

## EPRI-start

Stimulating the participation of SMEs from  
New Member States in IST activities

A Specific Support Action in the Framework of  
the IST Programme of the European Union



# The Project



## EPRI-start

- 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 services will be provided between March 2005 and August 2006.
- The project is funded by the European Commission's Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme.

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## 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.



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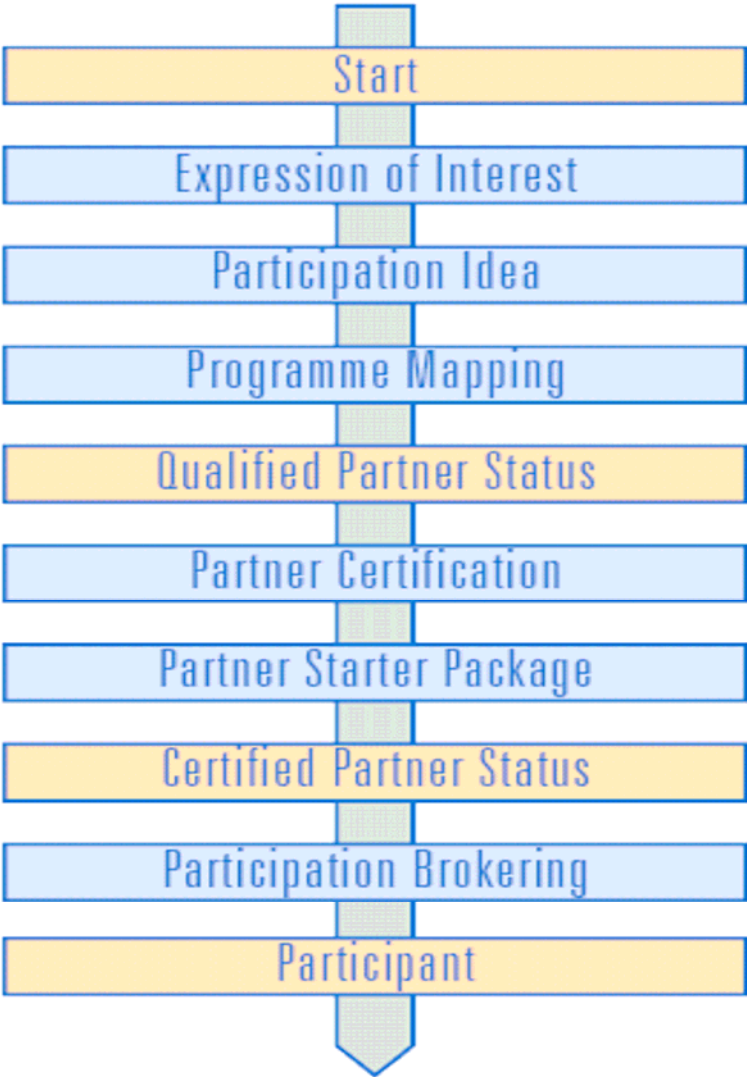
A stylized map of Europe with a grid pattern, colored in shades of purple and blue, serving as a background for the text.

Therefore, EPRI-start is  
*supported by political decision makers*  
of the New Member States of the European  
Union as well as European Political Decision  
Makers in order to foster SME participation  
in European Research and to prepare and  
support the discussion of the 7th Framework  
Programme.

# How does it work?



The EPRI-start track to participation



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Information Society Technologies

# Qualification & Certification Procedures



## INPUT

## OUTPUT

### Qualification

EoI, Participation Idea

qualified entry  
programme mapping

### Certification

CV, CP, A2, LFV

administrative starter set  
participation brokering

### Benefits for ...

... SMEs from NMS

... IST consortia

administrative starter  
(CV, CP, A2, LFV) set  
ready

structured access to SMEs  
from NMS with all relevant  
proposal documents ready

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## The benefits... for innovative SMEs from NMS

- 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.



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## The benefits... for players in IST consortia

- 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 refocus your internationalisation strategy,
- proposal documents prepared already by the SMEs from the NMS.



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## How can you start... as innovative SME from NMS



- contact the EPRI-start partner in your country,
- 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.

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## How can you start... as player in the IST community



- contact EPRI-start personnel directly during numerous IST events,
- go to [www.epristart.org](http://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 New Member States.

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# USPs of EPRI-start



## EPRI-start

## Complementary Projects

All ten NMS covered

Selected NMS or also ACC  
e.g. Get in (511281)

Focus on SMEs

All types of organisations  
e.g. SEEREN (IST-2001-38830)

All IST objectives covered

Focus on 1 or more objectives  
e.g. EPIST (015920)

No focus on NCPs but self-helping network

NCPs as partners or target  
e.g. Ideal-IST (IST-1999-14184)

SME project participations

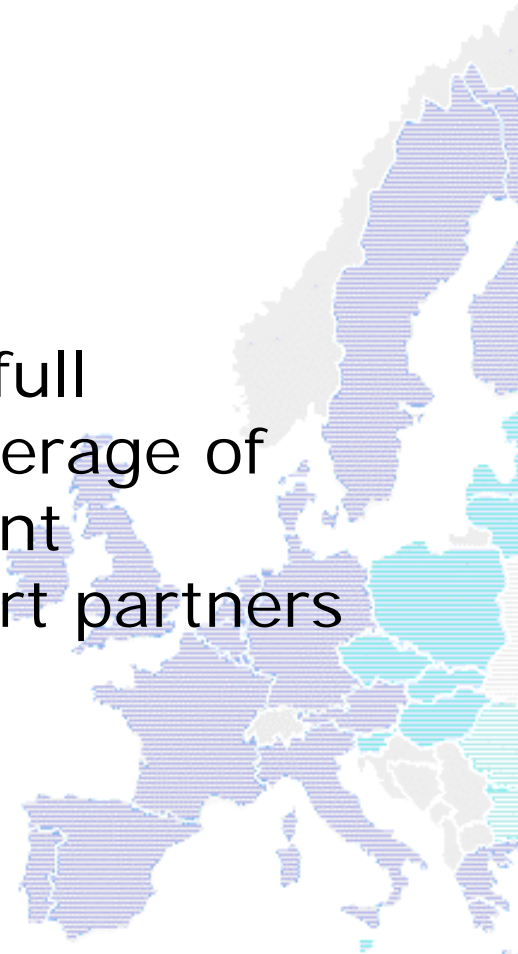
Workshops, training sessions, information material, etc.

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# Contact

Use the full  
NMS coverage of  
competent  
EPRI-start partners



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