



EUROPEAN
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SME Participation in FP7 Report

Spring 2009

Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) are important contributors to the successful implementation of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) of the European Commission. SMEs collaborate with universities, research institutes and large enterprises as part of their innovation strategy. This leaflet provides some key figures which illustrate the overall achievements of SMEs two and a half years into FP7. It shows that SMEs are rightfully claiming a share of the benefits offered by FP7 but that there is still potential for further engagement.

This SME Participation Report in FP7 covers the following:

- statistical information on the number of SMEs and the funding allocated to them within the Cooperation programme of FP7;
- the breakdown of the SME participation and of the funding of SMEs in signed project contracts ('Grant Agreements') across the various themes of the Cooperation programme;
- SME profiles, in size, type of economic activity, foundation year and responsibility in the project;
- statistical information on SMEs in the programme 'Research for the benefit of SMEs'

For further information, please see <http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb> online, or contact Martina.Daly@ec.europa.eu via e-mail.

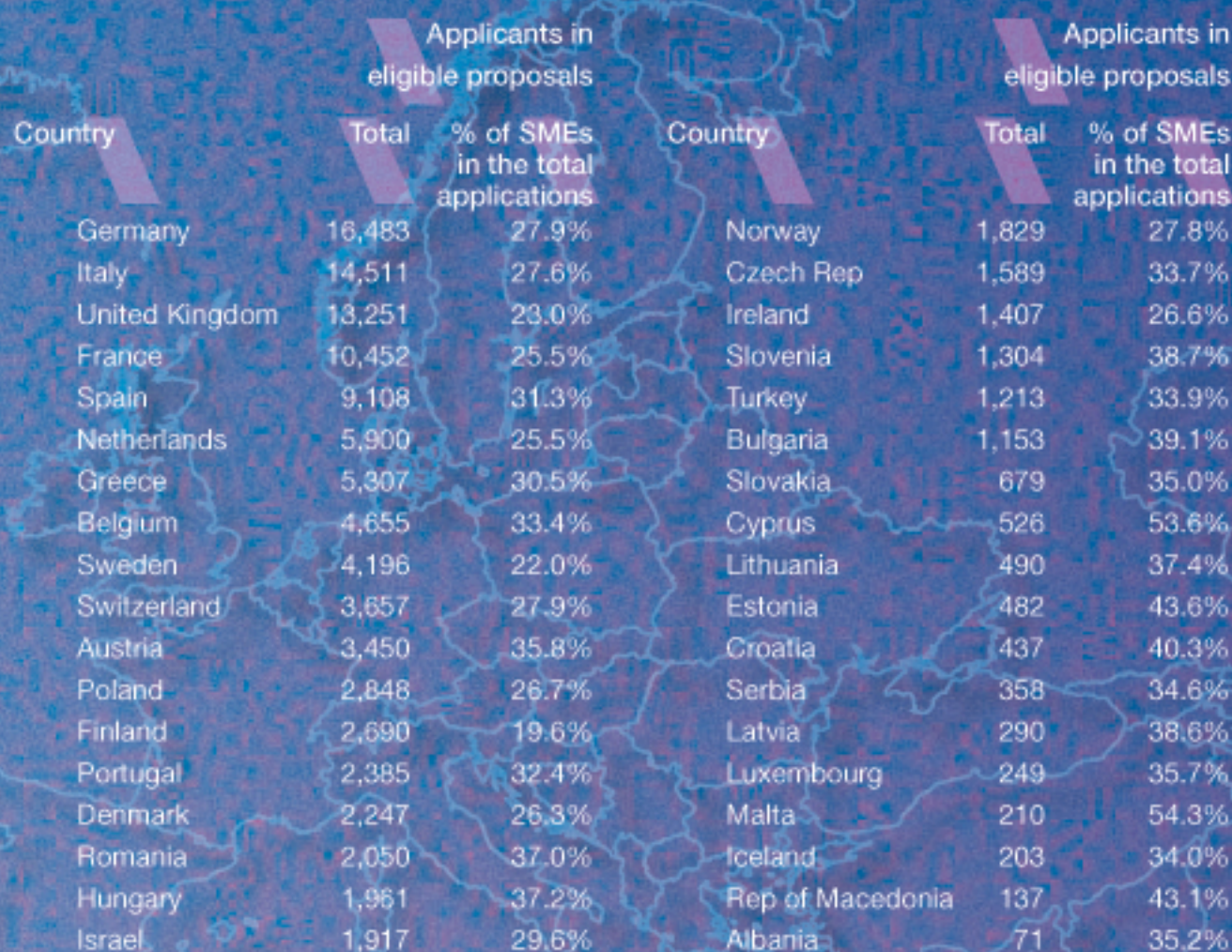


SMEs in FP7

Applications in eligible proposals

(situation on 31 December 2008)

SME(*) applicants versus non-SME applicants



Applicants in eligible proposals			Applicants in eligible proposals		
Country	Total	% of SMEs in the total applications	Country	Total	% of SMEs in the total applications
Germany	16,483	27.9%	Norway	1,829	27.8%
Italy	14,511	27.6%	Czech Rep	1,589	33.7%
United Kingdom	13,251	23.0%	Ireland	1,407	26.6%
France	10,452	25.5%	Slovenia	1,304	38.7%
Spain	9,108	31.3%	Turkey	1,213	33.9%
Netherlands	5,900	25.5%	Bulgaria	1,153	39.1%
Greece	5,307	30.5%	Slovakia	679	35.0%
Belgium	4,655	33.4%	Cyprus	526	53.6%
Sweden	4,196	22.0%	Lithuania	490	37.4%
Switzerland	3,657	27.9%	Estonia	482	43.6%
Austria	3,450	35.8%	Croatia	437	40.3%
Poland	2,848	26.7%	Serbia	358	34.6%
Finland	2,690	19.6%	Latvia	290	38.6%
Portugal	2,385	32.4%	Luxembourg	249	35.7%
Denmark	2,247	26.3%	Malta	210	54.3%
Romania	2,050	37.0%	Iceland	203	34.0%
Hungary	1,961	37.2%	Rep of Macedonia	137	43.1%
Israel	1,917	29.6%	Albania	71	35.2%

(*) SMEs in this graph are applicants 'self-declared' as SMEs in the proposal stage (i.e. not yet recognised as SMEs by the European Commission).

Breakdown per theme of the Cooperation programme

Table 1. Acronyms and descriptions of the Cooperation programme themes

Theme acronym	Theme description
HEALTH	Health
KBBE	Food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology
ICT	Information and communication technologies
NMP	Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and production technologies
ENERGY	Energy
ENV	Environment (including climate change)
TPT	Transport (including aeronautics)
SSH	Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
SPA	Space
SEC	Security
GA	General activities (other)

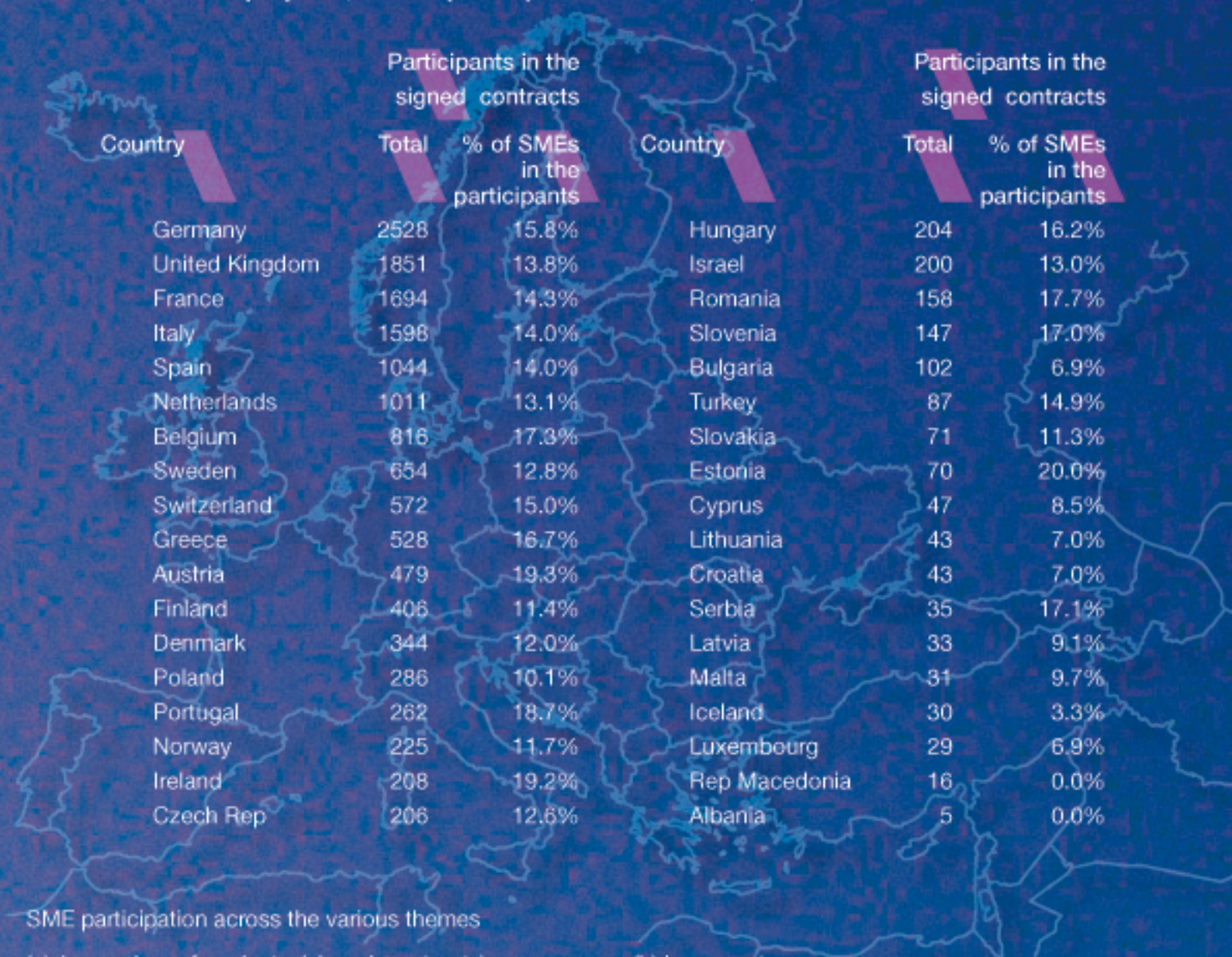
Participation in signed project contracts

(situation on 1 June 2009)

SME versus non-SME participants, by country

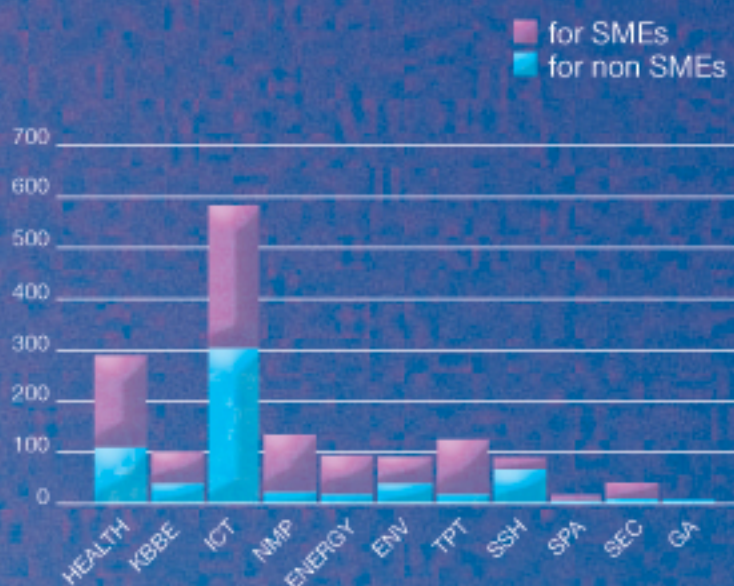
A total of 1 513 FP7 project contracts are signed, of which 901 (60%) have at least 1 SME participant.

In these 1 513 projects, 16 223 participants are involved, of which 2 482 are SMEs.

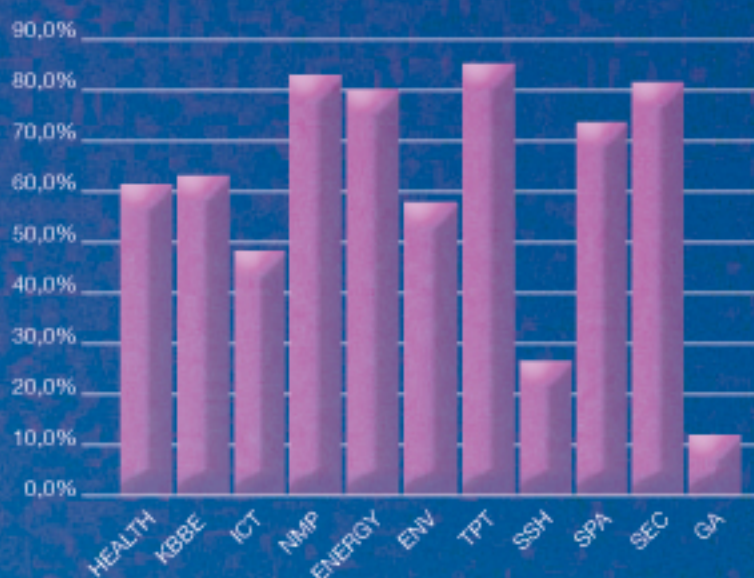


SME participation across the various themes

(a) in number of projects (signed contracts)



(b) in percentages

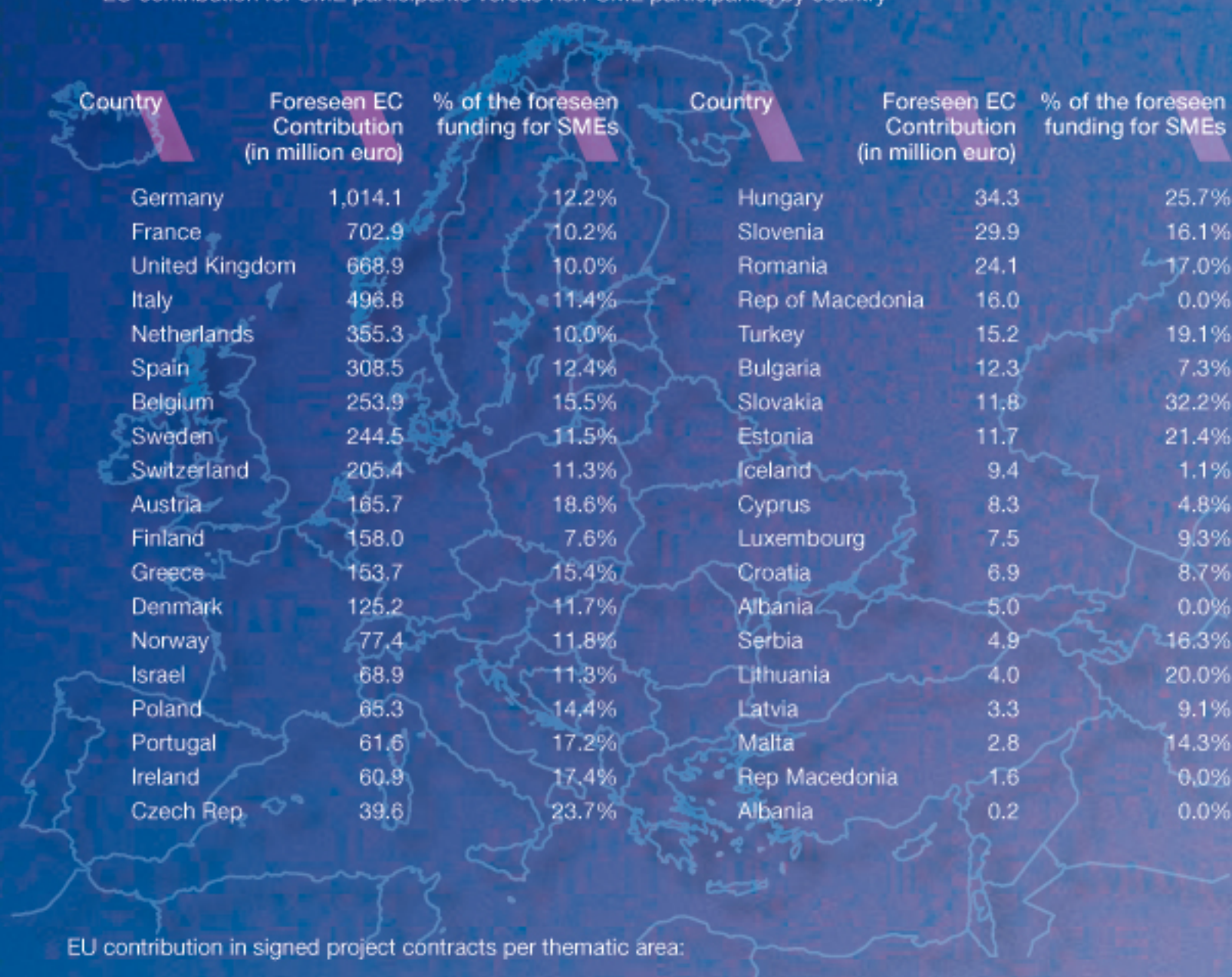


EC Contribution in signed project contracts (until 1 June 2009)

The foreseen EC contribution in these projects is EUR 5 443.7 million for all projects, of which EUR 666.6 million is allocated to participating SMEs.

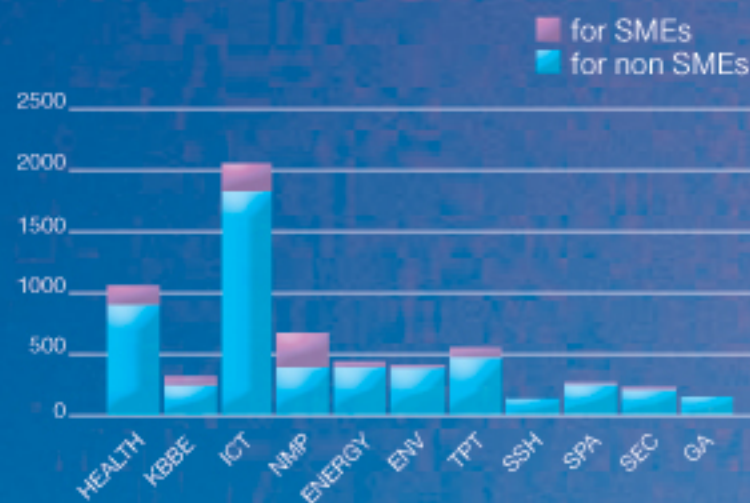
This means that the funding share of SME participants amounts to 12.3% (the target established for SMEs in FP7 is 15%).

EC contribution for SME participants versus non-SME participants, by country

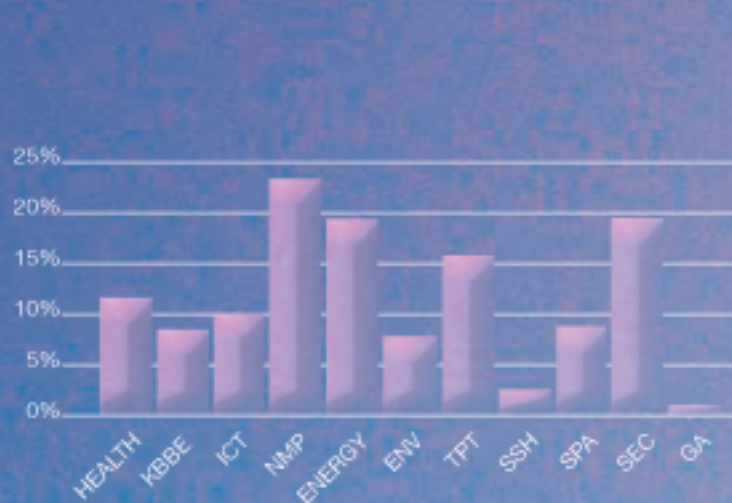


EU contribution in signed project contracts per thematic area:

amount in million EUR, broken down for SMEs and other participants



percentage of EC contribution towards SMEs, per area



Focus on: SME Profiles

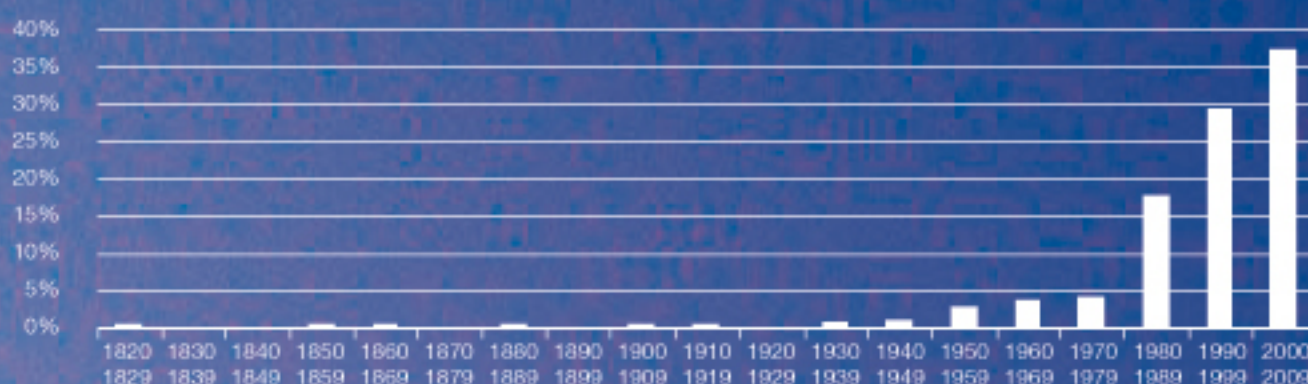
Participating SMEs breakdown per size

The breakdown of SME size in signed project contracts is provided below:

- 30% are 'Micro companies' (with fewer than 10 employees);
- 39% are 'Small companies' (from 10 to 49 employees);
- 31% are 'Medium-sized companies' (from 50 to 249 employees).

SMEs in the Cooperation programme per founding year

A large majority of participating SMEs have been in existence for less than 20 years, with the oldest participating SME having been formed in 1825 and the youngest as late as 2007.



Role of SMEs in the project

A total of 106 FP7 Cooperation projects (7%) are coordinated by an SME.

A total of 42% of the participating SMEs are acting as Work Package leaders, which demonstrates their high level of commitment in the research projects.

SMEs per area of economic activity:



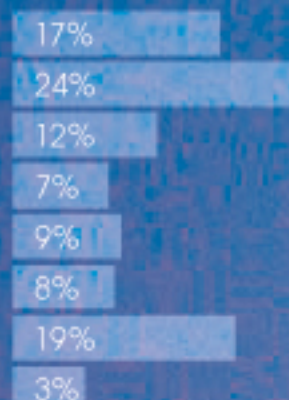
Breakdown of SMEs per main activity area

Research for the Benefit of SMEs

Participations in signed project contracts (situation 1 June 2009)

SME projects per area

1. Management sciences, information and communication technologies, electronics and electrical industry;
2. Food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry;
3. Biotechnology, genomics, healthcare, medical and biomedical equipments;
4. Energy and transport;
5. Environment;
6. Materials;
7. Processes;
8. Construction.



Capacities – Research for the Benefit of SMEs

Participants in signed contract per 1 June 2009



Participations per country

- For 142 projects, the contracts were signed by 1 June 2009.
- A total of 811 SMEs are involved in these projects.
- The total EC contribution for these 142 projects is EUR 174.1 million, of which EUR 149.6 million is allocated for participating SMEs.