



Quick Guide to FP7 Consortium Building



The majority of projects considered by the EC Directorate of Research for funding support are expected to meet minimum requirements regarding a consortium structure that conducts the work for the project. It is very common that organisations with tangible propositions have a limited understanding and knowledge of the rationale of operating within a consortium and the way to form an operational consortium structure. This guide is aimed at prospective FP7 project applicants, who have a specific project proposition for Research and Technological Development.

Advice for Consortium Building:

- Discuss this proposition with the organisation's affiliated companies and other legal entities such as companies, Universities and Government Departments. Very often professionals are either operating within these organisations or are acquainted with organisations domestically and abroad that could have an interest in partnering
- Raise a proposition with an academic institution / research centre; the majority of UK universities and research centres have a lot of experience and exposure in FP-related work and could bring partners from across Europe
- Publish an Expression of Interest (EoI) in the EC Directorate General for Research (DG Research) CORDIS service for FP7. <http://cordis.europa.eu/partners-service/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=connexion.dologin&location=update.listProfile§ion=Partners>

Interested applicants are required to create an account and use a login username and password

- Use the EC Directorate General for Research (DG Research) CORDIS service for FP7 to find a partner that matches required criteria. http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners_en.html
- Attend and participate in events related to the thematic priority that the proposed project is relevant to. Such events attract a large number of organisations' representatives that seek either to meet prospective partners or to raise awareness of their competencies among other project proposers. Events are being published both through the formal FP web pages (www.cordis.lu) and through each Directorate General.
- Ensure that a consortium includes partners from a well-balanced geographic distribution; ideally each partner should originate from a different country
- Ensure that each partner is conducting similar effort in terms of person-months and there no significant differences in budget distribution among partners



- Avoid sub-contractors; evaluators are expecting to see a consortium of partners that work together for a common purpose
- Always seek references and track record of a potential partner organisation prior to including them in a consortium
- Request at least one representative from each organisation to participate in the proposal writing and form a team of at least three professionals to write the proposal
- Circulate versions of the proposal among partners and request feedback for errors and new ideas
- If possible, sign a memorandum of understanding among partners to address issues such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), work distribution and commercial dissemination

Where can I get more support and advice?

Enterprise Europe Network London can support you throughout the application process. We provide tailored advice to make sure this is the appropriate funding stream for your project idea (if not, we will help you in identifying the right one). This service is provided free of charge.

For further details contact us at fp7@gle.co.uk / 020 7940 1512 / www.een-london.co.uk

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