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# Collaboration in Research, Development and Innovation in the Construction Sector

**Success Factors and Barriers for Cooperation &  
Identification of Priority Research Topics for SMEs**









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## **Imprint**

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## Introduction

PRESTO is a project aimed at facilitating the identification of priority research topics for Associations of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEsAs) by establishing a close and sustainable dialogue with European Technology Platforms (ETPs).

PRESTO is focused on an SME intensive sector, namely construction, and devotes a specific focus on technologies of three construction-related domains: energy, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and new materials.

PRESTO is co-financed by the European Commission under the call Research for the benefit of SMEs (Programme Capacities), part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. Within the framework of PRESTO a series of analyses, studies, surveys and consultation panels with construction experts, ETPs and SMEsAs representatives have been conducted.

The present document is enshrined within the above mentioned context. It collates the analysis of results emerging from the following activities implemented by PRESTO Consortium:

- A) Documentary and bibliographical research
- B) SMEs Associations Questionnaire to know the profile and RTD and Innovation issues of SMEsAs active in the construction sector (SMEsAs Questionnaire)
- C) SMEs Questionnaire to identify the SMEs profile and RTD needs and barriers by SMEs active in the construction sector (SMEs Questionnaire)
- D) Analysis of Key Trends in construction towards the definition of priority research topics
- E) PRESTO Expert Panel Meeting (29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 Stuttgart, Germany)
- F) PRESTO Technology-driven Questionnaire

Thus, the present document constitutes a comprehensive Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)<sup>1</sup> analysis aimed at identifying key success fac-

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<sup>1</sup> SWOT analysis means, for the purposes of the present study, a thorough analysis of key factors that can be seized for the benefit of SMEsAs and their members (Strengths & Opportunities) as well as critical issues that should be attended by them (Weaknesses & Threats) in order to avoid difficulties and, ultimately, to achieve better collaboration links. All these elements are complemented with an analysis of the most relevant research priority issues mentioned by SMEs participating in this study.