



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 20

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

FUTOUR 2000 - Promotion for technology-oriented start-ups in East Germany

Information Source/Reference

www.vdivde-it.de www.fz-juelich.de www.futour.de

Overview (nature, main goals)

FUTOUR offers state-subsidies, venture capital, and consulting services for (a) persons who plan to create a new, technology-oriented firm and (b) for already existing young technology-oriented firms in Eastern Germany in order to strengthen their innovation efforts. Support is only given to firms which are especially innovative and carrying out R&D. Promotion is provided for a conceptual stage and an R&D stage.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

II.5. Financing
III.2. Strengthening Company Research
III.3. Start-up of technology-based companies

Administering agency

Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology - BMWI

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Description of Scheme General Information

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

Directive on the Programme, issued by the BMWI on March 29, 2000. Directive on the Programme, issued by the BMWI on June 20, 2001

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

2000

Expected date of completion

2005

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

FUTOUR, started in 1997 and ended in 1999. The programme FUTOUR 2000 is a direct continuation of the initial programme, changes are described in I.a.7. Before 1997 there was a programme called TOU-NBL (technology-oriented firm foundation in the New Länder), that started in 1990 and ended in 1996 with a similar focus to this programme.

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

For building up a competitive economy in the New Länder, technology-oriented firms play a crucial role. In order to increase the number of such firms, technology-oriented start-ups are promoted.

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

In comparison to the previous programme FUTOUR, FUTOUR 2000 focuses stronger on very young firms (not older than 1 year). The maximum volume of subsidies for R&D projects was slightly reduced. Subsidies for the conceptual stage were eliminated and substituted by free-of-charge consulting offered by the programme management.

What is the predominant role of the government?

Funding Source

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Individuals

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

The programme is managed by the VDI/VDE technology centre and the Research Centre Jülich (in the case of projects in biology, biotechnology, medicine, environment, energy, material research and chemistry). Venture Capital is provided by the tbG (see also DE_1 and DE_12). Items of subsidy: - Conceptual Stage: free of charge consulting given by the programme management - R&D stage: financing of R&D projects up to 90 per cent of total costs and up to a maximum amount of 306.775 Euro (in the case of direct subsidies) and 690.244 Euro if direct subsidies are combined with venture capital investment by tbG. Application direct to the administering agencies.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

Individuals and young technology-oriented must be located in Eastern Germany, firms must be younger than 1 year, start-ups and young firms must be engaged in innovative R&D projects

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

free-of-charge consulting, direct R&D subsidies, venture capital for start-ups

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

ca. 150 mill. Euro from 2000 to 2005

Financing : expenditure per year

1998: 22.37 mill. Euro, 1999: 29.11 mill. Euro

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

venture capital financing is also provided in the measures DE_11, DE_12, DE_13, R&D grants are available in many programmes such as DE_10, DE_15, DE_19, DE_28, DE_16, DE_57.

Results

Result Measurement

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

Number of high-tech start-ups, innovation success of these start-ups, jobs created by these start-ups

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

The predecessor programmes TOU-NL and FUTOUR were evaluated in 1997 and 1998 (see Pleschak and Henning: Junge Technologieunternehmen in den neuen Bundesländern - Chancen und Risiken der im Modellversuch TOU-NBL geförderten Unternehmen. Stuttgart: Fraunhofer IRB Verlag, 1999, 60 S., DM 29,- (ISI-B-20-99) and Pleschak, F.; Nellen, O.; Stummer, F.: Förderung technologieorientierter Unternehmensgründungen (FUTOUR) in den neuen Bundesländern. Bonn: tbg der Deutschen Ausgleichsbank 1998. Currently an ex-post evaluation of FUTOUR is carried out.

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

see II.a.2

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

FUTOUR is regarded as effective and efficient, and had a significant effect upon the number of technology-start-ups in the New Länder.

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?

In 2000, FUTOUR was extended for another six years.

