

## **Commission supports innovative SMEs with over €130 million in new grants**

Brussels, 27 March 2015

387 innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are on track to receive a total of €130.6 million in new grants from Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding programme. These are the latest results of calls under the €3 billion SME Instrument, launched under Horizon 2020 to help innovative small firms get ideas from the lab to the market and help generate growth and jobs for Europe. This latest round, with the largest number of SMEs funded in any cut-off so far, brings the total number of companies funded by the SME Instrument so far to 827, with more than €255 million in EU grants.

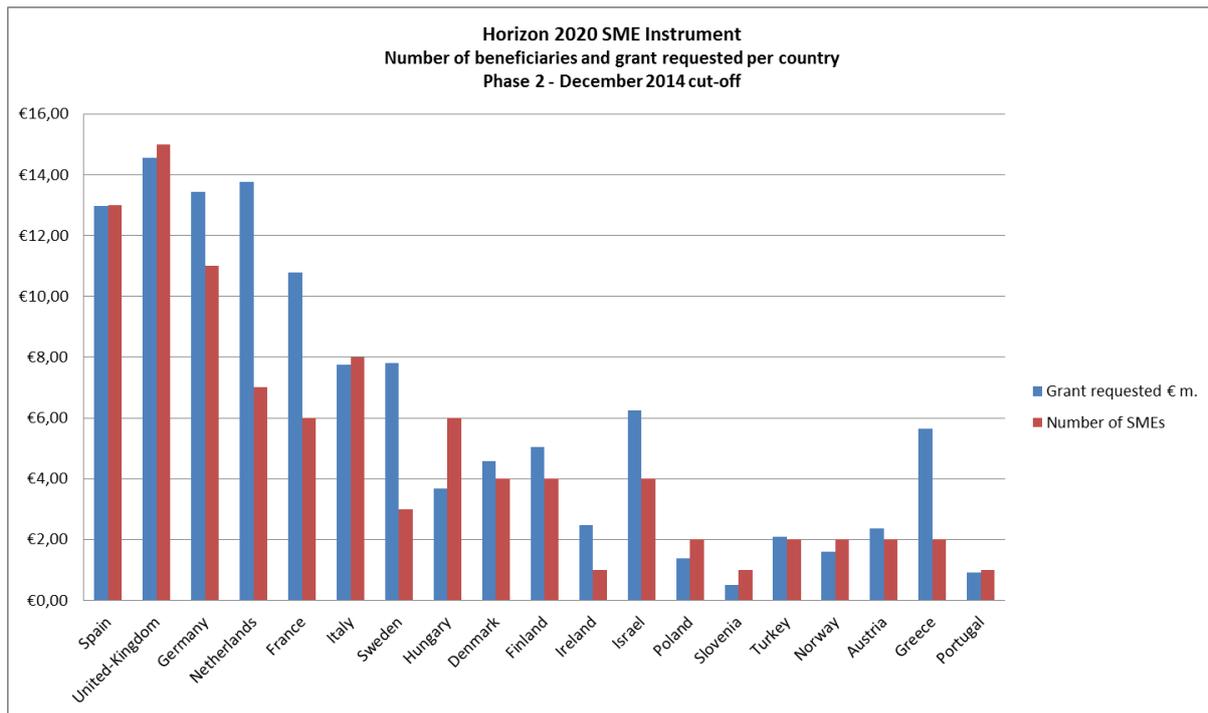
### **€117.6 million for innovation activities and business plans (Phase 2)**

The European Commission has selected 94 SMEs from 19 countries to each receive a grant of up to €2.5 million (€5 million for health projects) to finance innovation activities and the development of their business plans. The companies will also be entitled to benefit from [up to 12 days of business coaching](#).

The Commission received 629 project proposals by the second cut-off date of Horizon 2020's SME Instrument programme Phase 2 (17 December 2014). Evaluation by independent experts showed that 180 of the proposals met the evaluation standard. 74 or 41% of them have been selected for funding.

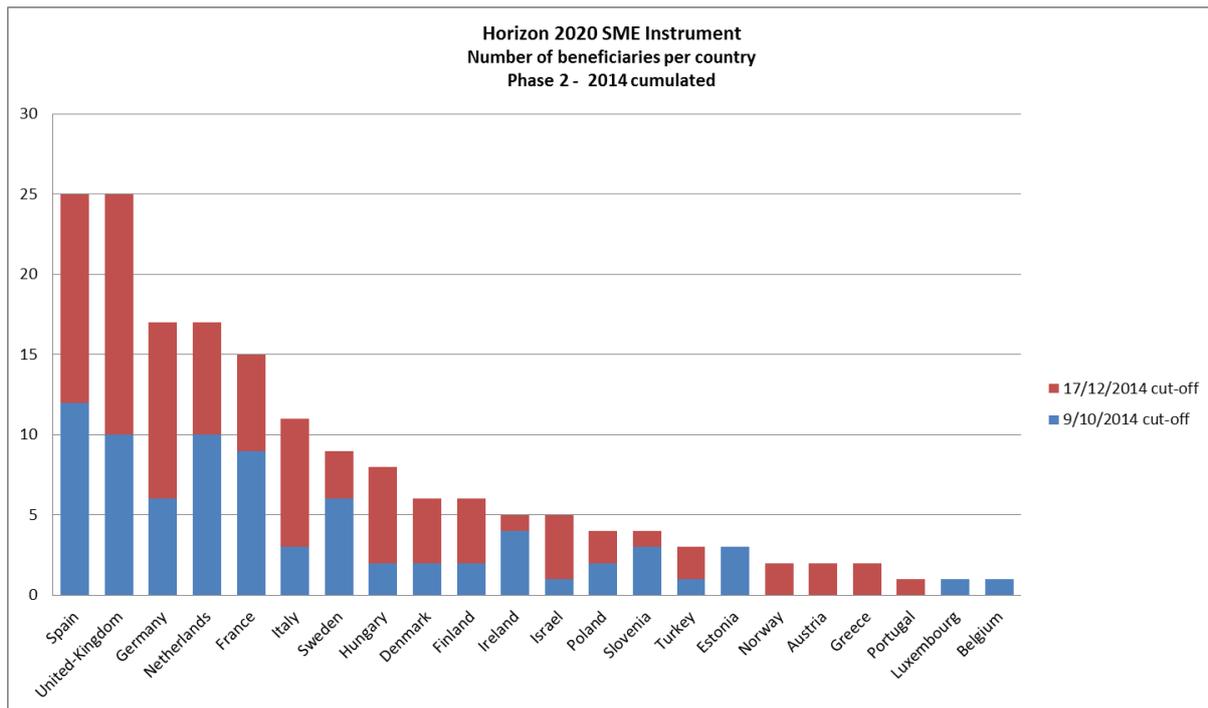
UK companies have been particularly successful in this call, with 15 participants on track to receive over €14.5 million. They are closely followed by Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and France.

Since the launch of the programme on 1st January 2014, 134 projects involving 172 SMEs have been selected for EU grants under Phase 2 of the SME Instrument, totalling more than €225 million.



**Horizon 2020 SME Instrument  
Number of beneficiaries and grant requested per country  
Phase 2 - December 2014 cut-off**

Country	Grant requested € m.	Number of SMEs
Spain	€12,97	13
United-Kingdom	€14,55	15
Germany	€13,43	11
Netherlands	€13,77	7
France	€10,79	6
Italy	€7,76	8
Sweden	€7,81	3
Hungary	€3,69	6
Denmark	€4,58	4
Finland	€5,04	4
Ireland	€2,48	1
Israel	€6,26	4
Poland	€1,38	2
Slovenia	€0,51	1
Turkey	€2,10	2
Norway	€1,60	2
Austria	€2,37	2
Greece	€5,65	2
Portugal	€0,92	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>€117,62</b>	<b>94</b>



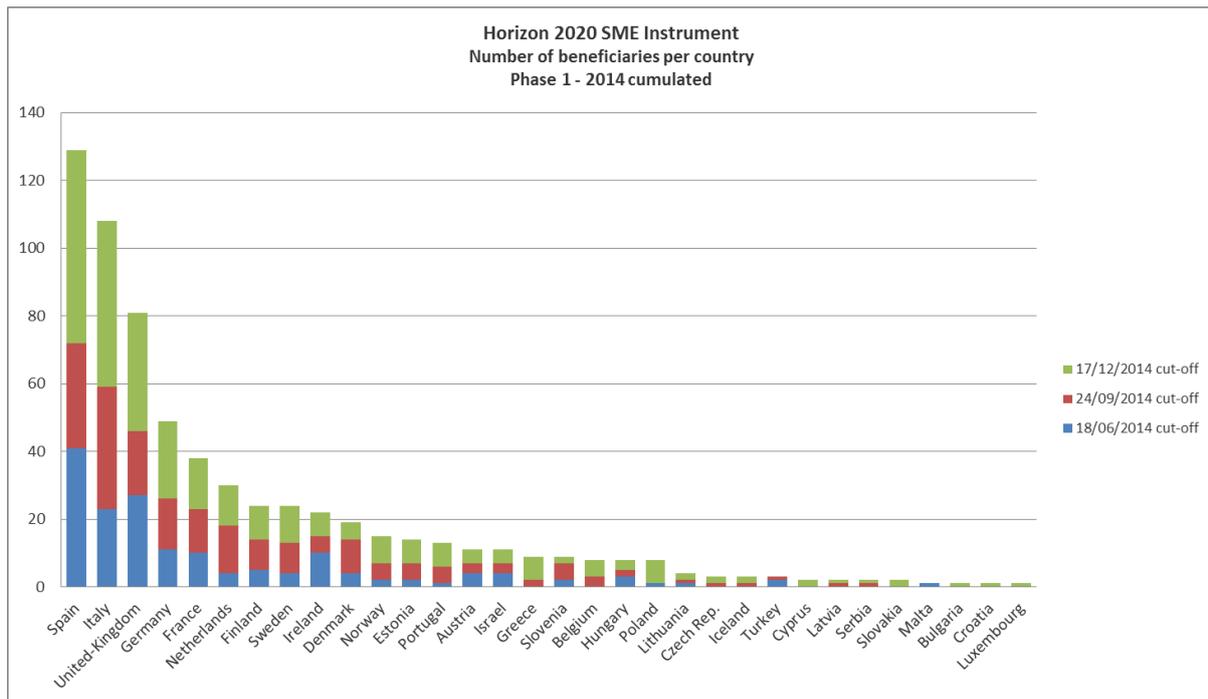
### €13 million for feasibility studies (Phase 1)

Another 293 SMEs from 30 countries have been selected in the latest round of under Phase 1 of the SME Instrument. For each project, the participants will receive €50,000 to finance feasibility studies. They can also request up to three days of business coaching.

For this phase, the Commission received 2,363 proposals by the third cut-off date of Phase 1 on 17 December 2014. 320 received an evaluation score above the application threshold and 259 or 81% have been selected for funding.

Together with the first two selection rounds earlier in 2014, Spanish SMEs have been particularly successful in Phase 1 with 129 beneficiaries in total accepted for funding, followed by firms from Italy (108) and the UK (81).

Since the launch of the programme on 1st January 2014, 655 SMEs have been selected under Phase 1 of the SME Instrument and shared almost €30 million.



**Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 1 - Number of beneficiaries per country**

Country	18/06/2014 cut-off	24/09/2014 cut-off	17/12/2014 cut-off	Total
Spain	41	31	57	129
Italy	23	36	49	108
United-Kingdom	27	19	35	81
Germany	11	15	23	49
France	10	13	15	38
Netherlands	4	14	12	30
Finland	5	9	10	24
Sweden	4	9	11	24
Ireland	10	5	7	22
Denmark	4	10	5	19
Norway	2	5	8	15
Estonia	2	5	7	14
Portugal	1	5	7	13
Austria	4	3	4	11
Israel	4	3	4	11
Greece	0	2	7	9
Slovenia	2	5	2	9
Belgium	0	3	5	8
Hungary	3	2	3	8
Poland	1	0	7	8
Lithuania	1	1	2	4
Czech Rep.	0	1	2	3
Iceland	0	1	2	3
Turkey	2	1	0	3
Cyprus	0	0	2	2
Latvia	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Slovakia	0	0	2	2
Malta	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	1	1
Croatia	0	0	1	1
Luxembourg	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>655</b>

## Overview

Horizon 2020 SME Instrument SMEs, projects and funding overview				
	Cut-off date	Number of SMEs	Number of projects	Funding (€ m.)
Phase 1	June 2014	162	155	7,75
	Sept. 2014	200	178	8,9
	December 2014	293	259	12,95
<i>Sub-total</i>		655	592	29,6
Phase 2	October 2014	78	60	108,13
	December 2014	94	74	117,62
<i>Sub-total</i>		172	134	225,75
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>827</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>255,35</b>

## Background

With a budget of nearly €80 billion over seven years, Horizon 2020 is the biggest ever EU research and innovation programme and envisages record funding for SMEs. At least 20%, or nearly €9 billion from Horizon 2020's 'leadership in industrial technologies' and 'societal challenge' pillars, is expected to benefit SMEs directly in the form of grants, including via the SME Instrument.

Through the SME Instrument, the European Union wants to finance the most innovative small companies with a high growth potential. The Instrument is worth around €3 billion over seven years and offers fast and simple grants for business innovation feasibility studies (Phase 1) and demonstration projects (Phase 2). Investment-mature concepts can, in addition, benefit from business development advice and other support services (Phase 3).

The application process is easy but only the very best projects can expect to receive funding. Eligible topics are set out in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme on 'Innovation in SMEs'. SMEs from EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 can apply. In 2014 and 2015 more than 1,300 projects will be supported under the SME Instrument.

## For more information

Lists of SME Instrument beneficiaries: [Phase 1](#), [Phase 2](#)

[SME Instrument](#)

Twitter accounts [@EU\\_H2020](#) and [@H2020SME](#)

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## Disclaimer

All numbers are for information purposes only and could be subject to change as the grant agreement negotiation phase for some of the project is on-going.