



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 23

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

BioChance

Information Source/Reference

www.fz-juelich.de/ptj/foe/beobiotechnologie_fr.html

Overview (nature, main goals)

Within the thematic programme Biotechnology 2000 (part of DE_15), this sub-programm provides support for projects in applied research with high uncertainty carried out by you biotechnology firms. Co-operative R&D projects involving universities and research institutions are favoured. The programme aims to strengthen research in biotechnology and to promote the application of new results in biotechnology research.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

II.5. Financing

III.1. Strategic Vision of R&D

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

Administering agency

Projekträger Biologie, Energie, Umwelt des BMBF (BEO)

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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 BioChance programme, issued by the BMBF at June 23rd, 1999.

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

1999

Expected date of completion

2002

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

The Bio-Regio competition (DE_52) and other research promotion initiatives in biotechnology (BioMethoden, MioMaterie, BioSysteme, BioProduktion, BioFuture) carried out within the thematic research programme Biotechnology (a sub-programme of DE_15)

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

Biotechnology is seen as one of the major key technologies for the next decades. In order to compete in the international technology race, special efforts in basic research and in the diffusion of biotechnology methods are regarded as necessary. In the realms of comprehensive German innovation strategies, the economic prospects of biotechnology and genetic engineering are to be used more intensively for social and ecological solution approaches.

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

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during its implementation

Both in 1999 and in 2000, financing for project methods for research of biotechnology a genetic engineering increased by more than 10 %.

What is the predominant role of the government?

Funding source

Target Group**Who are the target groups of the measure?**

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Organisation and Implementation**Organisation and Structure**

The BMBF Programme "BioChance" which continues promotion activities is part of the initiative Biotechnology 2000. BioChance is initiated to support young firms in biotechnology in their activities to transfer new knowledge into new products, processes and services. An independent committee of experts put together by the BMBF will judge the applications received. The sponsorship of young firms' research activities carrying high economic risks shall contribute to a sustainable development of the German biotechnological industry and to the creation of additional high-qualified jobs. Subsidies are provided for R&D projects: Industrial research plans and pre-competitive development plans, which are categorised as modern biotechnologies and which can contribute substantially to the establishment of young firms on the market. Applications have to be sent to the administering agency and are evaluated by the expert group on a quarterly base.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

Promotion is provided for R&D projects at pre-competitive stages, which are located in the area of modern biotechnology and contribute to the market establishment of young biotechnology firms. Applied R&D projects and collaborative R&D projects with universities or public research organisations are preferred.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

Direct grants, up to 50 % of total project costs. For participating universities and public labs, up to 100 % of their costs may be covered.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

For BioChance, a total of 50 mill. Euro of public funds will be available.

Financing : expenditure per year

In the first two rounds of application, 26 projects were selected and will be supported with a total of ca. 24 mill. Euro. Annual expenditures will be on average about 10 mill. Euro in the BioChance programme.

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

R&D subsidies are provided via several public programmes, but there is no other programme focussing of biotechnology on the Federal level.

Results**Result Measurement****What are the main indicators for the measurement of the results ?**

Growth in the number of biotechnology firms, growth in the world market share of young German biotechnology firms.

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

There is an ongoing evaluation, but no results are published so far.

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

So far (October 2001), a total of 43 R&D projects in young biotech enterprises have received public funding, summing up to 45 million €. Most projects concern the "read biotechnology", i.e. the development of pharmaceuticals. This Programme contributes to sustainable development of the biotechnology industry in Germany and, as a result, to the creation and protection of high-qualified jobs. The number of biotechnology jobs has increased significantly. In 2000, out of 1,350 biotechnology firms in Europe, 279 were located in Germany. Compared to 1999, this is an increase by 25 per cent.

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

not available yet

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?

not available yet

