

# Horizon 2020

## The SME Instrument

The SME instrument consists of three separate phases and a coaching and mentoring service for beneficiaries. Participants can apply to Phase 1 with a view to applying to Phase 2 at a later date, or directly to Phase 2.

### Phase 1

#### Concept and feasibility assessment

A feasibility study shall be developed verifying the technological, practical and economic viability of an innovation idea or concept with novelty appeal to the industry sector in which it is presented. This can include new products, processes, design, services and technologies or new market applications of existing technologies.

#### Activities:

- Feasibility of concept
- Risk assessment
- IP regime
- Partner search
- Design study
- Pilot application

The proposal should give the specifications of the elaborated business plan, which is to be the outcome of the project and the criteria for success.

#### How much funding is available?

Funding will be provided as a lump sum of €50,000. Projects should last around six months.

### Phase 2

#### R&D, demonstration, market replication

Innovation projects will be supported that address the specific challenges identified that demonstrate high potential in terms of company competitiveness and growth underpinned by a strategic business plan.

#### Activities:

Proposals shall be based on an elaborated business plan either developed through phase 1 or another means. Particular attention must be paid to Intellectual Property protection and ownership; applicants will have to present convincing measures to ensure the possibility of commercial exploitation. Proposals shall contain a specification for the outcome of the project, including a first commercialisation plan, and criteria for success.

#### How much funding is available?

Proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between €0.5 and €2.5 million would allow Phase 2 to be addressed appropriately. Projects should last between 12 and 24 months.

### Phase 3

#### Commercialisation

#### Activities:

- Promote funding instrument as a quality label for successful projects
- Facilitate access to private finance
- Support via networking, training, information, addressing, IP management, knowledge sharing, dissemination
- SME window in the EU financial facilities (debt facility and equity facility)
- Possible connection to Procurement

#### How much funding is available?

SMEs can benefit from indirect support measures and services as well as access to the financial facilities supported under Access to Risk Finance of this work programme.

### What support can we get in making a bid?

We can assist with the project bid writing process, using our experience and expertise to dramatically improve your chances of making a successful project bid. We also have a range of services to support you, from innovation services to expert project management.

### To find out more...

If you'd like to know more, please contact  
Reuben Ash on **07974 750115**

