



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

DE 8

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

Germany

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

INSTI - SME patent initiative

Information Source/Reference

www.insti.de www.patente.bmbf.de

Overview (nature, main goals)

The programme provides subsidies for SMEs in six areas in order to increase the use of intellectual property rights and stimulate inventions by SMEs: information search on the state of art in technology, cost-benefit-analyses of inventions, patent applications, preparation activities for commercialising an invention, using IPR abroad, technical permission of inventions.

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

II.2. Protection of IPR

II.5. Financing

III.5. Absorption of Technologies by SMEs

Administering agency

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 84-88, Germany

Phone: +49-221-4981-0

Fax: +49-221-4981-856

Web Site: www.iwkoeln.de

Name of the manager(s) responsible for the implementation of this measure with address, fax, phone

Klaus Förderer

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 84-88, Germany

Phone: + 2 21 376 55 40

Fax: + 2 21 3 76 55 56

e-mail: foerderer@iwkoeln.de

Angelika Lee

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 84-88, Germany

Phone: ++49-221-4981-840

Fax: ++49-221-4981-856

e-mail: lee@iwkoeln.de

Description of Scheme

General Information

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

Bundesanzeiger Nr. 181, April 26 1997

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

1996

Expected date of completion

indefinite

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

no

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

- Reduce barriers in SME with respect to the use of patents as information source and as instrument to protect property rights, and to improve the innovation capability of SME - Increase the number of qualified patent applications by SME- Improve the use of patent

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information by SME- Improve the conditions at SME for the commercialisation and utilization of patents Overall, the programme shall produce an innovation-friendly climate in Germany, promote a rapid and comprehensive commercialisation of R&D results into innovations, and should increase the awareness vis-a-vis IPR among SMEs.

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, stimulator

Target Group

Who are the target groups of the measure?

SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Organisation and Implementation

Organisation and Structure

Applications can be sent to one of 30 INSTI-partners within the INSTI-network (DE_24). Applications are evaluated and accepted by the INSTI-partners. The programme management, i.e. the INSTI-project management at the Institute for the German Economy is responsible for paying out subsidies to SMEs.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

SMEs with R&D activities which have not applied for a patent or a registered design within the last 5 years but intend to do so in the future.

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

Subsidies of a maximum of 50 % of total costs and a maximum of Euro 7,595 per applicant for services such as consulting, searches, patent application assistance and registration costs of the initial registration.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

not available

Financing : expenditure per year

In 1999: 1.27 mill. Euro; in 1998: 0.61 mill. Euro.

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

The programme "Inventors Promotion at the Patent Office for German Research" (DE_1) provides loans for inventors. Furthermore, several Länder also provide financial aid for SMEs in innovation projects, including sometimes costs for patent activities.

Results

Result Measurement

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

Number of applications, number of patent applications, intensity of the use of the sub-measures are indicators, there are not quantitative targets mentioned within the programme.

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

an on-going evaluation will start in 2001.

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

The programme is introduced to SMEs via a dense network of INSTI-partners, which generally have good access to the target group (chambers of commerce, technology transfer offices, private companies specialised on patent consulting, public authorities in the field of patenting). From 1996 to 2000, more than 2000 SMEs have participated in the programme, which is more than the project management expected. The monthly number of new applications is still at 40 and did not decrease since the start of the programme.

Observations

Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?

not available

Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?

not available

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



