The integration of smaller partners in EU supported R&D

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European Energy Policy Seminar
June 15, 2005, Brussels
Barriers for SMV’s etc.

• Drive towards larger projects (>1 mill. Eur)
• Priorities for local authorities (easy, stable)
• Difficult to overview existing projects, particular problem for smaller partners
• (administrative complex)
• Large co-financing
Why smaller partners?

• Many important development were started by smaller organisations, companies and even grass-root groups (windpower in Denmark, solar in Austria, etc.)

• Some support for smaller partners can increase the outcome of a programme, while reliance on large, in particular multi-national partners can be problematic.
Recommendations, ideas

- Low minimum grant (50,000 Eur)
- Independant Central Agency for smaller grants (but agencies are not only good; they can increase administrative burdens)
- Equal access for all, in general
- Budget line with less co-financing for smaller partners (SMV’s, NGO’s etc.)
- Evaluation of results according to size
- BUT, the funds must be there