

THE CONSORTIUM

COORDINATOR:

INOVA+ Innovation Consulting

- Portugal.



Project Coordinator:

Mr. Pedro Soutinho:

gprix@inovamais.pt

PARTNERS:

UM-MERIT Maastricht University

- The Netherlands

Mr. Hugo Hollanders:

h.hollanders@maastrichtuniversity.nl



Staffordshire University

- United Kingdom

Mr. Geoff Pugh: G.T.Pugh@staffs.ac.uk



FHG-Fraunhofer IFF - Germany

Ms. Corinna Kunert:

corinna.kunert@iff.fraunhofer.de



Universidad Politécnica de Valencia

- Spain

Ms. Tanja Vos: tvos@dsic.upv.es



**ENEA - Italian National Agency for
New Technologies, Energy and
Sustainable Economic Development**

- Italy

Mr. Diego Santi: diego.santi@enea.it



ESTER Technopole - France

Mr. Fabrice Macquet:

fabrice.macquet@ester-technopole.org



The GPrix project cooperates with two other initiatives of the European Commission to study R+D+I supporting programmes for SMEs: The MaPEeR SME and RAPPORT Projects.

Learn more about these initiatives at our common portal:

www.research4smes.eu



Which support measures can help regions based on traditional industries to prosper in the knowledge economy?



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The GPrix project will provide a comprehensive insight into the design and implementation of SME research and innovation support measures, actions, services and networks at national and regional level.

GPrix will evaluate their impact, in particular amongst SMEs from the traditional sectors, which represent the vast majority of companies in Europe. Best practice will be identified to inform funding priorities under the European Union's Framework 8 programme.

Why is the project important?

Many government programmes currently support innovation in Europe. These measures play a key role in helping organizations to innovate better and faster, by addressing specific market and system failures that hinder European companies, in particular SMEs, from fully exploiting their innovation potential.

What will the project do?

The GPrix project will identify and disseminate good practices in innovation support measures directed towards SMEs in traditional industries in 7 European regions. To this end, GPrix has developed a methodology for collecting data on the impact of public sector Innovation and R&D support programmes.

What are the expected results?

The challenge is to put forward policies and measures that better address the needs of SMEs in Europe and to support them in their transition to the knowledge economy.

- Provide an overview of **best practices** and mechanisms used in support of SMEs' innovation.
- Contribute to testing and refining **methods to evaluate** how innovation support measures evolve over time.
- Enhance **policy makers' systematic scrutiny** and selection of support programmes.
- Develop a methodological framework to **evaluate the impact** of innovation support policies.
- Produce **recommendations** to refine and improve research and innovation support programmes in the upcoming Framework 8 programme.

Which sectors are covered?

The GPrix project will cover the **automotive**, **textiles**, **leather**, **food**, **ceramics**, **mechanical** and **metallurgy** sectors. These include long established industries that are still major sources of wealth creation and employment and, most importantly, still retain the capacity to innovate.

Which regions are included?

The project will cover **7 European regions** all characterized by a large number of SMEs in the **traditional sectors**:

- **North and Central Portugal**,
- **Limousin** in France,
- **Emilia-Romagna** in Italy,
- **West Midlands** in the UK,
- **Comunidad Valenciana** in Spain,
- **North Brabant** in the Netherlands,
- **Saxony-Anhalt** in Germany.

