



The European Experts' Panel on SMEs – an informal body defining recommendations towards policy makers on how to design more SME-friendly RTDI programmes

What is the European Experts' Panel on SMEs?

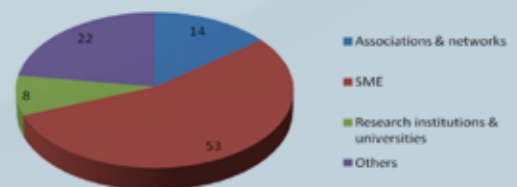
The creation of the European Experts Panel on SMEs responds to the need of engaging European SMEs in research activities, with proper policies and setting up mechanisms to bring them into the centre of the development processes of European Union's research programmes and initiatives.

The mission of the Panel is to derive policy recommendations to remove barriers to innovation and to foster the development of a wider and more solid base of SMEs active in advanced research and innovation activities

Who are the members of the Panel?

The Panel gathers relevant experts, stakeholders, SMEs and small business associations in order to produce recommendations towards the enhancement of research activities to be carried out by the SME companies.

Number of accepted members by organisation type



What activities has the Panel?

1. think-tank on new research policies approach for SMEs; having a synergic scope with initiatives promoting the interests of SMEs,
2. discussion about the key objectives for the development and enhancement of SMEs advanced research; and
3. communicate results to the SMEs' stakeholders at three levels (regional / national / European), plus European institutions and networks such as DG Research; SME Envoy; DG Enterprise and Industry; DG INFSO, among others,
4. provide recommendations for redefined innovation measures, support services, networks.

Number of accepted members by country



How to join the Panel?

The membership in the SME Panel is free of charge and is open to any interested parties who feel they could contribute to the set objectives. If you are interested in becoming a member of the European SME Experts' Panel, please contact us via secretariat_sme_panel@ivs.hu



What are the main recommendations towards the regional/national and European policy makers and programme managers?

The following main areas of concerns have been identified that are called as “Improvable Targets”. Each improvable Target represents a major area where it is possible to act; consequently, within each Improvable target, several specific measures are identified.

Improvable Target 1: Research Programmes and participating rules suitable for SMEs

- o Research Programmes’ characteristics responding to SMEs’ needs.
Calls structure, project duration and results exploitation.
- o Simplification of research programmes as a means to attract more SMEs
- o Support provided to SMEs at national/regional level vs. Support given at European level

Improvable Target 2: Stimulus and mechanisms for assistance to SMEs

- o Stimulating SMEs participation in large European R&D cooperation initiatives such as the:
 - o European Technology Platforms
 - o Public-Private Partnerships

Improvable Target 3: The wider view of SMEs

- o The definition of SME adopted by the European Commission. Its adequacy to the national/regional context of the European countries
- o Identification of cross-sectoral programmes and cross-sectoral collaboration between the European Commission
- o Open Innovation: Fostering Large industries and SMEs to implement open innovation across global value chains

Improvable Target 4: The financial and business perspectives

- o Venture capital investment for SMEs involved in research projects
- o The economic crisis and the financing needs of SMEs
- o The overall approach towards cooperative programmes. What, when, how to strengthen the cooperation: pre-R&D or post R&D

Improvable Target 5: What to do with Non-Researching SMEs

- o Measures to approach non-research performing SMEs. Identifying best practise programmes and experience sharing

Improvable Target 6: Stimulating messages towards exploitation of research results Pre- commercial (Public and Private) Procurement

- o Engage SMEs in the buying cycles of public buyers at the earliest stages of research

www.mapeer-sme.eu

For further information on MaPEer SME activities in your country please contact:

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