

Research Funding for Companies

Funding schemes are related to the size of your company.

First determine your company's size.

Company category	Number of Employees	Turnover	OR	Balance sheet total
Large Enterprise	> 250	≥ € 50 m		≥ € 43 m
Medium Enterprise	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small Enterprise	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro Enterprise	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

More criteria and information about SME (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises):

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/>

In this overview you can find some different funding schemes to help you finance your research.

For more information on funding schemes, have a look at the websites of:

- IWT (Agentschap voor Innovatie door Wetenschap & Technologie)
<http://www.iwt.be>
- AO (Agentschap Ondernemen)
<http://www.agentschapondernemen.be>
- INNOVIRIS
http://www.innoviris.be/site/indexa382.html?page_id=25&lang=en

Flanders

AO (Agentschap Ondernemen)

1. KMO-Portefeuille

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel has been accepted as a knowledge centre in the “KMO-portefeuille” program. A company based in Flanders can apply for a *technology exploration*, with a 75% funding rate. This makes it possible for a company to test in a cheap and quick way if new technologies are fit for their application. *Literature studies of the state of the art* in a specific field or for a specific application are possible as well.

Technology exploration:

<http://www.agentschapondernemen.be/artikel/technologieverkenning>

How it works:

<http://www.agentschapondernemen.be/artikel/hoe-werk-ik-met-de-kmo-portefeuille>

IWT (Agentschap voor Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie):

1. Industrial R&D projects

This scheme has been created for large research projects.

Duration:	max 24 months
Funding size:	min 100 000 €, max 3 000 000 €
Funding percentage:	Basic rate is 25% for development activities and 50% for research activities + Increased with 20% for Small Enterprises and with 10% for Medium Enterprises + Increased with 10% for substantial cooperation between companies

ENG: <http://www.iwt.be/english/funding/subsidy/industrial-projects>

NL: <http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/oeno-bedrijfsproject>

2. SME feasibility study

This program is only for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, not for larger companies. It may be used for making an assessment study of an innovation. The result should allow the applicant to make an advised decision whether to start/continue this innovation.

Duration:	max 12 months
Budget:	Total project budget min 10 000 €, total funding max 250 000 €

Funding percentage: 50%

Information:

ENG: <http://www.iwt.be/english/funding/subsidy/sme-study>

NL: <http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/kmo-hbstudie>

3. SME innovation project

This program is only for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, not for larger companies (see “sprint projects” below). The aim of this program is the generation of new knowledge. It should be applied in a creative and intelligent way to create added value for the company.

Duration: max 24 months
Budget: Total project budget min 50 000 €, total funding max 250 000 €
Funding percentage: Basic rate is 25%
+ Increased with 10% for Medium Enterprises
+ Increased with 10% for substantial cooperation between companies

Information:

ENG: <http://www.iwt.be/english/funding/subsidy/sme-project>

NL: <http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/kmo-innovatie>

4. Sprint-projects:

This is the counterpart of the “SME-innovation project” for companies that are not a Small and Medium Sized Enterprises anymore. Typically the focus is on companies that are not enough innovation driven for a big “Industrial R&D project” but nevertheless want to develop an innovation.

Duration: max 24 months
Budget: Total project budget min 50 000 €, total funding max 250 000 €
Funding percentage: Basic rate is 25%
+ Increased with 10% for substantial cooperation between companies

Information:

<http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/sprint/view>

5. VIS-projects:

The main goal of this project type is the development of big strategically important changes for a broad consortium of companies/sector. The

funding rate is 80%. The consortium pays the remaining 20%. The contribution of each partner is related to the size of the company.

Information:

ENG: <http://www.iwt.be/english/funding/subsidy/vis-study>

NL: <http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/vis-hs>

6. Baekeland-mandates

This program foresees cofinancing of a researcher making his PhD in a strong collaboration between the university and a company, on a research topic of the company. This project expects an engagement of all parties for a period of 4 years.

Duration: 4 years

Funding percentage: Basic rate is 50%
+ Increased with 20% for Small Enterprises and with 10% for Medium Enterprises
+ Increased with 10% for substantial cooperation between companies

Information:

ENG: <http://www.iwt.be/english/funding/subsidy/BM>

NL: <http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/baekeland-mandaten>

7. Innovation mandates

This programme is similar to the “Baekeland-mandates” program. The difference is that this programme is created for a postdoctoral researcher. The purpose is to develop the technology and knowledge of the researcher to the application field of the company.

Duration: Phase 1: (optional) 12 months

Phase 2: 12 months

Funding percentage: Basic rate is 50%
+ Increased with 20% for Small Enterprises and with 10% for Medium Enterprises
+ Increased with 10% for substantial cooperation between companies

Information:

ENG: <http://www.iwt.be/english/funding/subsidy/im>

NL: <http://www.iwt.be/subsidies/innovatiemandaten>

BRUSSELS

INNOVIRIS

INNOVIRIS webpage:

http://www.innoviris.be/site/indexa382.html?page_id=25&lang=en

Eligibility criteria:

- develop all or some of the activities within the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region
- present an innovative project likely to have a favourable impact on employment and/or the sustainable development of the Brussels-Capital Region
- show the ability to finance your share in the project
- have fulfilled the obligations in the context of previous support initiatives granted by the Brussels-Capital Region

Information:

http://www.innoviris.be/site/index805b.html?page_id=237&lang=en

Basic Funding Rate related to the kind of project:

	Industrial Research	Experimental Development
Small and Micro Enterprise	70%*	45%*
Medium Enterprise	60%*	35%*
Large Enterprise	50%*	25%*

* Increase in 15% if cooperating with a Belgium or foreign company or research institution, with a maximum total rate of 80%.

1. Micro-projects

This program is only for micro enterprises. Micro-projects are research projects or development projects lasting from 3 to 15 months, with a monthly budget which does not exceed €20 K, namely a maximum of €300 K for a 15-month project.

2. Technical feasibility studies

The purpose of this project is to limit the risk of an experimental development or industrial research project, before you start them. The result of this feasibility study should give you information on whether to start the experimental development or industrial research project or not, because not feasible.

Who: SME (not for large enterprises)
Funding Rate: 50 – 70% of total costs
Maximum: 125 000 €
When: Open all year through

3. Industrial Research

Acquire new skills and scientific knowledge in prospect of the developed of a new product, process or service.

Who: SME and Large Enterprises
Funding Rate: 50 – 80% of total costs
When: Open all year through

4. Experimental Development

Further development of the results of the industrial research into products, processes or services prototypes.

Who: SME and Large Enterprises
Funding Rate: 50 – 80% of total costs
When: Open all year through

Disclaimer:

The data on this page is only an indication. Funding programs may change. Make sure you control the latest version.