



## Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 25

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

#### Country

Germany

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

(National)

#### Title of the measure

Lead Projects

#### Information Source/Reference

[www.bmbf.de/foerde01/forschung](http://www.bmbf.de/foerde01/forschung)

#### Overview (nature, main goals)

Lead Projects are a special instrument within the thematic programmes for direct R&D grants (DE\_15). They support R&D and innovation in fields of technology which are regarded as strategically important for the German economy. Support is given for consortia consisting of firms and public research institutions. Lead Projects should pool competences in R&D as basis for marketable products, processes and services. Until the end of 2000, seven competitions have been launched.

#### Action Plan objective addressed by measure

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

III.1. Strategic Vision of R&D

III.2. Strengthening Company Research

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

#### Administering agency

[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)

[Burckhardt](#)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF

Heinemannstr. 2, Germany

Phone: +49-228-57-5363

Fax: +49-228-57-3601

### Description of Scheme

#### General Information

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

Zuordnungsrecht, BHO

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

Central

#### Start date

1997

#### Expected date of completion

2003

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

The seven chosen lead projects concentrate on research work to develop new forms of interaction between human beings and technology. Future handling and steering of IT-during the developing process new ideas and solutions are expected to lead to innovative products and services. The projects distinguish through high level of creativity, excellen

[Search](#)

[Publications](#)

[Who is Who](#)

[News](#)

[Links](#)

[Search](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

scientific quality and applied practical orientation.

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

strengthening a strategic view on R&D, clustering resources in technology fields of high importance for the future of the German innovation system.

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

no

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

Funding source, regulator

### Target Group

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

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Universities

### Organisation and Implementation

#### Organisation and Structure

The purpose of Lead Projects is to help tackle and achieve forward-looking strategic innovation goals more effectively. It is imperative right from the beginning to direct the research process towards the innovation goal and to create a network of researchers, developers and users. The participants set their own tasks in the framework of well-defined subject areas. In a two-stage process, independent expert jurors identify the best ideas and the most promising solutions. Eligible for participation in this contest are consortia of industrial enterprises, scientific institutions and public sector institutions which can submit a verifiable and feasible concept for co-operation and the commercialisation of innovative ideas. Participants are expected to contribute substantial resources of their own. Subject areas of lead projects: 1) innovative products based on new technologies including the associated production process 2) utilisation of the knowledge available worldwide for initial and continuing training as well as for innovation processes 3) diagnosis and treatment using molecular medicine 4) man-technology interaction in the knowledge-based society 5) energy generation and storage for decentralised and mobile use 6) nutrition – modern food production process. 7) mobility in urban areas. The selection of lead projects is based on a competition process: Concepts for lead projects are sent to a jury. The concepts are evaluated with respect to their scientific and technological potential. The jury selects winning concepts which form the backbone of a lead project. For each lead project, firms and universities/research organisations can send in applications for project funding. Applications are sent to a Project Management (one for each Leitprojekt), the selection of a project to be funded is based on a peer-review process.

#### What are the criteria for eligibility?

Quality of proposals, peer review system. Firms have to cover at least 50 per cent of their costs.

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

direct grants

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

The programme is being financed from different titles of the thematic programmes (DE\_15). For each Lead project (currently there are 7), an amount of approx. 80 mill. Euro for a period of approx. 6 years will be available.

#### Financing : expenditure per year

about 10 to 15 mill. Euro per lead project, i.e. 70 to 90 mill. Euro in total

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

Direct research subsidies by the BMBF within several research programmes (see DE\_1

### Results

#### Result Measurement

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

Depending on the lead project and the thematic programme to which a lead project belongs to.

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

no evaluation yet

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

High degree of acceptance: about 1,000 ideas for lead projects have been submitted.

### 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?**  
there will be new competitions for lead project ideas in 2001

