

# EPISTEP

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#### Enhanced Participation of SMEs in IST European Technology Platforms

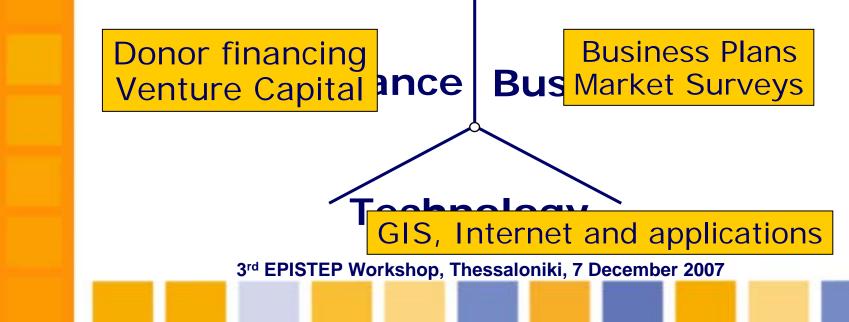
Ulrich Boes, URSIT Ltd., Sofia, Bulgaria

3rd EPISTEP Workshop, Thessaloniki, 7 December 2007

## **URSIT Ltd. Profile**

#### http://www.ursit.com

- Founded in 2000
- Vision:
  - Introduce innovative technology into SEE
- Consultant and Service Provider



#### **EPISTEP – A Brief Overview**

- Part financed through FP6
  (ETI EC Innovation Programme)
- Project start date: September 2005
- Project duration: 28 months
  - □ Extension of 3 months requested
- Co-ordinated by:
  - □ Targeting Innovation, Glasgow, Scotland
- 25 Partners
- 15 Countries
  - □ inc. new member states & associated countries

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## **EPISTEP – Aims & Objectives**

# EPISTEP

## Key Objective

to enable greater SME participation in the EU's Framework Programmes

## Main Aim

□ to enhance SME access to 3 ICT European Technology Platforms (ETPs).

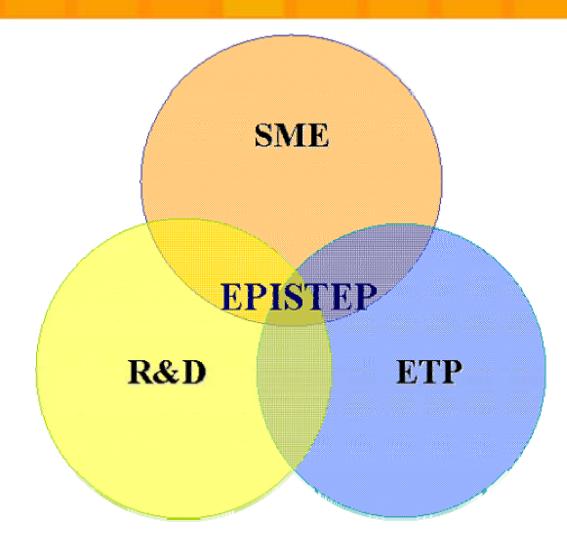
## EPISTEP seeks to co-operate with:

Mobile Communications (e-Mobility)

- Embedded Systems (ARTEMIS)
- Nano-electronics (ENIAC)

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#### What is new in EPISTEP?

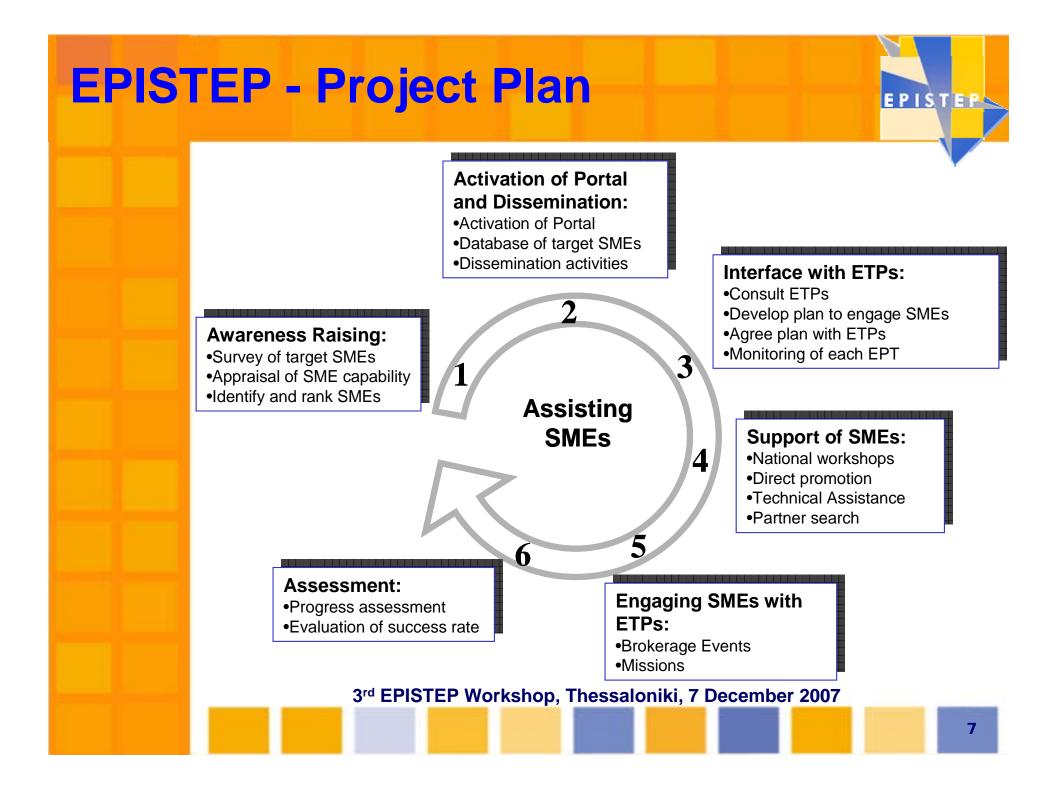


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## **EPISTEP – Main Activities**

- EPISTEP
- Agree co-operation with 3 ICT ETPs
- Creation of database of 1500 SMEs
- Analysis of capabilities of target SMEs
- Interactive website with partner search facility at <u>www.epistep.org</u>
- Organisation of:
  - □ Missions to meet ETPs
  - Brokerage events
  - Information stands at relevant events

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## **EPISTEP – Joint Activities with ETPs**

E-Mobility

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Attend EPISTEP management meetings
- Reciprocal website links
- Survey of EPISTEP SMEs
- Article in e-Mobility newsletter
- Promotion of e-Mobility to SMEs
  - General Assembly
  - Working Groups
  - SME Membership

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## **EPISTEP – Joint Activities with ETPs**

## ARTEMIS

- Informal co-operation agreement
- Attend EPISTEP management meetings
- ARTEMIS newsletter
  - □ Article on EPISTEP
  - □ 5 EPISTEP SMEs interviewed
- IST 2006
  - Promotion of Networking Session

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## **EPISTEP – Joint Activities with ETPs**

# ENIAC

- Informal co-operation agreement
- Attend EPISTEP management meetings
- Carried out survey of EPISTEP SMEs
- IST 2006
  - UK SME participated in ENIAC Networking Session with ETP & EC

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## **EPISTEP – Current Situation**

 SME recruitment to database – ongoing activity

- currently around 1120 across the partnership
- SMEs on database
  - Company profile
  - Partner search by country/sector
- Engagement with SMEs with consortium participants' regions

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### **EPISTEP - Support for SMEs**

#### Information dissemination

- EPISTEP website
- Quarterly Newsletter
- □ Advance notification of FP7 Calls
- □ ETP information

#### National workshops

- □ Training for missions
- Awareness raising

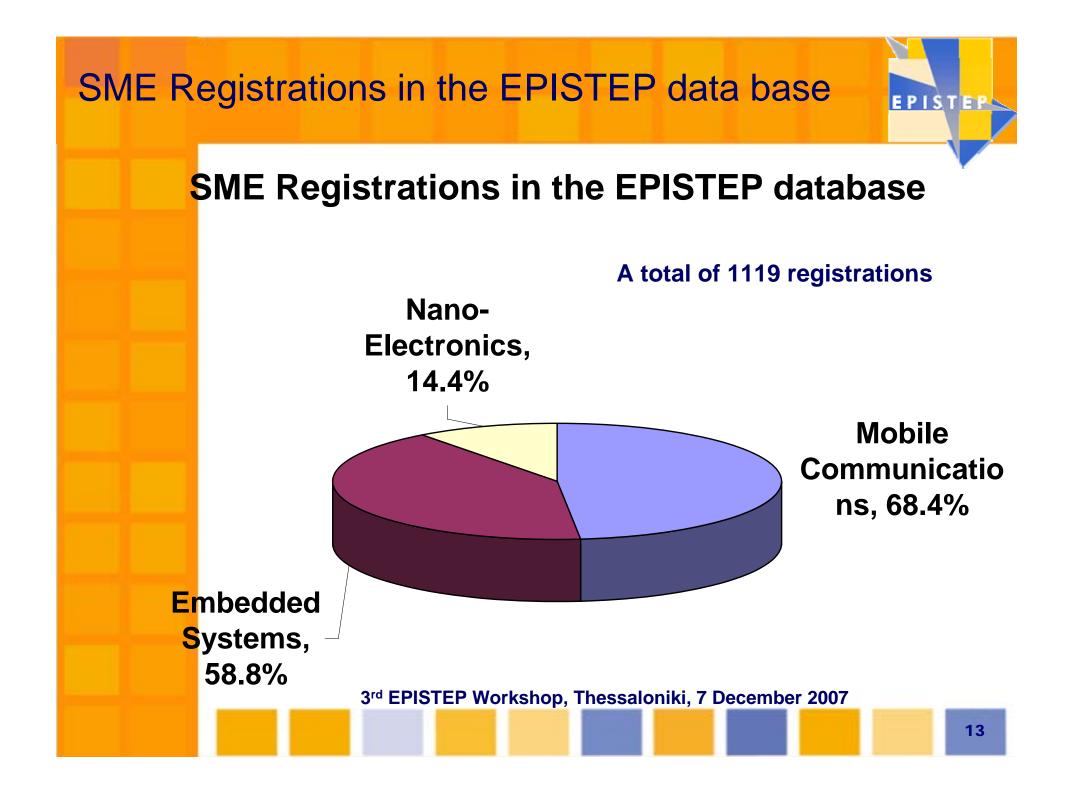
#### Technical assistance

Help desk

#### Identification of ICT ETP projects

Partner searches & Missions

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## www.epistep.org

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#### Thank you for your attention!

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