



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 17

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

IGF - Promotion of the Joint Industrial Research

Information Source/Reference

www.aif.de

Overview (nature, main goals)

The IGF ("Industrielle Gemeinschafts-Forschung") programme offers direct grants for R projects which are carried out jointly by companies operating in the same sector or field technology. Joint R&D projects have to be carried out within a membership organisation the AiF (Association of Industrial Research Organisations). The programme aims at reducing structural disadvantages of SMEs in the field of R&D by bundling resources.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

I.6 Promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation

II.5. Financing

III.2. Strengthening Company Research

III.4. Co-operation Research/Universities/Companies

III.5. Absorption of Technologies by SMEs

Administering agency

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

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Description of Scheme

General Information

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

Directive on the Programme "Industrielle Gemeinschaftsforschung" by the BMWi

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

1954

Expected date of completion

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indefinite

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

no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

Strengthening R&D activities especially by SMEs. fostering technology spill-overs between firms in a certain field of technology, increasing innovation activities in technology clusters

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

Budget increased by 10 % in 1999, but was reduced in 2000. In 2000, an initiative programme "Future Technologies for SMEs - ZUTECH" started (see DE_54)

What is the predominant role of the government?

Funding Source

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

R&D directed to introduce new products and services is supported by this measure. The R&D projects may cover the full depth and length of scientific-technological questions interesting for companies. Items of subsidy: - all costs of R&D projects. Firms and research institutions may deliver their project ideas to a membership organisation of the AiF (so-called "Institutes for joint Research - IfG") which operates in their sector or field of technology. These IfG forward project applications to the AiF which is the programme managing organisation. The AiF evaluates proposals and decides on promotion. R&D projects may be carried out by the IfG themselves or by third parties (public or private research organisations)

What are the criteria for eligibility?

R&D which is directed towards the introduction of new products and/or services but is located in a pre-competitive stage. R&D projects must be applied by a membership organisation of the AiF. The transfer of R&D results to firms and thus to the market must be ensured.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

direct R&D grants to membership organisations of the AiF

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

not available, in the period 1990-2000, a total of 952 mill. Euro of subsidies were spent.

Financing : expenditure per year

ca. 95 mill. Euro in 1999, ca. 87 mill. Euro in 2000.

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

For joint R&D projects in interdisciplinary fields or comprising several fields of technology there is a special programme managed by the AiF, called "ZUTECH" (see DE_54). R&D subsidies are also provided by several other programmes (see DE_15, DE_10, DE_19, DE_28, DE_41).

Results

Result Measurement

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

transfer of R&D results into new products and/or new services

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

Report: several reports by companies and the authority of AiF.

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

In 1999, the Institutes for Joint Research (IfG) spent about 400 mill. Euro for R&D projects, which is 1.0 per cent of the total R&D expenditures by the German enterprise sector. About one third of the R&D expenditures by IfG are external expenditures.

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

The AiF-network is a major stimulator for R&D activities at SMEs and for encouraging R&D co-operation between SMEs and public research.

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?

There is a new initiative within the AiF R&D promotion activities called ZUTECH (see DE_54)

