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Project acronym: EraSME
Project full title: ERA-NET on National and Regional Programmes to Promote Innovation Networking and Co-operation between SMEs and Research Organisations
Instrument: Coordination Action
Thematic Priority: Integrating and Strengthening the ERA

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Periodic Activity Report
EraSME
Publishable executive summary

**EraSME**

As one ERA-NET within the targeted ERA-NET scheme to integrate and strengthen the European Research Area, EraSME was launched to network and co-ordinate national and regional funding programmes in the field of SME - Science Co-operation.

EraSME focuses on programmes fostering collaboration between SMEs and organisations offering research and technology development facilities, including universities and other research centres. The project promotes coordination and cooperation between national and regional programmes to help SMEs, and it will be looking into the possibility of an Article 169 activity in this area, allowing active Community-level participation in programme coordination.

The Consortium presently consists of 17 partners being
Programme Agencies and Programme Owners from 15 countries representing 17 programmes
- agencies that are key players in their respective country or region
- respective government’s unique or preferred agency for managing technology and innovation programmes
- substantially experienced in programme design and management.

EraSME networks the leading SME-Research co-operation programmes in the participating countries. The participating programmes are strategically planned and executed at national or regional level. The project is designed to ensure the progressive, step-by-step approach from information exchange to the analysis of opportunities for joint action. EraSME did launch pilot “test-bed actions” of joint programme activities and will establish a medium-term (1-3 years) action plan of common programme activities. EraSME allows for mutual opening and the development and implementation of joint activities and explores arrangements for institutionalising long-term co-operation between the participating programmes.

At the level of programme beneficiaries and project-participants in the involved programmes EraSME aims to overcome the cultural and organisational barriers which can hinder the exchange of information and ideas between the very different organisations in the science-SME relation, despite the promise of substantial benefits.