

A photograph of a female scientist in a white lab coat, wearing safety goggles and white gloves, holding a pipette in a laboratory setting. The image is partially obscured by a yellow banner at the bottom.

Boosting Collective Research for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Europe



CORNET is an ERA-NET funded by
the European Commission, DG Research

What?

What is Collective Research?

Collective research is R&D performed for the benefit of a broad target group of firms, especially of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Collective research is typically initiated by groupings of enterprises with common interests, such as associations, professional federations, clusters, and trade associations. It is frequently carried out by specialised research institutes or technological centres which work on behalf of a particular industrial sector.

The objectives of collective research are often pre-competitive and pre-normative, related for example to the development and preparation of (technical) norms and standards. Collective research may also involve the search for improved processes or materials of wide application in an industry. Collective research results are actively promoted and disseminated across the sector for exploitation.

What is CORNET?

CORNET stands for COLlective Research NETworking. It is a network for information exchange and collaboration between national and regional programmes and schemes for collective research across Europe. The objective is to promote close cooperation between the responsible national/regional ministries and agencies and to create opportunities to set up transnational collective research with national/regional funding. This means that CORNET partners in the participating countries and regions are working together to align programme conditions and procedures. All CORNET coordination activities are financially supported till the end of February 2010 by the European Commission through the ERA-NET scheme of the Seventh Framework Programme.

What does CORNET do for you?

Twice a year CORNET issues calls for proposals for transnational cooperation projects in the field of collective research and technological development. The calls follow a bottom-up approach, i.e. research topics are not pre-defined and can be decided by applicants themselves. Funding will be made available through national or regional programmes.

CORNET thus enables consortia of SME associations, SMEs and research institutes all over Europe to work together in transnational projects to perform research for the benefit of SMEs.



Projects

CORNET project: High Performance Manufacturing

Transnational research and introduction of High Performance Manufacturing as a pre-competitive standard to strengthen European SME suppliers of mechanical components.

High Performance Manufacturing (HPM) technology comprises new developments to reduce primary process times and lead times significantly by the means of enhanced cutting abilities, adapted tooling and machine concepts combined with integrated examination and optimisation of the process chain. The overall objective of High Performance Manufacturing is to increase efficiency and quality of production processes associated with rapid and successful introduction of high-tech materials. This collective research

project within the CORNET programme will bundle requirements and knowledge from a broad group of mainly SME manufacturing companies specialised in machining lightweight materials for use in the automotive industry. The goal is to define standardised manufacturing HPM strategies through combining appropriate choices of reference materials of specific characteristics, machining tools (mould and dies), methods and indicators (e.g. Specific Cutting Force) and optimised manufacturing processes.
Website: www.hpm-cornet.eu

CORNET project: 'Biobased packaging'

Polylactic acid (PLA) for new biobased packaging

The primary objective of the project is the development of uniform standards, adapted for specific applications of the packaging branch. The project is focussed on different grades of polylactic acid. With the help of these standards it will be possible for companies to compare and use different biodegradable PLA-materials on an international level. Furthermore the processing possibilities of biodegradable materials will be clarified and the knowledge will be disseminated to the SMEs. Thanks to the know-how acquired through the project the plastic-processing companies should have the possibility to produce new

innovative products made of biodegradable materials.

Website: www.bio-packing.at

CORNET offers:

- Financial support based on national/regional programmes
- Access to collective research results
- Support for finding partners for transnational collective research projects
- Information on collective research initiatives in 13 countries and regions in Europe

CORNET is a network of 17 ministries and agencies from the following 13 European countries and regions:

Austria	Hungary
Belgium-Flanders	Italy
Belgium-Wallonia	Slovenia
Cyprus	Spain-Valencia
France	The Netherlands
Germany	Turkey
Greece	



More countries and regions are expected to join the CORNET network in the future.

Further information

Up to date information on the calls for proposals, rules for participation, application procedure and participating countries and regions is available on the CORNET website: www.cornet-era.net.

For specific questions please contact your national or regional funding organisation; the contact details are also on the CORNET website.