

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

Phase1: Funding of EUR 50 000 (Reimbursement rate 70 % thus total costs EUR 71429).

Phase2: 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 / 06.11.2019
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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Horizon 2020 SME Instrument

Looking for Europe's next innovation leader

As part of the Horizon 2020 programme the SME Instrument will invest almost **€ 3 billion in 7500 projects** by 2020 in highly innovative small and medium-sized businesses.

FUNDING

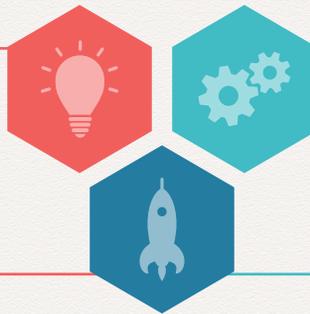
The SME Instrument is an open call with four cut-off dates per year for each Phase.

PHASE 1

Concept & feasibility study
Idea to concept

The European Union will provide
€50 000 in funding

Get results in **2 months** and
funding in **4 months**



PHASE 2

**Demonstration, market replication, R&D
and product development**
Concept to Market-Maturity

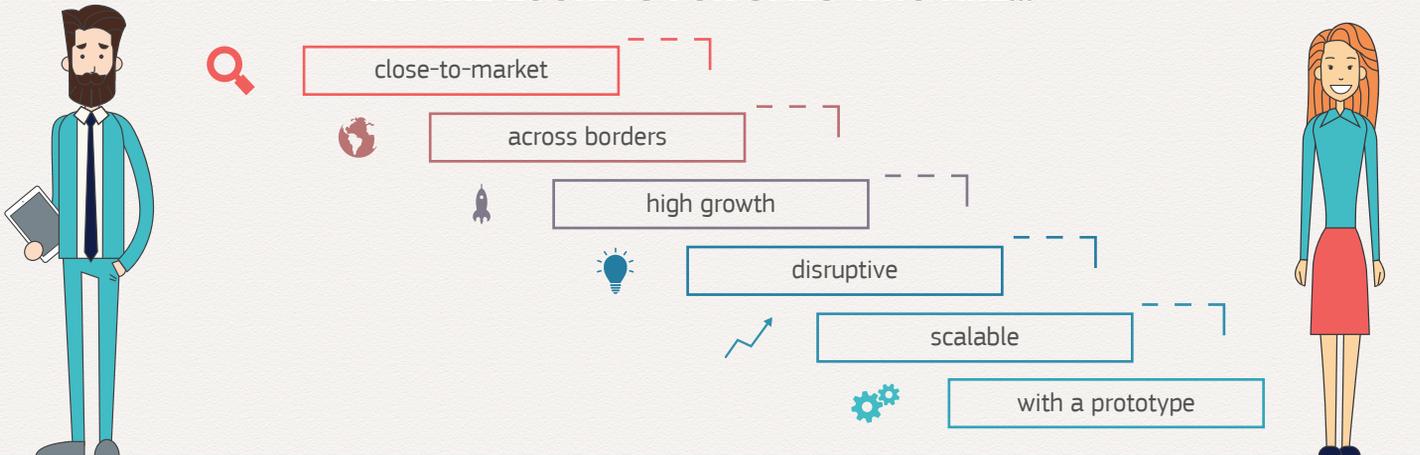
The EU may contribute 70% of total project cost,
between **€0.5 and €2.5 million**

Get results in **4 months** and
get funding in **8 months**

BUSINESS SUPPORT for market launch

Participants at both phases will receive world-class **coaching** benefit from **networking opportunities** with top level investors and potential partners and get support to **launch their product** on European and international markets.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SMES WHO ARE...



EVALUATION

Under the SME Instrument grant proposals are evaluated by 4 independent experts, on the basis of three award criteria

EXCELLENCE

Your project has high innovation potential
and is beyond the state of the art.

IMPACT

Your innovation meets the pressing need
of European and global markets

IMPLEMENTATION

Your work plan is coherent
and efficient.

@H2020SME

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sme>

Research &
Innovation

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