SME Instrument 2018-2020

Overview

European funding programme dedicated to high growth, highly innovative, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with European and global ambitions.

There are no set topics. Negative impacts on climate and the environment should be avoided.

Funded by the European Innovation Council EIC, part of Horizon 2020.

Goal

Developing and bringing to market: New products, services and business models that could drive economic growth. The SME instrument consists of three phases:

Phase 1

Formulation of a solid, high-potential innovation project with a European or global growth-oriented strategy. Study on technical feasibility and on commercial potential. Elaborated business plan based on an initial one.

Phase 2

A market-ready product, service or process aligned with the company’s growth strategy.

Specification of the expected outcome of the project and criteria for success, as well as the expected impacts on your company in qualitative and quantitative terms (e.g. on turnover, employment, market size, IP management, sales, return on investment, or profitability).

Phase 3

Benefit from additional EU support such as training, links to investors, partnering and networking with other SME clients and larger firms and services to help access international markets, e.g. via participation in overseas trade fairs.

Eligibility

For-profit SMEs, including young companies and start-ups, from any sector. Legally established in the EU-28 or in a country associated to Horizon 2020.

Project Partners

Other partners, such as research providers or larger companies, can be involved as third parties, usually in a subcontracting relationship.

Financial Support

Phase 1: Funding of EUR 50 000 (Reimbursement rate 70 % thus total costs EUR 71429).

Phase 2: EU contribution between EUR 0.5 and EUR 2.5 million. Reimbursement 70 % of total project costs.

Time Frame

Submission: Phase 1: 07.11.2018 / 13.02.2019 / 07.05.2019 / 05.09.2019 - Final deadline

Phase 2: 10.10.2018 / 09.01.2019 / 03.04.2019 / 05.06.2019 / 09.10.2019

Time to grant: Phase 1: 4 months / Phase 2: 8 months

Project duration: Phase 1: 6 months / Phase 2: 12 – 24 months

What else to consider

- There is no concurrent submission or implementation with another SME Instrument phase 1 or phase 2 project.
- The page limit for phase 1 is up to 10 pages and for phase 2 up to 30 pages.

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