

Distinctly Birmingham

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION STEERING GROUP MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 5B

HORIZON 2020 AWARENESS RAISING SEMINARS AIMED AT SMES

INTRODUCTION

Greater Birmingham and West Midlands Universities are already very effective in accessing EU investment for Research and Innovation programmes (previously Framework 7, Framework 6 etc.). The 2014-2020 Research and Innovation programme is called Horizon 2020. One of the key, integral differences between Horizon 2020 and the previous Framework programmes is a much stronger commitment to ensuring the projects have a real impact outside academia and that there are opportunities for organisations outside of the 'traditional' University applicants for this type of project. Any organisation can apply for Horizon 2020 but it is the Universities that have the expertise and experience to deliver these projects.

Horizon 2020 and SMEs

Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to participate across the whole Horizon 2020 programme. They can engage in collaborative projects as part of a consortium and they are supported through a new dedicated SME instrument designed specifically for highly innovative smaller companies. The integrated approach and simplification efforts should lead to a minimum of 20%, or about € 8.65 billion¹, of the total combined budgets of the specific objective 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies' (LEITs) and the 'Societal Challenges' going to SMEs. The SME instrument will be crucial in achieving this target. Over the course of Horizon 2020, at least € 3 billion will be allocated to the SME instrument.

The Horizon 2020 themes that specifically target SMEs is listed below but SMEs are eligible for support across the entire H2020 programme.

Horizon 2020 seminar

The European Team at Birmingham City Council in conjunction with the Europe Association stakeholders and particularly the Universities propose to hold a seminar that explains the Horizon 2020 opportunities that are out there for SMEs and to encourage partnerships between these SMEs and Europe Association stakeholders to help shape future H2020 projects.

The seminar could include;

- An overview of Horizon2020 (including case studies of previous SME related, EU funded Research and Development projects)
- Presentation on opportunities for SMEs
- Presentations from BCC, GB&WM Universities and other stakeholders on their Horizon 2020 objectives that are related to SMEs

Universities and other stakeholders may be developing specific project ideas where they are seeking an SME partner that they may wish to present.

Collaboration with EEN (Enterprise Europe Network) on the event would ensure that we get the information to the right people.

The event would probably take place in the new year as the Erasmus Plus workshop will be held later this year. This is also a good opportunity to introduce the mentoring offer discussed earlier.

Potential Horizon 2020 streams targeting SMEs

Horizon 2020 dedicated SME Instrument - Phase 2 2014

Topic: Accelerating the uptake of nanotechnologies, advanced materials or advanced manufacturing and processing technologies by SMEs

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2592-nmp-25-2014.html>

Horizon 2020 dedicated SME Instrument - Phase 2 2014

Topic: Boosting the potential of small businesses for eco-innovation and a sustainable supply of raw materials

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2585-sc5-20-2014.html>

Horizon 2020 dedicated SME Instrument - Phase 2 2014

Topic: Open Disruptive Innovation Scheme (implemented through the SME instrument)

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2589-ict-37-2014.html>

Horizon 2020 dedicated SME Instrument - Phase 2 2014

Topic: Small business innovation research for Transport

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2591-it-1-2014.html>

Horizon 2020 dedicated SME Instrument - Phase 2 2014

Topic: SME boosting biotechnology-based industrial processes driving competitiveness and sustainability

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2595-biotec-5a-2014.html>

Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial chains

Topic: Cluster facilitated projects for new value chains

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2350-innosup-1-2015.html#tab1>