15 facts about Horizon 2020’s SME Instrument

As part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is selecting potentially disruptive businesses to invest in and support as part of the SME Instrument. SMEs with a strong growth potential and the ambition to become world-market leaders could receive up to €2.5 million in funding, and world-class business support and mentoring.

- An ambitious programme
  €3 billion and 7,500 SMEs funded until 2020

- Highly competitive
  Success rate 8% for Phase 1 and 6% for Phase 2

- Popular & targeted
  20k applications in 2 years and 88% of companies are new to EU funding

- Easy and fast
  10-30 page application and shortest time to information and grant under Horizon 2020

- Smart money
  Up to €2.5 million and business innovation coaching

- Fast-paced funding
  Over €500 million for more than 1,400 projects in 2 years

- Across the board
  Single SMEs or consortia, all sectors, all types

- Young, small & growing
  Almost half SMEs are micro-sized and almost a third are younger than 3 years

- Manufacturing
  The most common activity
  ICT the most trending topic

- Spain & Italy
  Most successful
  Ireland most efficient

- New customers & distribution channels
  11% backed by accelerators
  12% spin-offs from academia

- Recognised potential
  25% are in the venture radar of top 10% growing companies & 5 are in the Deloitte Fast Growing enterprises

- Better access to private investment
  3x more private investments, €692m private equity, faster access to markets

- Promising projections
  For Phase 1, 400% growth in turnover and 100% in employment expected

ec.europa.eu/easme/  @H2020SME

© European Union 2008 – 2016
As part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is selecting potentially disruptive businesses to invest in and support as part of the SME Instrument. SMEs with a strong growth potential and the ambition to become world-market leaders could receive up to €2.5 million in funding, and world-class business support and mentoring.

15 facts about Horizon 2020’s SME Instrument

- An ambitious programme: €3 billion and 7,500 SMEs funded until 2020
- Highly competitive: success rate 8% for Phase 1 and 6% for Phase 2
- Popular & targeted: 20k applications in 2 years and 88% of companies are new to EU funding
- Easy and fast: 10-30 page application and shortest time to information and grant under Horizon 2020
- Smart money: up to €2.5 million and business innovation coaching
- Fast-paced funding: €500 million for more than 1,400 projects in 2 years
- Across the board: single SMEs or consortia, all sectors, all types
- Young, small & growing: almost half SMEs are micro-sized and almost a third are younger than 3 years
- Recognised potential: 25% are in the venture radar of top 10% growing companies & 5 are in the Deloitte fast growing enterprises
- Manufacturing: the most common activity
- ICT: the most trending topic
- Spain & Italy: most successful
- Ireland: most efficient
- New customers & distribution channels: are a first priority for 44% of SMEs
- Better access to private investment: 3x more private investments, €692m private equity, faster access to markets
- Promising projections: for Phase 1, 400% growth in turnover and 100% in employment expected
- 11% backed by accelerators
- 12% spin-offs from academia
- Young, small & growing: almost half SMEs are micro-sized and almost a third are younger than 3 years