



## Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 15

### General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

#### Country

Germany

#### Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

#### Title of the measure

Direct research grants within thematic programmes

#### Information Source/Reference

[www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)

#### Overview (nature, main goals)

This quantitatively largest R&D promotion programme of the Federal Government provides direct grants for R&D projects in fields of technology with considerable public interest and technical-economic risk. Funding is provided for research projects on the basis of calls, tenders and competition. Special attention is paid to collaborative research between science and industry ("Verbundforschung"). There are about 250 thematic programmes. There are special instruments such as "Lead Projects" (DE\_25), centres of competence (see DE\_36), start-up initiatives in biotechnology (DE\_23, DE\_52) and the InnoRegio programme (DE\_16). The main features of thematic programmes for direct research promotion are summarized in separate templates on thematic fields of direct research grants: - Research in Nature, Climate, Environment and Energy (DE\_67) - Research in Nanotechnologies (DE\_68) - Research in Information and Communication Technologies (DE\_69) - Research in Life Sciences and Design of Work (DE\_70) - Research in Transportation, Space & Astronautics, Construction (DE\_71)

#### Action Plan objective addressed by measure

I.6 Promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation  
 II.5. Financing  
 III.1. Strategic Vision of R&D  
 III.2. Strengthening Company Research  
 III.4. Co-operation Research/Universities/Companies

#### Administering agency

##### Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology - BMWI

Scharnhorststr. 34-37, Germany  
 Phone: +49 30/2014-7648, 7649  
 Fax: +49 30/2014-7033  
 Web Site: [www.bmwi.de](http://www.bmwi.de)

##### Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF

Heinemannstr. 2, Germany  
 Phone: +49-228-57-0  
 Fax: +49-228-57-3601  
 Web Site: [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)

#### Name of the manager(s) responsible for the implementation of this measure with address, fax, phone

##### Milos Komac

Ministry of Science and Technology  
 Trg Osvobodilne fronte 13, Slovenia  
 Phone: +386/61 1784 649  
 Fax: +386/ 61 1784 719  
 e-mail: [info@mzt.si](mailto:info@mzt.si)

##### Bandel

Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology - BMWI  
 Scharnhorststr. 34-37, Germany  
 Phone: +49-1888-615-3170

##### Flath

Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology - BMWI  
 Scharnhorststr. 34-37, Germany  
 Phone: +49-1888-3164

##### Lorenzen

Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology - BMWI

[Search](#)

[Publications](#)

[Who is Who](#)

[News](#)

[Links](#)

[Search](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

Scharnhorststr. 34-37, Germany  
Phone: +49-1888-615-6010

[Christian D. Uhlhorn](#)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF

Heinemannstr. 2, Germany

Phone: 49/228-57-3238/3382

e-mail: [christian.uhlhorn@bmbf.bund.de](mailto:christian.uhlhorn@bmbf.bund.de)

[Hermann Schunck](#)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF

Heinemannstr. 2, Germany

Phone: 49/228-57-3287/3294

e-mail: [hermann.schunck@bmbf.bund.de](mailto:hermann.schunck@bmbf.bund.de)

[Knut Bauer](#)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF

Heinemannstr. 2, Germany

Phone: 49/228-57-3631/3634

e-mail: [knut.bauer@bmbf.bund.de](mailto:knut.bauer@bmbf.bund.de)

[Ludwig Baumgarten](#)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF

Heinemannstr. 2, Germany

Phone: 49/228-57-3329/3326

e-mail: [ludwig.baumgarten@bmbf.bund.de](mailto:ludwig.baumgarten@bmbf.bund.de)

## Description of Scheme

### General Information

#### Reference to legal basis (e.g. act, public document, ...)

There are several directives on the various thematic programmes, issued by the BMBF and BMWi, respectively. There are several new directives each year. For more details see templates on thematic fields (DE\_67 to DE\_71).

#### Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

#### Start date

1957

#### Expected date of completion

indefinite

#### Previous measure (name, date, links with the current measure)

no

#### Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

Due to uncertainty of R&D results, low appropriability of R&D results (i.e. large spill-over, indivisibility of R&D and thus large fix costs for R&D projects and many reasons more private R&D investment is below the socially aimed level. In order to focus private and public R&D activities on those thematic fields which seem to be of special relevance to the German economy, and the future economic and societal development, public R&D funds are restricted to certain thematic fields, which change by time.

#### Have any of the main features of the measure/scheme/action/regulation changed during its implementation

The thematic programmes increasingly support joint research between industry and science, and increasing attention is paid to commercialisation of R&D results. In recent years, the establishment of centres of competence is a new way of clustering initiatives. A new opportunity for SMEs lies in the field of combined technology which is, in a similar fashion, to receive a larger subsidy investment. New calls for tender in the various thematic fields are listed in the respective templates (DE\_67 to DE\_71).

#### What is the predominant role of the government?

Funding source, strategic view on R&D

### Target Group

#### Who are the target groups of the measure?

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies

Research Institutes

Researchers

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Universities

Individuals

### Organisation and Implementation

#### Organisation and Structure

Thematic programmes for funding of R&D projects are organised as follows: There are currently five large thematic areas, each consisting of sub-programmes (see DE\_67 to DE\_71). To each sub-programme there are calls for tender. Enterprises, science

institutions or consortia may submit proposals which are evaluated on a peer-review basis. Funding is provided for the proposed projects. In general, up to 50 % of total costs of companies and up to 100 % of total costs of public research institutions are covered by public funding. There are the following thematic fields:- Research concerning the nature of the climate, the environment and energy - New technologies- Information and communication technologies - Life sciences and design of work - Transportation, astronautics, and construction For each sub-programme, there is a separate administering agency ("Projekträger") which is responsible for all organisational tasks and communicates with applicants. Administering agencies are listed in the templates on each thematic field (DE\_67 to DE\_71). Application processes have been simplified and shortened (Project 'EASY' by the BMBF).

#### **What are the criteria for eligibility?**

For receiving public support, R&D projects should contribute to new problemsolving and further develop state-of-the-art in technology.

#### **What is the mode of delivery of the measure?**

direct grants-in-aid for R&D projects

#### **Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure**

not available

#### **Financing : expenditure per year**

The annual expenditures on "direct subsidies for R&D projects" both for enterprises and public research (including universities) for R&D activities (excluding R&D for military research) by the BMBF and the BMWI were: 1999: 1.927 bill. Euro (BMBF: 1.589 bill. Euro, BMWI: 339 bill. Euro) 2000: 1.938 bill. Euro (BMBF: 1.627 bill. Euro, BMWI: 311 bill. Euro). About a third of direct public funding of R&D projects goes to enterprises. There is further direct R&D project funding especially by the Federal Ministry of Defense (1999: 1.200 billion Euro, 2000: 1,145 billion Euro) and other federal ministries (1999: 300 million Euro, 2000: 29 million Euro).

#### **Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)**

Most Länder also provide direct financial support for R&D. For the New Länder, there are special programmes (DE\_19). Also some other programmes include promotion of R&D (such as ProInno - DE\_28) or the ERP-Innovation Programme (DE\_10). For public research institutions there are several other funding sources such as the DFG or a special programme for polytechnic colleges (DE\_42).

### **Results**

#### **Result Measurement**

##### **What are the main indicators for the measurement of the results ?**

increase in private R&D activities, market success of new products and technologies

##### **Where an evaluation has taken place, what were the main results achieved?**

There are several evaluations concerning certain thematic programmes, see Research Report 2000 - Facts and Data, BMBF. There will be a larger, quantitative and economic evaluation starting in 2001.

##### **If no official evaluation has been undertaken, have there been any indicators of success?**

not available yet

### **Observations**

##### **Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?**

Joint R&D projects involving both enterprises and public research institutions, "lead projects" (see DE\_25), centres of competence (DE\_36) are reported to function well.

##### **Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?**

not available yet

##### **Are there any other measures planned or in operation as a follow up to this measure? Direction of the planned measures? Objectives? Target groups?**

no

