



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 55

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

VERNET - security in electronic communication

Information Source/Reference

www.vernet-info.de

Overview (nature, main goals)

The programme aims at promoting technologies that ensure a safe data exchange between firms, administration and individuals; that protect private networks and data, that secure intellectual property and anonymous communication, that enable high-levels of security for shared software application, that guarantee authenticity of information and transactions, and that allow control. The programme is organised as a competition. Best practice projects are selected for public support. They shall serve as examples for information technology security and raise acceptance of new communication technology and e-commerce.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

I.4. Innovation & Management

II.4. Legal and Regulatory Environment

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 by the BMWi on the VERNET initiative, tender was announced on May 8th, 20

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

2000

Expected date of completion

2003

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

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no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

A main barrier to the diffusion and application of new information and communication technologies in business, public administration and the private household sector is the question of security. Lack in trust in new ICT reduces acceptance and hampers the introduction of innovations. The programme intends to create new solutions to the question of security and thus increases trust in new ICT and improves the competitive advantage Germany in the supply of security 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?

Promotor of new technological solutions, financing source

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Research Institutes

Universities

Public Authorities/Organisations

Individuals

Other

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

The programme will support different ways of solution to the security problem in order to test user-friendliness, applicability and reliability. Projects should cover all component of IT (system, contents, organisation) and the whole life-cycle of IT services. The project should address end-to-end security, security for private data, trust in digitale services, security of organisational structures and legal binding. The programme is organised as a competition consisting of three stages: i. application of general project proposals to the management (ended at 31. 10. 2000) ii. evaluation of proposals by a jury and selection of the best ideas (until 31. 1. 2001) iii. detailed project proposals by the winners, realisation of projects after positive final evaluation. Until the end of October 2000, 48 proposals have been submitted. A jury selected eight winning projects that will receive public financial support. Subsidies for firms are restricted to a maximum of 50 per cent of project costs. For other organisations, there is no upper limit of public financing. The VERNET programme is part of the initiative by the Federal Government "Action programme for innovation and jobs in the information society of the 21st century".

What are the criteria for eligibility?

Projects should contain co-operation between industry, research and users. Criteria for selecting winning proposals are, among others, - creativity and degree of innovation of project- scope (degree of applicability) and degree for realisation- benefits for users, market potential- considering international standards,- competence of applicants

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

direct grants

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

ca. 10 mill. Euro for a three year period of realisation of the winning projects

Financing : expenditure per year

ca. 3.5 mill. Euro

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

R&D projects in the field of information and communication technologies may also be supported within thematic R&D programmes (DE_15).

Results

Result Measurement

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

user-friendliness, applicability and reliability; no quantitative indicators mentioned in the programme

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

no evaluation so far, but there will be an ongoing evaluation

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

not available yet

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?

no

