Access 4 SMEs
National Contact Points for Innovation

Priorities:
- Empower SME and ARF NCPs with systemic knowledge and skills
- Reinforce transnational cooperation within the NCPs network
- Provide insights to SMEs regarding Horizon 2020 opportunities
- Raise the common standard of support to programme applicants
- Engage in dialogue EU key stakeholders for improving funding and financing opportunities for SMEs

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Access to Risk Finance and SMEs NCP cooperation network (Access4SMEs) is a 30 months Coordination and Support Action, established with the aim to empower the network of National Contact Points for Small Medium-sized Enterprises and Access to Risk Finance under Horizon 2020. Access4SMEs addresses the needs of European SMEs, access to finance stakeholders and industry with a view on stimulating, encouraging and facilitating a more effective participation of European companies into the several funding opportunities of Horizon 2020 and the financial facilities supported by it.
Objectives

- Improving capacities of NCPs for better support to clients across different programmes and access to finance opportunities.
- Identifying key success factors in competitive proposals from SMEs across different Horizon 2020 project thematic areas.
- Assessing the impact of SME Instrument on beneficiaries with a view on capturing patterns on SMEs’ growth strategy and value propositions.
- Spreading knowledge on access to risk finance opportunities under Horizon 2020, notably InnovFin products.
- Enhancing the outreach of the Network while showcasing the impact of its activities and services.

Methodology & Tools

- Benchmarking
- Events, trainings and workshops
- Analysis report on SME success factors and best practices
- Guidelines, annotated proposal templates and toolkits for applicants
- Assessment study report on SME Instrument beneficiaries
- Promotional guide to access financial instruments and investors
- Web platforms to facilitate matchmaking with private investors
- Proposal impact assessment
- Peer support among SME and ARF communities
Partners

Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea (APRE) – ITALY (co-ordinator)
Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI) - SPAIN
Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH (FFG) - AUSTRIA
Instytut Podstawowych Problemow Techniki Polskiej Akademii Nauk - POLAND
MATIMOP, Israeli Industry Center for Research & Development - ISRAEL
Deutsches Zentrum fuer Luft - und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR) - GERMANY
Norges forskningsråd - NORWAY
Bpifrance – FRANCE
Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH) / PRAXI Network - GREECE
Enterprise Ireland - IRELAND
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) - PORTUGAL
GiS - TransferCenter Foundation - BULGARIA

Get in contact with Access4SMEs network

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