NKS Umwelt

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

The dedicated SME-Instrument under Horizon2020

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SME-Instrument - Background

Did you know?

'Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent 90% of all businesses in the EU.'

European Commission

SME-Instrument - Background

General objectives of Horizon 2020:

Overcome the economic crises through investing in **growth and employment**.

Take into consideration the concerns of the people in relation to security and environment.

Strengthening the EU's leading global position in research, **innovation** and technology.

SME-Instrument

Designed for <u>s</u>mall and <u>m</u>edium-sized <u>e</u>nterprises:

- **Single funding** possible

- short Time-to-Grant

- Reduced effort for application

- regular Cut-Off-Dates instead of deadlines

- **Change of perspective** compared to other calls

SME-Instrument

SMEinst-12-2016-2017:
Boosting the potential of small businesses in the areas and priorities of Societal Challenge 5

…exit from the economic crises and **job creation**

…targeted at all types of eco-innovative SMEs in **all areas** of SC5

…not restricted to the 2016-2017 strategic priorities

…focusing on SMEs showing a strong **ambition to develop**

…all kinds of promising ideas, products, processes, services

SME-Instrument

Phase 1: Feasibility study and market potential
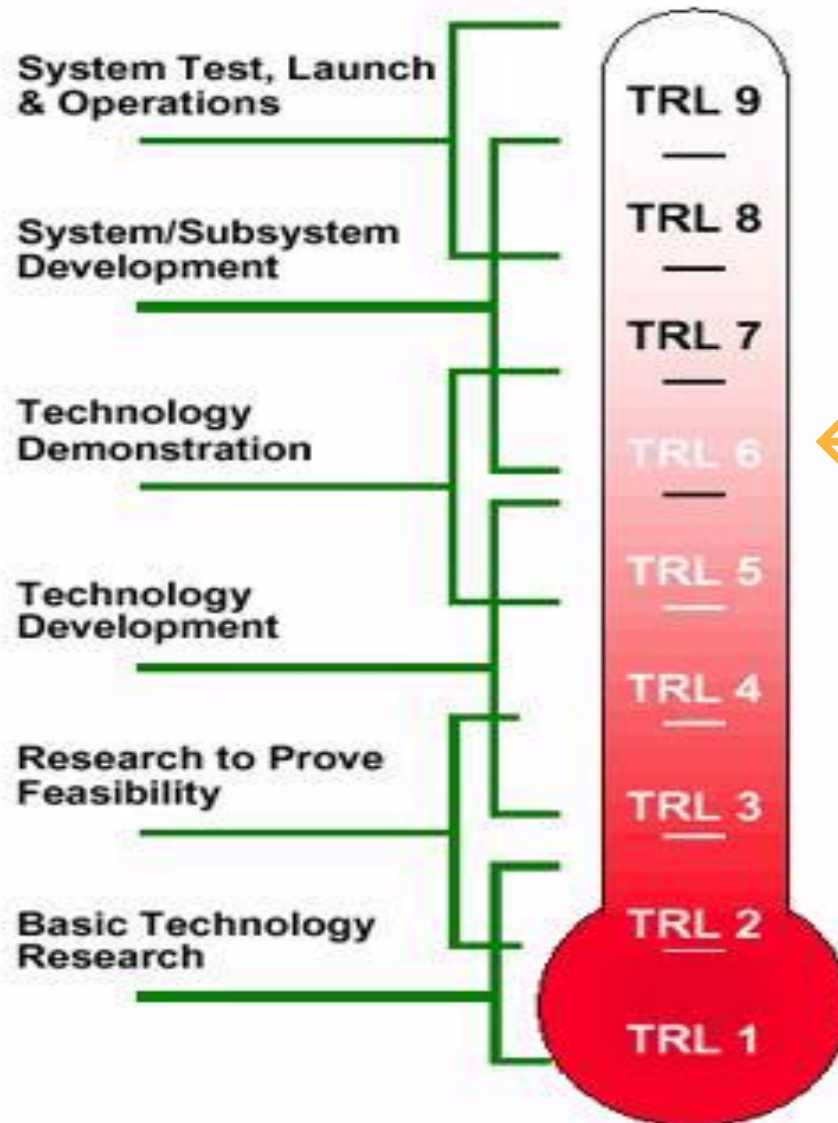- 50.000 € lump sum
- 10-page proposal

Phase 2: Demonstration activities and market entry
- up to 2,5 million € funding (funding rate: 70%)
- 30-page proposal

Phase 3: Coaching, Mentoring, Access to Risk Capital
- no monetary support
- realized through the Enterprise Europe Network

Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

← **Your product/ service!**

Technology Readiness Levels

TRL 0: **Idea**. Unproven concept, no testing has been performed.

TRL 1: **Basic research.** Principles postulated and observed but no experimental proof available.

TRL 2: **Technology formulation**. Concept and application have been formulated.

TRL 3: **Applied research**. First laboratory tests completed; proof of concept.

TRL 4: **Small scale prototype** built in a laboratory environment ("ugly" prototype).

TRL 5: **Large scale prototype** tested in intended environment.

TRL 6: **Prototype system** tested in intended environment close to expected performance.

TRL 7: **Demonstration system** operating in operational environment at pre-commercial scale.

TRL 8: **First of a kind commercial system**. Manufacturing issues solved.

TRL 9: **Full commercial application**, technology available for consumers.

How to know if you are an SME?

SME-Definition

Company category	Employees	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

PLUS: independent from bigger entities

Declaring your company an SME: Link

SME-Instrument

Cut-Off-Dates: quarterly

March /2016

June /2016

Sept. /2016

Dez. /2016

…

Indicative Budget:

25 M.€ (2016)
27,5 M € (2017)

Some insights from past SME-Calls:

Companies:

- want to conduct research instead of product development

- have problems to align with the schedule/procedure funding implies (internal project management)

- underestimate the preparation of a proposal

Some insights from past SME-Calls:

- do not address the political goals of EU funding for SME (job creation!)

- Have a too low level of innovation / Technology Readiness level (TRL)

- confuse SME-funding with Start-Up funding

6 „lessons-learned" by the European Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/sme-instrument-6-lessons-learnt-first-evaluation-are-also-tips-applicants

Contact

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