The International Network for Small and Medium Enterprises – INSME - is a non-profit Association, open to international membership. It aims at fostering transnational cooperation and public and private partnership among economic players and intermediaries worldwide to help bridge the innovation and knowledge gap for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Since access to innovation is a key factor for enterprises to be competitive, INSME acts to indirectly stimulate SMEs’ innovation processes and competitiveness by promoting and strengthening the collaboration and the international outreach of business support intermediaries and their networks. The INSME Association was formally established as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in 2004 and its Secretariat headquarter is located in Rome, Italy.

As of March 2014, the INSME Association comprises 103 Members, based in 46 different countries: 19 governmental bodies, 19 International Organisations, 9 International NGOs and representatives of 56 networks and intermediaries acting in the field of innovation and technology transfer to SMEs.

Since 2004, INSME has been granted with the moral sponsorship from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It has been also designated as an NGO in Special Consultative Status within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and within the UNIDO Industrial Development Board. It has been granted a “sectorial dialogue partner” status by the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

The Network mainly deals with the following topics:

- Business creation / Start-ups / New technology based Firms / high growth companies;
- European Union SME innovation support schemes and Programs;
- SME Innovation Financing / Business Angels / Venture Capital;
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and their exploitation / valorisation on the market;
- Governance and business model of innovation intermediaries supporting SMEs;
- Networking and internationalisation of innovation intermediaries;
- Industrial and Technological Clusters / Districts.
Online Services and Activities

- Individualized INSME Alerts designed to inform Members about their thematic and geographical priorities;

- **INSME Academy** a webinar–based Training Program–offering one lunch-time-seminar per month addressing relevant topics on Creativity, Innovation, Strategic Partnerships and Entrepreneurial Spirit;

- **INSME Blog** a virtual space to share and discuss ideas, hints, projects and your visions on innovation and gain international visibility;

- **SMEs Expert Portfolio** to enable INSME Members to find appropriate international professionals to participate in International Project Initiatives and calls, studies and INSME Expert Working Groups;

Publications

- **INSME News**, the Association’s free monthly newsletter reaching more than 19,700 innovation stakeholders and network followers providing a panorama of current trends, innovation excellences, events and global priorities with regard to knowledge and technology transfer. It is translated in Spanish and Russian too;

General Services and Activities

- **INSME Annual Meetings** including International Conferences, Innovation Tour, Expert Round Tables and International Trainings; the Annual Meetings represent the perfect occasion to meet the right players and encourage international cooperation between INSME Members;

- **International Trainings** co-organized by global institutional partners during INSME Annual Meetings;

- **Selected Classroom Trainings** on Informal and Non-Formal Competences; Innovation Management and Intellectual Property Rights.

- **Project Development Unit** to provide Members with information and partnering occasions for projects initiatives and internationalization opportunities;

- **Personal Assistance** to Members in finding business and funding opportunities, experts and partners for international collaborations and projects;

- **Analysis and diffusion** of good practices policies, methodologies, programmes and projects;
**INSME Annual Meetings**

The 10th INSME Annual Meeting on “Investing in Innovation: Building a Sustainable Knowledge-based Economy”
18 - 20 March 2014 – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The 9th INSME Annual Meeting on “The Governance of Innovation: building an Innovative Eco-System for SMEs”
21 – 24 May 2013 - Izmir, Turkey

The 8th INSME Annual Meeting on “Sustainable Growth with Innovation: Building Competitive SME Networks”
22 - 25 May 2012 - Daejeon, Rep. of Korea

The 7th INSME Annual Meeting on “Competitiveness, Culture and Cross-Border Co-operation Assisting SMEs to Grow, Innovate and Reach International Markets”
21 - 24 May 2011 - Helsinki, Finland

The 6th INSME Annual Meeting on “SME Innovation: Boosting Development and Growth in Times of Change”
10 - 13 May 2010 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The 5th INSME Annual Meeting on “Building a Knowledge based eco-system for SMEs: Finance, Innovation, Technology and Networking”
20 - 23 April 2009 - Dubai, UAE.

The 4th INSME Annual Meeting on “Encouraging SME Innovation and Growth: Increasing Capital Access”
2 - 4 July 2008 - Guangzhou, P.R. China

The 3rd INSME Annual Meeting on “Reinvigorating our Global Partnership for Innovation”
13 July 2007 - Rome, Italy

The 2nd INSME Annual Meeting on “Boosting Innovation by Bridging the Knowledge Gap: A Developer-User Approach”
24 – 26 April 2006 - Montevideo, Uruguay

The 1st INSME Annual Meeting on “International Cooperation to Seize Innovation Opportunities for SMEs”
13 - 15 April 2005 – Barcelona, Spain

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**Last International Joint Training Initiatives**

**2014**

The INSME – Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development International Training Programme took place in the framework of the 10th INSME Annual Meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

**2013**

The INSME – IZKA – UNCTAD International Training Programme on “Key-resources for profitable growth: how to strategically access and co-develop economic assets for the benefit of SMEs” took place in the framework of the 9th INSME Annual Meeting in Izmir, Turkey.

The INSME – CEPAS International workshop on “Leverage your Informal Competences: The Challenge of Interpersonal and Inter-functional Skills Management”

**2012**

The INSME - WTA - UNESCO International Training Programme on “Managing the Innovation Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for SMEs” took place in the framework of the 8th INSME Annual Meeting in Daejeon, Rep. of Korea.

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**Other tools and services**

- Database of Members and Partner Organisations that are willing to participate in international calls for tenders.
- Cross-border matchmaking and networking opportunities.
- Promotion and marketing of Members’ activities and events.
- Promotional Activities on the social networks (Twitter and LinkedIn).