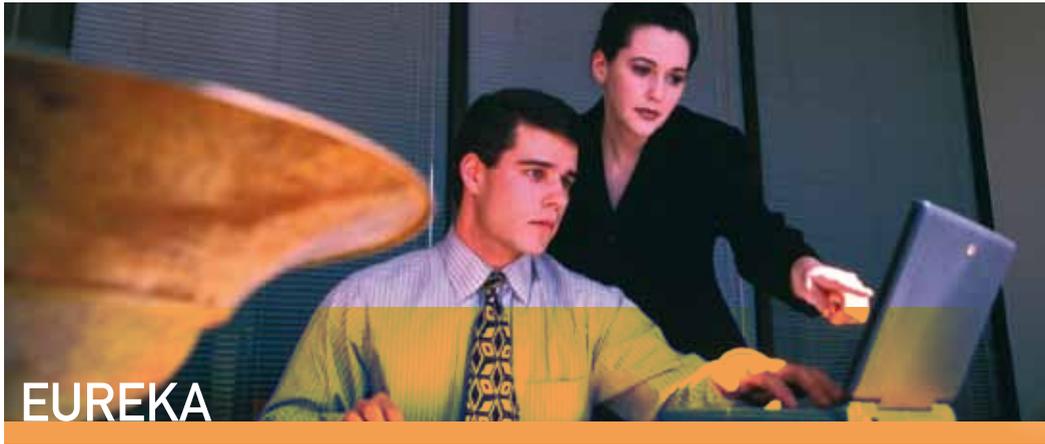
1. Be proposed and led by at least one SME;
2. Involve at least one other partner from another Eurostars member country and last a maximum of three years; and
3. Complete the product of the research within two years and have it ready for market introduction at that time.

## How do you apply?

<http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/> offers information on how to apply for the Eurostars Programme.



eurostars™



## **What is EUREKA?**

EUREKA is an organisation that has been established by the EU with the goal of becoming the leading platform for research and development in Europe and beyond. Although Eurostars is one of the subsets of the EUREKA organisation, programmes of interest to your business may include:

### **EUREKA Clusters**

Aims to develop generic technologies of key importance for European competitiveness. It brings together large companies along with SMEs, research institutes and universities to focus on developing and commercialising new technologies. The goal is to ensure that Europe maintains its leading position in the universal market.

For more information visit <http://www.eurekanetwork.org/programmes/clusters>

### **EUREKA Umbrellas**

Thematic networks that focus on a specific technology area or business sector and is coordinated by a working group made up of EUREKA representatives and industrial experts.

For more information visit <http://www.eurekanetwork.org/programmes/umbrellas>

To access the main EUREKA website for more information regarding any of their programmes visit <http://www.eurekanetwork.org/>





# European Cooperation in Science and Technology

## What is COST?

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) was established to ensure that Europe maintains a strong position in the field of scientific and technical research in addition to increasing European cooperation and interaction.

## What Does COST Do?

COST makes it possible for various national facilities, institutes, universities and private industries to work jointly on a variety of research and development activities. It has been used to successfully maximise European synergy in addition to adding value in research cooperation among European countries.

COST complements the activities involved in the EU Framework Programmes such as FP7 and creates a bridge between scientific communities of emerging countries. It also enhances the mobility of researchers across Europe by focussing on particular domains to create scientific and technological excellence.

To access more information about COST visit [http://www.cost.esf.org/about\\_cost](http://www.cost.esf.org/about_cost)





## Enterprise Europe Network

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) helps small business to make the most of the European marketplace. EEN services in Ireland are hosted at and delivered together with Enterprise Ireland and Chambers from Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo and Waterford.

For additional information regarding other benefits and contacts for SMEs visit [http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm). This site will help you get in contact with the partner nearest to your business.

EEN	Counties	Contact	Telephone	Email
Enterprise Ireland	Nationwide	Jan Gerritsen	+353 1 727 2729	jan.gerritsen@enterprise-ireland.com
Cork	Cork, Kerry, Limerick	Katherine Fitzpatrick	+ 353 21 450 9044	katherine@corkchamber.ie
Dublin	Dublin, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow	Marion Jammet	+353 1 644 7200	marion@dublinchamber.ie
Galway	Galway, Mayo, Clare, Westmeath	Carol Brady	+353 91 563 536	carol@galwaychamber.com
Sligo	Sligo, Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Roscommon, Longford	Lorraine McDonnell	+353 71 9161274	lorraine@sligochamber.ie
Waterford	Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Carlow, Laois, Offaly	Michelle McHugh	+353 51 311138	michelle.mchugh@waterfordchamber.ie

*Disclaimer: This booklet is intended as a general guide only for the subject matter and is presented in a condensed form. As an introductory guide, it should not be used as the sole basis for accessing or determining qualification or otherwise for EU research and innovation funding programmes.*



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