



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 51

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

LERNET: Network-based learning in SMEs

Information Source/Reference

www.lernet-info.de

Overview (nature, main goals)

The LERNET competition aims to test innovative forms of software-based learning tools SMEs and public administrations and to create innovative solutions for a network-based education system. The measure should contribute to the diffusion of new forms of vocational training. Support is given to SMEs that develop innovative training services a training software. for other SMEs and for public administration. Within a competition, the best practice examples are selected for public funding.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

I.1. Education & Training

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

III.5. Absorption of Technologies by SMEs

Administering agency

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Description of Scheme

General Information

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

Announcement of the Competition by the BMWi.

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

2000

Expected date of completion

2002

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

no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

The competition is part of the action programme "Innovation and Jobs for the information society of the 21st century" by the Federal Government and contributes to the objective of the action programme "Internet for All" of September 2000. In many SMEs, the qualification base for the information society is often missing, and there is a lack in information on appropriate learning and training tools. On the side of public administrations, there is also a demand for qualification in new information and communication technologies, including network-based learning tools. Network-based learning is expected to grow at a high rate, but especially among SMEs and public

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administration, there is a low propensity to use such new ways of vocational training. In order to stimulate demand and to create a large market for suppliers of innovative learning tools, the programme supports the development of target-group specific learning tools.

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

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Universities

Public Authorities/Organisations

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

The measure is organised as a competition of "best ideas". SMEs are invited to submit proposals for network based learning tools that focus on innovative system solutions and integrate informatics, cognitive sciences and new approaches in pedagogic. Project should furthermore focus on:- Synergies between information technology, education methods and organisational structures for developing enterprises and public administration,- support self-directed learning for qualified employees,- model solutions for certain sectors and types of public administrations,- user-friendliness of tools- applications for training clients and for long-distance training- quality assurance for multimedia learning tools. A jury evaluates the proposals and selects the most promising projects for public support. The projects should serve as best practice examples and should stimulate adoption and adaptation processes. Suppliers and users of network-based learning systems are expected to build a consortia and to formulate ideas on innovative learning systems which fulfil the criteria of interdisciplinarity, modularity, interactivity, mediativity, adaptivity, flexibility, economic efficiency and quality. Network-based learning systems should be embedded in the context of learning arrangements for firms in a specific sector. The competition consists of three stages: Stage I: Formulation and application Stage II: Assessment of project ideas and selection of 10 winning projects Stage III: Realisation of the winning projects with support (direct grants) by the BMWi. The LERNET programme is strongly linked with the programme "New Media in Education" (DE_44), and realisation of both programmes is co-ordinated.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

- scope of applicability, feasibility- special consideration of SMEs and public administrations as users- integration of learning tools in different operational activities- creativity and innovativity of the proposal- meeting of formal criteria of the competition and of the general programme objectives- consideration of international standards and security criteria- competence of applicant- amount of private funding

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

direct grants to winning projects

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

15 mill. Euro

Financing : expenditure per year

about 5 mill. Euro

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

A similar programme which focuses on universities as users of new network-based learning systems is the programme "New Media in Education" (see DE_44).

Results

Result Measurement

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

application of new learning tools by users (SMEs, public administrations)

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

there is an ongoing evaluation of the projects which receive public support

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

Until the end of September 2000, 145 proposals have been sent to the administering agency. The jury selected 10 winning projects. Realisation of the projects started in 2000. Most projects consist of consortia of enterprises and science institutions, and some also involve education institutions.

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

