

PRESS RELEASE

Making FP7 easier to manage: EUROCHAMBRES co-initiates DESCA, the simplified Model Consortium Agreement

Today in Bonn (Germany), EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and other industry and research organisations* launched DESCA**, a simplified Model Consortium Agreement for the 7th Framework Programme.

DESCA will simplify a currently intricate field. In FP6, many participants produced their own model consortium agreements, leading to lengthy and complex discussions. DESCA offers instead a consistent approach to FP: it will be stripped of unnecessary complexity in both content and language, and will balance the interests of all of the main participant categories.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *“DESCA will be particularly beneficial to SMEs, for which the participation in large research consortia implies challenges. Among others, small companies have limited capacity of co-funding a partnership structure, face significant administrative costs and are often in a marginal position in the decision making process. We owe it to them to simplify the administrative and management costs of FP participation, and this is precisely what DESCA does.”*

DESCA will regulate critical aspects of project governance not covered by the grant agreement between the Commission and the project consortium. Such aspects typically include:

- the internal organisation of the consortium (e.g. membership of management bodies, voting rights, settlement of disputes between partners);
- the distribution of the Community financial contribution (e.g. when should the project coordinator distribute advance payments from the Commission to the other partners?);
- management of intellectual property and access rights to results (e.g. when, and on what terms, should access to results be provided to other partners and their affiliates?);
- liability and confidentiality arrangements between partners (e.g. the extent of liability of the partners to one another and towards third parties).

DESCA can be downloaded for free from www.desca-fp7.eu and is expected to be used by thousands of FP7 project partners during the next six years.

* DESCA was initiated by ANRT (www.anrt.asso.fr), the German CA-Team (represented by Helmholtz www.helmholtz.de and KoWi www.kowi.de), EARTO (www.earto.eu), EUROCHAMBRES (www.eurochambres.eu), and UNITE (www.unite.be).

** **DE**velopment of a **S**implified **C**onsortium **A**greement for FP7.

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