



European Commission

Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General

1st Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting Lucerne 2006

The European Union Support Programmes for SMEs

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SME Definition

THE NEW THRESHOLDS (Art. 2)

Enterprise category	Headcount: Annual Work Unit (AWU)	Annual turnover	Annual balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ €50 million (in 1996 € 40 million)	≤ €43 million (in 1996 € 27 million)
Small	< 50	≤ €10 million (in 1996 € 7 million)	≤ €10 million (in 1996 € 5 million)
Micro	< 10	≤ €2 million (previously not defined)	≤ €2 million (previously not defined)

The Political context

- SMEs stand high on the European political agenda
- A key element of the renewed Lisbon agenda for growth and jobs
- European Council conclusions Spring 2006 – “Unlocking the business potential, especially of SMEs”
- Commission *Modern SME Policy for Growth and Employment*

Commission activities in favour of SMEs

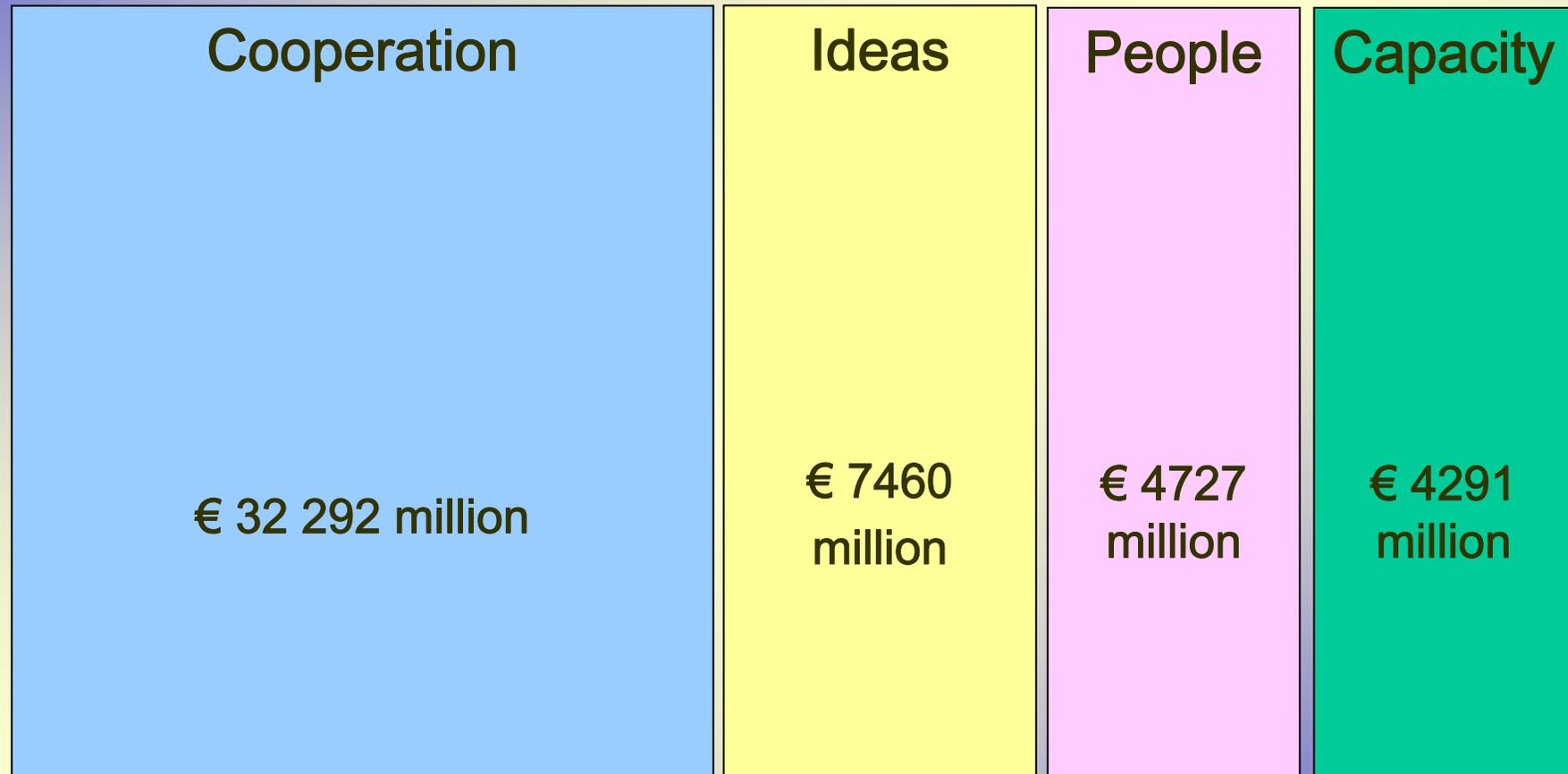
- Close cooperation with Member states and regions
- Recommendations
- Exchanges of good practices
- Regular dialogue and consultation with SMEs
- SME Envoy
- Support programmes

Framework Programme for Research and Development 2007 - 2013

- Main financial tool through which the EU supports research and development activities
- 9 high level themes including *Food, agriculture and biotechnology*
- Budget should be EUR 50 521 million
- First call for proposals expected in the beginning of 2007

- FP7: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>
- SME TechWeb:
<http://sme.cordis.lu/home/index.cfm>

FP7 structure: 4 programmes



FP7

More Relevant to SMEs than its predecessors

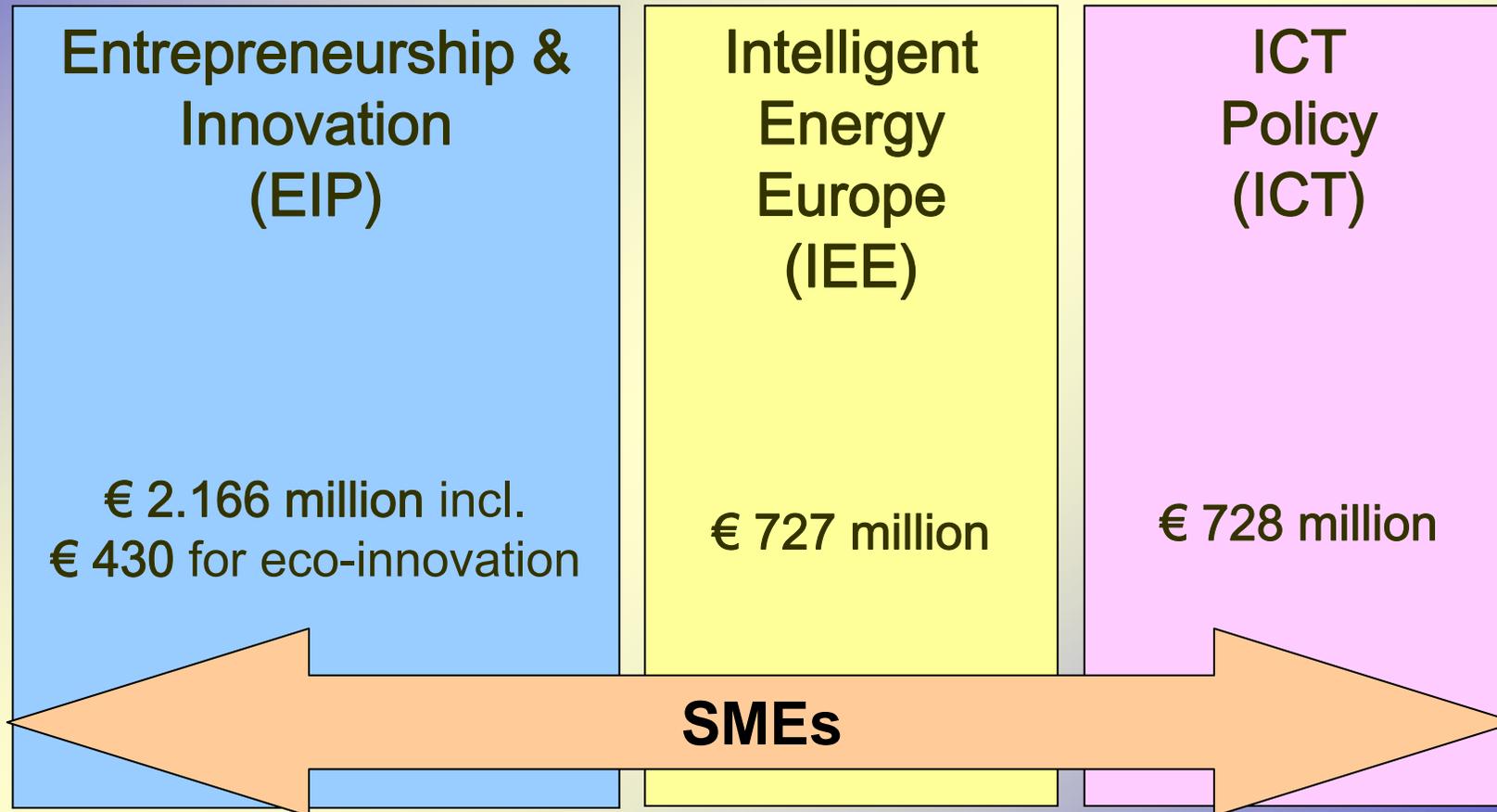
- Funding for SMEs is expected to reach EUR 6 billion (compared to EU 2.3 billion in FP6)
- Simplification of the administration procedures
- Emphasis on industry needs
- Funding rate increase for SME participants from 50% in FP6 to 75%
- Special rules on intellectual property rights (IPR)
- Participant Guarantee Fund (PGF)

Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2007- 2013

- A framework programme designed to boost the competitiveness and productivity of European businesses, and especially SMEs
- Overall budget of 3.6 million Euro
- 60 % increase in annual spending on actions related to competitiveness and innovation by 2013 compared to 2006

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm

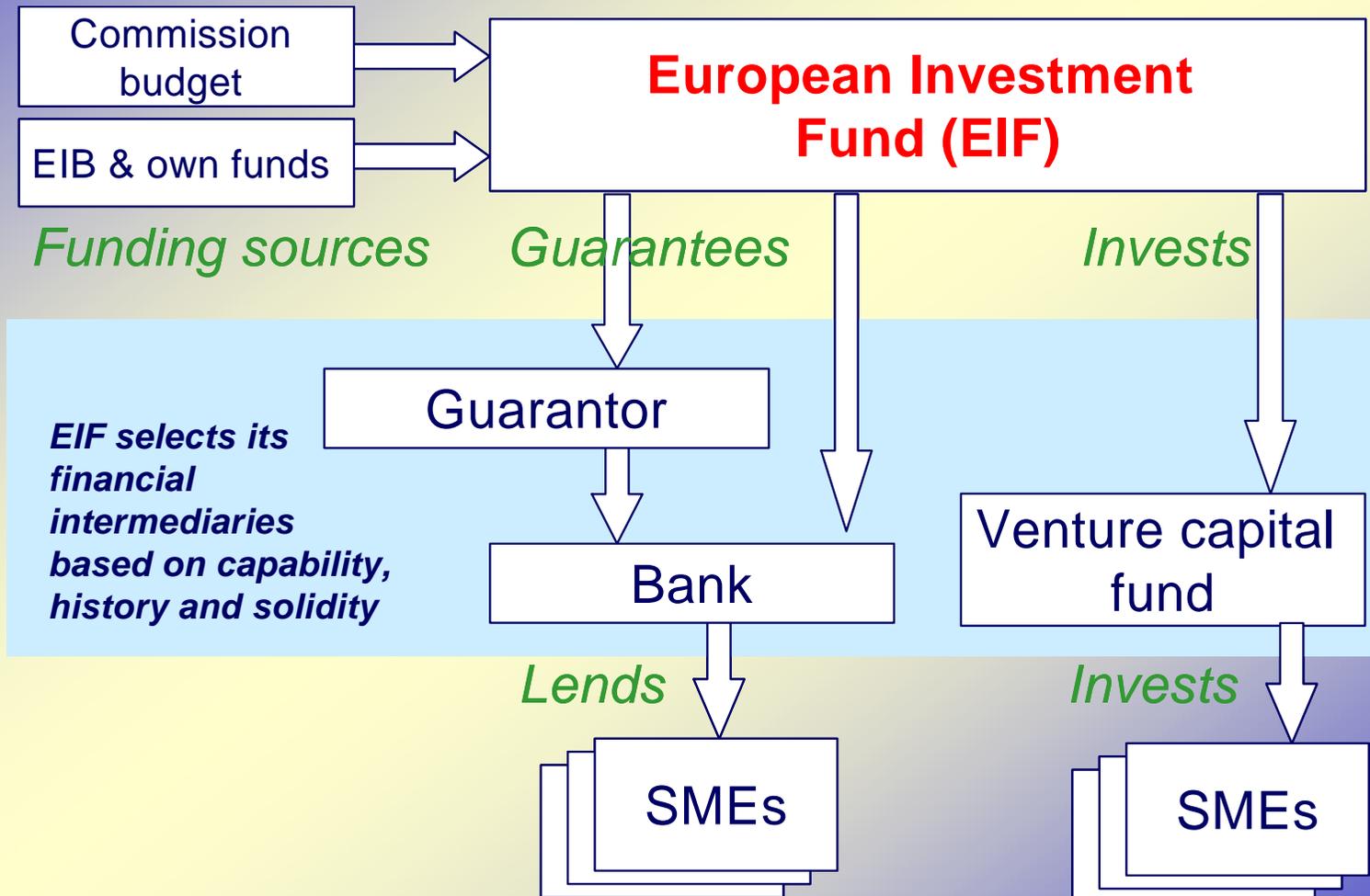
CIP structure



CIP 2007- 2013: 1st pillar

Access to finance € 1.129 M	Projects & Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SME Guarantees• Equity and risk capital for innovative / high-growth SMEs• Capacity building with other financial actors (CBS) <p>http://www.eif.org/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SME cross-border co-operation• Entrepreneurship culture• Networking among innovation actors• Mutual learning & policy development• Analysis & monitoring• Services in Support of Business and Innovation

CIP: Financial Instruments



Business Support Networks

- Euro Info Centres (EICs)
 - Providing information on EU legislation
 - Facilitating access to programmes
 - Regular SME Feedback /Setting up SMEs Panels on draft proposals

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/networks/eic/eic.html>

- Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs)
 - Facilitating trans-national transfers on technology (e.g. know-how, technology, expertise)
 - Providing specialised business support services in the field of innovation

<http://irc.cordis.lu/>

➤ More synergy between EICs and IRCs (2008 – 2013)



Structural funds 2007 - 2013

- More than a third of the budget of the Union is devoted to regional development and economic and social cohesion through a series of European funds
- 350 billion Euro /current prices/ available for the 2007-2013 period
- Member states are responsible for the management of the programmes

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/country/gateway/index_en.cfm

Support for Internationalisation of SMEs

- Asia (excluding Central Asia): Asia Invest
- Latin America: AL-Invest III
- Africa, Caribbean and Pacific: PRO-INVEST
- Japan: Third EU Gateway to Japan
- Japan and Korea: Executive Training Program(ETP)

- EuropeAid, the Cooperation office of the EU
<http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/>

Important Links:

- *Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry:*

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm

SME Policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/smes/index_en.htm

- *Overview of all EU programmes and instruments:*

http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm#cult

- *Practical information to individuals and businesses on their rights and opportunities in the EU as a whole and in individual Member States:*

<http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/>



Thank you for your attention.

Questions?

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