



Quick Guide to FP7 – Opportunities & Challenges



FP7 projects are highly competitive and approximately only 10-15% of proposals are successful. Proposal preparation and consortium building are intense processes and an organisation interested in FP funding and projects should be aware of all the challenges involved. The motivation for participating in an FP project should not be limited to the financial gain, but primarily oriented towards the prospects generated by European engagement and the long term growth opportunities that arise from European partnership and presence. Prior to committing such resources potential FP7 project applicants should gain an insight of the opportunities as well as the challenges associated with such a scheme.

Opportunities of FP7

- FP7 funds on average 25-60% (depending on the status of an organisation) of all expenses incurred during a research and development project
- Financial support is generally non-refundable and is therefore preferable to loan or equity finance
- It brings partners from various disciplines together, therefore allowing potential partnerships to be established for the long term
- It allows access to know-how, facilities and general resources of other organisations, which would be difficult to obtain otherwise
- It promotes a product/service as well as the organisation to a European level, therefore acting as an excellent marketing tool
- It introduces new methods and disciplines on a discretionary basis, as different organisations from different countries operate in a different way and could potentially improve the overall efficiency and performance levels
- It is a very effective mechanism of bringing together businesses with the academic community and all the merits, such as knowledge transfer, research facilities etc. that such an association could bring

Challenges of FP7

- FP7 consortium building and proposal preparation is a highly complex process requiring a lot of time of joint work, effort and resources
- Success rates in a project proposal appear to be relatively low; this is due to the competitive nature of FP7 and the high number of project proposals against a fixed budget allocation per call
- Operating within a consortium can result in differences in working mentality, culture and methodology, which can pose challenges to project delivery
- FP7 projects can be viewed as relatively non-flexible; it is quite difficult to alter project elements once an agreement has been signed



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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