

**PRESS RELEASE****FP7 made easier  
DESCA releases Version 1**

Enterprises and other actors wishing to establish a project under FP7, can now benefit from a tool which will make their life easier: DESCA – the simplified Model Consortium Agreement – has released its Version 1.

Launched in January by a group of organisations\* among which EUROCHAMBRES, DESCA is a simplified template agreement between partners in EU-funded research projects. Its aim is to balance the interests of all key players – large and small firms, universities, public research institutes and RTOs – and to regulate critical aspects of project governance not covered by the grant agreement between the project consortium and the Commission.

The first operational version of DESCA is now available free of charge and can be downloaded from [www.desca-fp7.eu](http://www.desca-fp7.eu).

Its main assets are:

- alternative modules for large projects and small projects;
- an optional module for projects with a strong software focus;
- optional clauses in the IPR section.

DESCA aims to be user-friendly. To this end, the standard DESCA texts focus on a “mainstream” project and do not attempt to take account of all alternatives for a given situation. Moreover, the DESCA wording aims to be accessible and easy to understand for both lawyers and scientists.

Speaking at the official presentation of DESCA in Brussels today, Vincent Tilman from EUROCHAMBRES said: *“DESCA will be particularly beneficial to SMEs, who do not have the legal resources and time to analyse in depth the Consortium Agreement. EUROCHAMBRES encourages all those companies who hesitate in participating in FP7 because they feel it is too complicated to try this year by using the DESCA Model and to concentrate fully on their core research. Participation in research programmes can be much easier than expected, and is beneficial both to project participants and to the competitiveness of the European Union.”*

\* ANRT ([www.anrt.asso.fr](http://www.anrt.asso.fr)), the German CA-Team (represented by Helmholtz [www.helmholtz.de](http://www.helmholtz.de) and KoWi [www.kowi.de](http://www.kowi.de)), EARTO ([www.earto.eu](http://www.earto.eu)), EUROCHAMBRES ([www.eurochambres.eu](http://www.eurochambres.eu)), and UNITE ([www.unite.be](http://www.unite.be)).

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