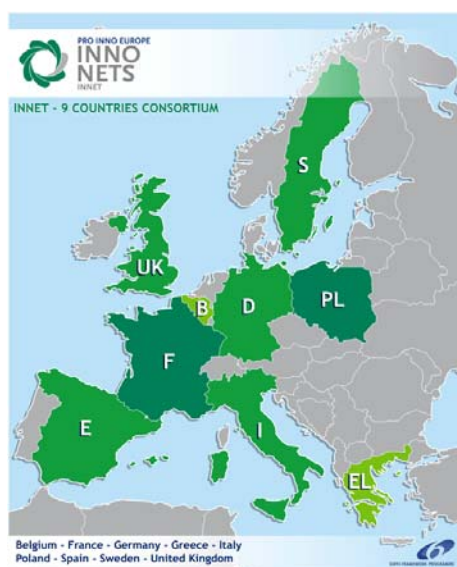


INVITATION TO JOIN THE INNET PILOT CALL 2009 FOR PROPOSALS "INNOVATION EXPRESS"

Project supported by the European Commission/DG Enterprise and Industry

Proposal/Contract no.: 038877 INNET



Networking
of national /
regional funding
and innovation
organisations
to strengthen
SMEs in
technology clusters
in Europe

THE INNET PROJECT

INNET promotes interaction and cooperation between regional, national and European innovation funding schemes in order to **strengthen SME-targeted activities in European Technology Clusters**, in particular cross-border innovation activities linked to technology transfer / take up by SMEs or for the benefit of SMEs.

INNET was launched in September 2006 for three years. The Consortium of 18 partners (8 national, 10 regional) from 9 countries is coordinated by **OSEO Innovation (France)**.

INNET is part of **PRO INNO Europe**, a European Commission innovation policy initiative which aims to improve policy learning and trans-national innovation policy cooperation.

INNET is also part of the **European Cluster Alliance**, an initiative bringing together more than 50 partners to deal with the development of joint activities between partner organisations, especially focused on clusters and clusters policies.

INNET Partners

Country	National Organisations	Regional Organisations
France	OSEO Innovation (Coordinator)	Ile -de-France Regional Council City of Grenoble – Rhône-Alpes Regional Council
Germany	VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH	ZAB (Brandenburg Economic Development Board) TSB (Technology Foundation Berlin)
Belgium		IWT (Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders)
UK	Pera Innovation Limited	East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
Spain	Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Directorate General for SME Policy	Eurobulegoa (Bask Country)
Italy		Sviluppo Italia Toscana S.C.p.A. Veneto Innovazione S.p.A.
Poland	PAED (Polish Agency for Enterprise Development)	Mazovia (Mazowieckie Voivodship)
Sweden	Innovationsbron AB	
Greece	EOMMEX (Hellenic Organization of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Handicraft SA)	

THE INNET CALL FOR PROPOSALS: “innovation express”, a Trans-European Call for Proposals for Technology Clusters and for the benefit of their SMEs.

First objective of “INNET Innovation Express” is to enhance innovation activities between European technology clusters and/or between SMEs within clusters, in identifying, initiating, developing, trans-European cooperations in the field of Research Development and Innovation (RDI).

The outcome of the INNET Innovation Express Call proposals will be, amongst others, RDI projects applying for the following funding programmes: (FP7 Cooperation Programmes, Capacities Programme -Research for SMEs and for the benefit of SMEs-, Eurostars, Eureka, ERA-Nets, CIP, Structural Funds..) or relevant National/Regional mechanisms.

INNET partners have launched a first Pilot Call for proposals at the beginning of 2008. Following promising results of the 1st Pilot call for Proposals, INNET partners are launching a V2 Pilot call for proposals on April 30th 2009, opened continuously until the end of December 2009.

Some Features of the Pilot Call:

- A set of innovation activities funded by INNET partners to set off technological cooperations between clusters (cf list Annexe 2)
- the support of clusters to identify interested SMEs and submit the proposal (cf concept of the call annexe 1)
- Direct support either to technology clusters (governances) or to SMEs, always for the benefit of SMEs, in order to initiate, prepare, develop, technological transnational cooperations related to innovation
- Simple funding mechanisms to support and fund SMEs within clusters with around 15k€ (grants) and several SMEs per cluster (10/15) recommended.
- Proposals aiming at developing in a second stage, RDI partnerships or projects that could be funded through European or National/ Regional relevant existing funding mechanisms.

JOINING THE INNET PILOT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Why join the INNET Call for proposals?

- To open clusters/SMEs of your regions/countries to European inter-cluster cooperations
- To start a data basis of inter cluster cooperations, allowing further networking and matchmaking activities, as well as further bilateral or multilateral cooperation activities.
- To initiate through these first trans European cooperations further RDI projects (to be funded by existing funding mechanisms)
- To be fully aware of clusters/SMEs needs concerning trans-national cooperation activities.
- To participate in trans-national technological watch related to clusters

MODALITIES

- Interested Partners (named “associated partners”) should be organisations funding innovation programmes, either as programme owners, or as programme managers on behalf of national or regional authorities.
- Associated partners should agree with the concept of the call, and be ready to fund most of the activities described in the set of innovation support activities (document in Annexe 2)
- Such organisations are invited to join the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 :
 - Provided that they fund the call with their own budget
 - and sign the following “INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 Association Agreement”
- Associated Partners interested in supporting the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals are invited to contact the INNET coordination team with as e-mail subject: ***“INNET call for proposals Partnership agreement” and send it to:***

Michel Ganoote, Coordinator of the INNET Project

Michel.ganoote@oseo.fr

INNET “*PILOT CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2009 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT*”

The INNET “*Pilot Call for Proposals Partnership Agreement*” is a **Memorandum of Understanding that defines mutual rights and obligations** for the participation in the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009. Signatories of the INNET *Pilot Call for Proposals Partnership Agreement* are committed to contribute to the objectives of the Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 and to related activities.

The INNET “*Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 Partnership Agreement*” expresses the willingness of non INNET organisations to participate in the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009, by sharing information, a common concept of the call for proposals and its modalities, at European level, implying a funding commitment on the same basis as INNET partner (cf. call concept), thus allowing a much broader impact of the concept of the call for the benefit of clusters/SMEs.

INNET “Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 associated partners” have the right to:

- Participate in the Pilot Call 2009 and will fund their clusters /SMEs for the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 at the same conditions and modalities defined by the INNET partners in the joined Concept of the call document (cf Annexe 1).
- Be invited to meetings related to the INNET Pilot call for Proposals 2009 organised by the INNET coordination team
- Benefit of all communication material for the INNET Pilot call for Proposals 2009 in the same way of INNET funding partners
- Have access to all information concerning the INNET Pilot Call 2009, such as Executive Summaries in English, in the same way than other INNET funding partners
- Use and disseminate the results obtained within the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 after validation of the Steering Committee meeting.

On the other hand, INNET “Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 associated partners” have the obligation to:

- Support the objectives and activities of the INNET Pilot Call for Proposals 2009 in accordance to the joined document (Concept of the Call, including modalities and list of innovation support activities in Annexe 1 and 2) and to give them public visibility;

- Sign a confidentiality Agreement concerning all the information disclosed by clusters/SMEs to identify and describe their proposals.
- Indicate a representative in order to participate in the INNET Pilot Call for proposals 2009 meetings and e-mail list.
- Inform the INNET coordination team and all INNET funding partners about the follow up of the proposals' assessments for the part linked to the application of their own rules.
- Self-finance their participation in the work of the INNET Call for Proposals 2009.

Main interest for joining the INNET project and relevance of the organisation to cluster policies and programmes:

Authorised person

Position

Name of Organisation

Signature

Address/ Email

Date

Three signed originals of the attached Association Agreement should be sent to:

**Mr Michel Ganoote
Coordinator of the INNET Project
Direction de l'Innovation-DPEI
27-31 Avenue du Général Leclerc
94710 Maisons Alfort Cedex
FRANCE**