



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 54

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

ZUTECH - Future technologies for SMEs

Information Source/Reference

www.aif.de/initia.htm

Overview (nature, main goals)

The programme aims at developing new solutions for structural renewal of the SME sector of the German economy on the base of high-grade technologies. Technological diversification shall take place either by up-grading of existing SMEs or by new firm formation. Within the programme, R&D projects carried out by Institutes of Industrial Collaborative Research which are members of the AiF-network (see DE_17). R&D projects deal with cross-sectoral solutions in the fields of new materials, nanotechnology, microelectronics, photonics, software, simulation, biotechnology and information technology are supported.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

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

II.5. Financing

III.1. Strategic Vision of R&D

III.2. Strengthening Company Research

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, ...)

Directive on the ZUTECH programme, issued by the BMWi in 2000.

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

2000

Expected date of completion

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2004

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

ZUTECH is part of the long-standing promotion programme for joint industrial research (DE_17)

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

SMEs often lack in resources for developing new technologies and make the R&D efforts necessary for achieving new technical and scientific findings for new innovative products, processes and services. The Joint Research Organisation for Industrial Firms (AiF) provides a network for carrying out R&D relevant for SMEs. The ZUTECH programme finances such R&D efforts within the AiF-Institutes for Collaborative Industrial Research (IfG). The R&D results shall later be transferred to SMEs and shall be used by them for developing and introducing new products, processes and services. Special emphasis is laid on the development of new production technologies.

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?

financing source

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

SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Research Institutes

Organisation and Implementation**Organisation and Structure**

Institutes for Collaborative Industrial Research (IfG) apply project proposals to the AiF, which is the programme management. The AiF evaluates the proposals. Decision on financial support is made by the BMWi. Besides R&D projects, demonstration and best practice excursions may also be supported within the programme. Proposals applied by more than one IfG will be supported with priority.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

R&D projects are evaluated along the following aspects:- technical and scientific quality
number of participating IfG- economic relevance- transferrability to SMEs- evaluation criteria- relation of costs to expected output, including transfer

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

direct grants

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

not available

Financing : expenditure per year

ca. 3.5 mill. Euro in 2000

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

Joint R&D projects by IfG may also be supported by the general promotion programme the AiF (DE_17). In 2000, a total of 87 mill. Euro has been available in this programme.

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

transferrability of R&D results, technical and scientific quality - no quantitative indicators mentioned in the programme

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

no evaluation took place yet, but there is an evaluation planned for 2003

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

not available yet, because the programme started in 2000

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

not available yet, because the programme started in 2000

Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?

not available yet, because the programme started in 2000

Are there any other measures planned or in operation as a follow up to this measure? Direction of the planned measures? Objectives? Target groups?

no

