

EPRI start - Here you can start

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EPRI start - started to succeed

is an 18 months project (March 2005 – August 2006) that stimulates, increases and qualifies the participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) from all ten New Member States of the European Union in the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme of the European Union.

EPRI start - aims to

- establish and announce a **Qualified Partner Pool** consisting of the most innovative IST oriented SMEs from New Member States of the European Union,
- develop a **Certified Partner Pool** providing these SME partners with a **Fast Track Procedure** and with a **Starter Package** ready to immediately participate in IST research projects,
- initiate **participation of SMEs** from New Member States in the different IST Calls during the lifetime of the project.

Therefore, EPRI-START is supported by political decision makers in the New Member States of the European Union in order to foster SME participation in European research and to prepare and support the discussion of the 7th Framework Programme.

EPRI start co-ordinator

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Stimulate the participation of SMEs from NMS in IST activities

www.epristart.org

A European Project of the IST Programme
6th Framework Programme
Specific Support Action

How you can benefit

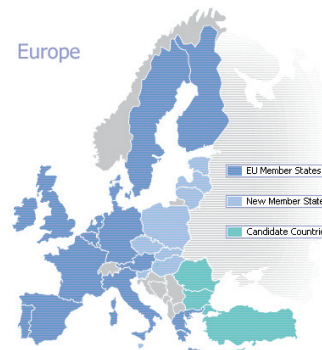
... as an innovative SME from the New Member States of the European Union:

- › use European research for continuous innovation and technological development in your company,
- › get experiences and knowledge in international research and development co-operation and create attractive jobs,
- › get up-to-date information about ongoing opportunities in European Research programmes and use the Fast Track to Participation,
- › become part of a sustainable self helping network within your country,
- › get access to the EPRI-Forum, a network of political decision makers supporting your recent and future participation in European research.

... as a player in an existing or newly arising IST project consortium:

- › get access to fresh and innovative resources from the New Member States as an enhancement of your consortium,
- › extend existing networks by co-operating with the most innovative SMEs from the New Member States,
- › become part of the EPRI start network of scientific promoters in the NMS, extend your trans-national co-operation and re-focus your internationalisation strategy.

Your Fast Track to Participation



How you can start

... as an innovative SME from the New Member States of the European Union:

- › contact the EPRI start partner in your country (see enclosed list of partners),
 - › announce your participation idea,
 - › go through the EPRI start certification procedure with your local EPRI start partner,
 - › get your Starter Package ready to use in any proposal,
- use the EPRI start participation brokering platform

... as player in the IST community:

- › contact EPRI start personnel directly during numerous IST events,
- › go to www.epristart.org and search the Company Fact Sheet database by country, SME name, or call theme,
- › study the Company Fact Sheets,
- › contact EPRI start or the identified SMEs from the NMS directly.