

Brainstorming “e-Business for SMEs in the FP6”

December 17th 2002
Bruxelles - Beaulieu

Topic

SMEs are a source of a large share of innovation and new ideas in Europe. In the FP5, the IST programme has supported technology take-up projects and other actions that have become quite popular among SMEs that wanted to “go-digital”. The FP6, overall, will focus on longer term objectives and will aim at raising the impact and at structuring better the scattered research resources.

In the transition towards the FP6 there are concerns of how some of the SME activities of the FP5 could be followed up. Some feel that the new focus, along with the new instruments (Integrated Projects and Network of Excellence) may reduce the participation and the role of SMEs, which usually work considering a short-term scenario.

We would like to invite a number of experts representatives, notably from SMEs trade organizations and from SMEs support centers, to brainstorm with us how the FP6 and more specifically the area of eBusiness could continue supporting the transition of SMEs towards the digital age.

Important note

Please note that this is not a workshop for the Commission to disseminate stable information. It is a brainstorming for you to propose new ways of involving SMEs in FP6. Please try to think prior the meeting on which will be your preference form of participation.

Questions

We would like to explore with you, which should be the new objectives, the new modalities, the new instruments to keep the SMEs involved in e-Business research in the FP6.

More specifically during the brainstorming, the followings questions will be addressed:

- In which way SMEs could continue to act as driving force in some e-business FP6 projects?
- How can ambitious scientific and technological long-term goals be matched with pragmatic short-term tangible results ?
- How could the new instruments (IP and NoE) and the traditional instruments of the 6th FP (Specific Targeted REsearch Projects; Coordination Actions and Specific Support Actions) contribute to build future digital ecosystems for SMEs' business?
- How can synergies with other initiatives/programmes (including national ones) be exploited?

Agenda¹

- 9:45 Welcome [JV]
- 10:00 Overview, Objectives and instruments of the 6th FP
- 10:20 Presentation of other initiatives/programmes: e.g. eEurope 2005, Innovative Actions, InterregIII, Eureka, Growth2Innov, CRAFT, Innovation, ...
- 10:40 Q & A
- 11:00 Presentation of the digital business ecosystem for SMEs
- 11:20 Presentation of SMEs needs, best practices and ideas: (10-15' each)
 - Introduction, Possible examples
 - Enterprise Ireland SMEs needs
 - ERNACT creating sustainable knowledge infrastructures in a crossborder contex
 - ASCAMM Supply Chain Management; example from a sector
 - Tecla/CAN how fosters local areas innovation with ITC networks
 - EBMS-ISUFI competence centers for innovation nodes and local development
- 12:30 Q&A
- 12:45 Lunch

<i>Panel</i> Small Business in 6FP and in other initiatives	<i>Panel</i> Digital Ecosystem for Small Business
13:30 Presentation of 5FP results and roadmaps	13:45
13:45 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Your suggestions, ideas and proposals on how to involve SMEs in the e-Business research at FP6</i> • ... • ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision of future technologies for SMEs [BT] • The challenges for building an ecosystem and research needs [Sun Microsystems] • The evolution of ICT needs [FZI] • <i>Other suggestions, ideas and proposals</i> • ...
14:15 Open discussion [JV]	14:15 Open discussion

- 16:30 Report from rapporteurs of 2 panels
- 16:45 Wrap-up [JV]
- 17:00 Conclusions

Previous Events

- October, 4th 2002 – Bruxelles - Brainstorming on “Digital Business Ecosystems concept”
- November, 6th, 2002 – Copenhagen - IST2002 conference - workshop on “Organisational ecosystems for SMEs”

Additional information

You'll find additional information on the Commission website at <http://europa.eu.int/godigital> under “SMEs research” item including:

- the discussion paper “Towards a network of digital business ecosystems fostering the local development”
 - the summary of the conclusions of the Brainstorming on “Digital Business Ecosystems” concept held in Bruxelles on October 4th 2002
 - the slides presented at the IST Conference 2002 workshop on “Organisational ecosystems for SMEs” held in Copenhagen on November 6th and the minutes (by the end of November)
- the links to the on-line resources (groupware systems, websites, mailing lists) of any group (one ore more) working on the concept (on their request).

¹ Some speeches are provisional, have to be confirmed and may change