



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 26

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

InnoNet

Information Source/Reference

www.vdivde-it.de/innonet

Overview (nature, main goals)

InnoNet attempts to improve R&D networks between SMEs and research institutions. InnoNet applies new ways of promotion (competition approach, support for collaborative research between SMEs and science, network building, subsidies provided only for research organisations). Networks must consist of at least two research institutions and four SMEs. Public funding is provided for research institutions only.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

III.2. Strengthening Company Research
III.4. Co-operation Research/Universities/Companies
III.5. Absorption of Technologies by SMEs

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

VDI/VDE-Technologiezentrum Informationstechnik GmbH

Rheinstraße 10 B, Germany

Phone: +49-3328-435-0

Fax: +49-3328-435-141

Web Site: www.vdivde-it.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

Gross

VDI/VDE-Technologiezentrum Informationstechnik GmbH

Rheinstraße 10 B, Germany

Phone: + 0 33 28 435 220

Fax: + 0 33 28 435 289

e-mail: info@gruenderwettbewerb.de

[Reinhardt Bachelier](#)

Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology - BMWI

Scharnhorststr. 34-37, Germany

Phone: +49 228 615 2881

Fax: +49 228 615 3176

e-mail: bachelier@bmwi.bund.de

Description of Scheme

General Information

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

Bundeshaushaltsplan in connection with a directive on the programme, issued at December 1st, 1997 Bundesanzeiger Nr. 167, September 7, 1999.

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

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Central

Start date

1999

Expected date of completion

2003

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

no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

SMEs lack in the use of research results in their innovation activities. Partially, this is caused by information asymmetries and a lack in financial resources in order to give R&D contracts to universities and public research organisations (due to a high uncertainty in the outcome of R&D efforts).

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

From 2001 on, SME's minimum contribution to the R&D costs at research institutions increased from 10 to 20 % (announcement of new directive, July 22nd, 2000). Furthermore, the demanded quality of projects was increased and support is now strictly restricted to industrial R&D projects following the respective EU definitions.

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

Universities

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

In the InnoNet programme, R&D projects jointly carried out by SMEs and public research institutions (incl. universities) are funded. Subsidies are provided only for public research institutions and up to 80 per cent of their costs. The remaining share must be paid by the SMEs as well as all their own costs. InnoNet is organised as a competition: Networks present their project ideas. These proposals are evaluated in a two step approach: First, the administrating agency makes a scoring, then a jury makes a peer review. The winning networks will then write a more detailed application.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

At least four small or medium-sized enterprises with at least two research establishments (i.e. universities incl. technical colleges, non-university research establishments, Federal Institutes, as well as external non-profit-making organisations of industrial research in the new Länder) have to participate.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

Direct grants, SMEs have to cover at least 20 % of the project costs of the co-operating research organisations. They must contribute to the overall R&D effort by 20 per cent of own R&D activities.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

The InnoNet programme volume for the years 1999 until 2004 is 46 mill. Euro.

Financing : expenditure per year

For the period 2000 to 2004, an average amount of about 9 mill. Euro is expected to provide joint R&D projects.

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

no

Results

Result Measurement

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

There are no indicators mentioned in the programme.

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

No evaluation so far

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

The programme is well known among the target group. In the first round (1999), 287 project ideas have been submitted, 18 have been selected for public support and 17 have been realised. In the second round (2000), 57 proposals have been submitted and again 18 have been selected for support.

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

participation of East German SMEs, broad spectrum of technologies addressed in the projects, most projects are multidisciplinary

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

