



CORDIS as a useful tool

CORDIS is the Community R&D Information Service - a huge information space devoted to technical research and development (R&D) and to Innovation. Provided as a free service available to all players in the innovation process, CORDIS aims to present a wide range of up-to-date and accurate information. Recognizing the importance of innovation in the economic development process, CORDIS also offers user-friendly services that help foster a spirit of enterprise and co-operation in the innovation field.

Most of us know this tool very well but who knows that the origins of this portal are older than the www.europa.eu? CORDIS was established in 1988. In 1989 the launch of the VALUE Programme provided a convenient vehicle to carry the development of the budding CORDIS service. The first three databases were established and first published on the ESPRIT Day in November 1990. Users could review R&D Programmes, R&D Projects and R&D Publications. Only trained experts could use the service, nevertheless some 500 user sessions were registered during the first month. Until today the CORDIS expansion has been enormous: 40 000 web pages, 300 000 database records, around 230 000 users and 5 million page accesses per month.

In such a huge portal it is very difficult to follow all of its sections. To make it easier CORDIS has developed a very well-built search system allowing us to find some interesting facts. The user has to be registered in order to make a full and efficient use of everything the service has to offer. Then we can use advanced or professional (very detailed) search. We can make as well our private profile, which helps us to receive selected news. This tool is saving our time and we don't need to surf through the whole portal.

CORDIS aims to offer you an useful information and services in R&D and/or in innovation. CORDIS teams are engaged in a permanent process of improvement and enhancement of the information and services - so you don't have to come back manually and regularly to the site and to see what is new – when you have your profile, you will receive this information via email.

To solve the problem of CORDIS complexity service, the Regional Contact Point for FP in Szczecin (Poland) invited a CORDIS trainer – Mr. Simon Robinson (Intrasoft, Cordis Contractor, Luxemburg). A one-day training gave us a brief overview of CORDIS operations – mandate, stakeholders, users, content, internal organization and information flows. Now our knowledge about the portal is much broader and we are able to make an effective use of its functions and databases and also to train the potentially interested clients.

Anybody interested in organizing a similar session is invited to contact us or directly the Publication Office of European Union.

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Supporting Long-Term Competitiveness of SMEs / SME Groupings

PLATON is a new, pioneering EU-funded project, which aims to demonstrate the importance that research in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) can have in the strategic decision-making and in the long-term competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The project helps SMEs and SME groupings (e.g. SME associations, Chambers, etc.) to participate in EU-funded research projects in the areas of SSH under FP6 (targeted priorities: CITIZENS, Science & Society, Support to Policies) and, subsequently, under FP7, Priority 8, SSH.

PLATON is based on two major convictions: (i) SMEs can both benefit from and contribute to European research in SSH; (ii) Academic research organisations and universities currently active in SSH related research can gain a lot through collaborating with SMEs.

As far as SMEs are concerned, PLATON gives them the opportunity to learn about major socio-economic trends and how these (will) affect their business macro-environment as well as the role of issues such as Corporate Social Responsibility in strategic planning.

Research organisations (e.g. universities, research centres, etc.) may also gain substantial benefits through PLATON since the project will help them find competent SMEs / SME groupings as partners in SSH research projects. PLATON offers an opportunity to SSH researchers (i) to expand SSH research to new fields (ii) to bring SMEs and / or SME Groupings as partners to their research proposals (in line with the EC target of 15% SME participation) (iii) to upgrade the perception and demonstrate the value of socio-economic research to a wide target group. Indeed a large number of technologies, products or services fail in being commercialised due to the fact that socio-economic factors are not taken adequately into account at the designing and validation phase.

The current participation of SMEs and SME Groupings in SSH research projects in Europe is negligible despite the fact that many SSH projects deal with issues that are extremely important for the long-term competitiveness of SMEs such as EU-enlargement and integration, liberalisation of the global economy, new forms of governance, etc. PLATON will identify these projects and disseminate to SMEs and SME Groupings valuable information for them.

Organisations interested in PLATON activities may visit the project's website, www.platonproject.net, which will soon include valuable information produced by the project and offer a 'collaboration profiles' DB and partner searching tool.

PLATON addresses to SMEs / SME Groupings and research organisations from all over Europe. However, it deploys its diversified activities primarily in 6 EU countries: Greece (Partner: Q-PLAN N.G. Ltd, Project Coordinator, www.qplan.gr), Italy (Partner: APRE, www.apre.it), Estonia (Partner: H&K, www.hillandknowlton.ee), Poland (Partner: WCTT, www.wctt.pl), Germany (Partner: UHANN, www.ft.uni-hannover.de) and the UK (Partner: BETA, www.betatechnology.co.uk). The project runs from Oct 2005 – Dec 2007 while scenarios for post-project exploitation – continuation will be examined.

Additional PLATON targets are to:

- **Activate SMEs / SME groupings as partners to SSH projects and enhance their involvement in SSH research.**
- **Network innovative SMEs and competent SME groupings with research leaders in socio-economic research.**
- **Enhance SMEs / SME Groupings capability to take advantage of SSH research results – conclusions.**
- **Encourage and facilitate the development of RTD multinational projects in the targeted areas.**

To achieve its targets, PLATON adopts a novel approach, which is based on a combination of 'conventional' activities (6-10 info-days / workshops, 6 networking events, and other supporting activities) and 'Advanced' Services (Service 1: Tutorials for SME / SME groupings, Service 2: 'Strategic Guidance' for SME groupings, Service 3: Research Action Plans for SMEs). More than 2.000 SMEs, SME Groupings and Research Organisation from the EU will be contacted, informed, participate in and generally benefit from the project activities.

For additional information about PLATON you may visit the project website (www.platonproject.net) or contact the Project Partner:

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istBonus

The **IST-BONUS** project supports organisations from the Member States and Accession Candidate Countries (NMS & ACCs) to upgrade their participation to the IST Priority (under FP6 and FP7) in respect to two broad IST areas: e-business and e-work technologies and their related state-of-the-art applications.

The project deploys its diversified activities primarily in 10 New NMS & ACCs countries: Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and it targets competent research organizations (universities, institutes, centers, etc.), innovative SMEs and mid range and large enterprises.

IST-BONUS adopts a novel approach, which is based on a combination of 'conventional' and 'go-beyond' supporting activities.

- Under its 'conventional' activities, IST-BONUS focuses on increasing the awareness and skills of a large number of interested organisations from NMS & ACCs towards their participation in IST research projects by performing 10 info-days / workshops, 8 advanced tutorials / training sessions, 3 brokerage events, and other supporting activities.
- Under its 'go beyond' activities, IST-BONUS provides a set of 'Research Bonus' Services (elaboration of **PR Research Profiles**, development and supporting the implementation of **Research Action Plans**, etc.) targeting to a limited number of highly motivated and competent organisations from NMS & ACC that possess the potential to become research leaders in IST, that is highly networked organisations either coordinators or major research players in European research.

The project's website www.ist-bonus.net includes a 'collaboration profiles' DB and partners search tool.

For further information on IST-BONUS activities you may contact the respective National Partner or the Project Co-ordinator:

National Partner:

Wroclaw Centre for Technology Transfer, Wroclaw, POLAND
Ms Bogna Grochola, E-mail: bg@wctt.pl

Project Co-ordinator:

Q-PLAN N.G. Ltd, Greece
E-mail: papageorgiou@qplan.gr

The Rome Provincial Council for Works and Economic Development, in collaboration with the Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE), the Region of Latium and the National Committee for Biosafety and Biotechnologies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers organizes from 12 to 14 of June 2006, at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome, three important events:

12th June 2006

Seminar "European funding opportunities for Biomedical Research"

13th June 2006

A Scientific Conference

"From molecular medicine to clinic medicine" a plenary session followed by parallel sessions on
- cancer; neurosciences; cardiovascular.

14th June 2006

3rd Forum on Technology Transfer

Seminar (9.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m.)

"Innovation and Finance. What turns technology into success"

- TTD – Technology Transfer Day "MEDinROME" (11.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Studio2), the brokerage event, organized by the Innovation Relay Centre of Central Italy (CIRCE), will be an important opportunity to meet partners offering and requesting innovative technologies in biomedical sector

- Partnering Event: find research partners in the "Health" sector (11.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Studio3), event during which, on the basis of the catalogue "Researchers and SMEs interested in Health research co-operation. Towards FP7" it will be possible to meet the partners of the project "SMEs go LifeSciences", to establish contacts and to evaluate the possibility of cooperating for future research projects.

More information:

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REGinNET

*Technology Market
Partner Search*



<http://www.ideal-ist.net/>



<http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/partners.cfm>



<http://www.managenergy.net/submenu/SPs.htm>