





# European Innovation Council 2018-2020



European Innovation Council

# Comprehensive Scheme



European  
Commission

Executive Agency for  
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
RESEARCH AND SPORT  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

## ***SME INSTRUMENT: Feasibility study: Phase 1***

**Phase 1** helps you get a grip on the R&D, technical feasibility and commercial potential of a ground-breaking, innovative idea and develop it into a credible business plan for scaling it up.

Activities can include, for example, risk assessment, market research, user involvement, analysis of regulatory constraints or standards regimes, intellectual property management, partner search, or feasibility assessment.

Your goal in Phase 1 is to formulate a solid, high-potential innovation project with a European or global growth-oriented strategy

Your proposal must be based on an initial business plan and outline the specifications of a more elaborate one, which will be the outcome of the project.

***Phase 1 funding is a lump sum of €50 000<sup>[1]</sup>. Projects should last around 6 months***



## ***SME INSTRUMENT: From concept to market: Phase 2***

Activities could, for example, include trials, prototyping, validation, demonstration and testing in real-world conditions, and market replication. If the activity concerns a primarily technological innovation, [a Technology Readiness Level \(TRL\) of 6 or above is envisaged](#). You can subcontract work essential for your innovation project.

Your proposal must specify the expected outcome of the project and criteria for success, as well as the expected impacts on your company in both qualitative and quantitative terms (e.g. on turnover, employment, market size, IP management, sales, return on investment, or profitability).

You must pay particular attention to IP protection and ownership, and present convincing evidence or measures to ensure the possibility of commercial exploitation (often known as 'freedom to operate'). You should also address regulatory and standardisation issues.

Grant funding is provided (funding rate 70%) of between €0.5 million and €2.5 million. You can request a higher or lower amount, duly justified, when applying. Your project should normally take 12 to 24 months to complete, but could be longer in exceptional and well-justified cases.





# SOFT BLENDING

The EU grant element can be used in a strategic way to attract additional financing for important investments in EU partner countries by reducing exposure to risk. On a case-by-case basis, the EU grant contribution can take different forms to support investment projects:

- Investment grant & interest rate subsidy - reducing the initial investment and overall project cost for the partner country
- Technical assistance - ensuring the quality, efficiency and sustainability of the project
- Risk capital (i.e. equity & quasi-equity) - attracting additional financing
- Guarantees - unlocking financing for development by reducing risk

-[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/innovative-financial-instruments-blending\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/innovative-financial-instruments-blending_en)



SME Instrument

# Smart Money



Equity Free  
Funding



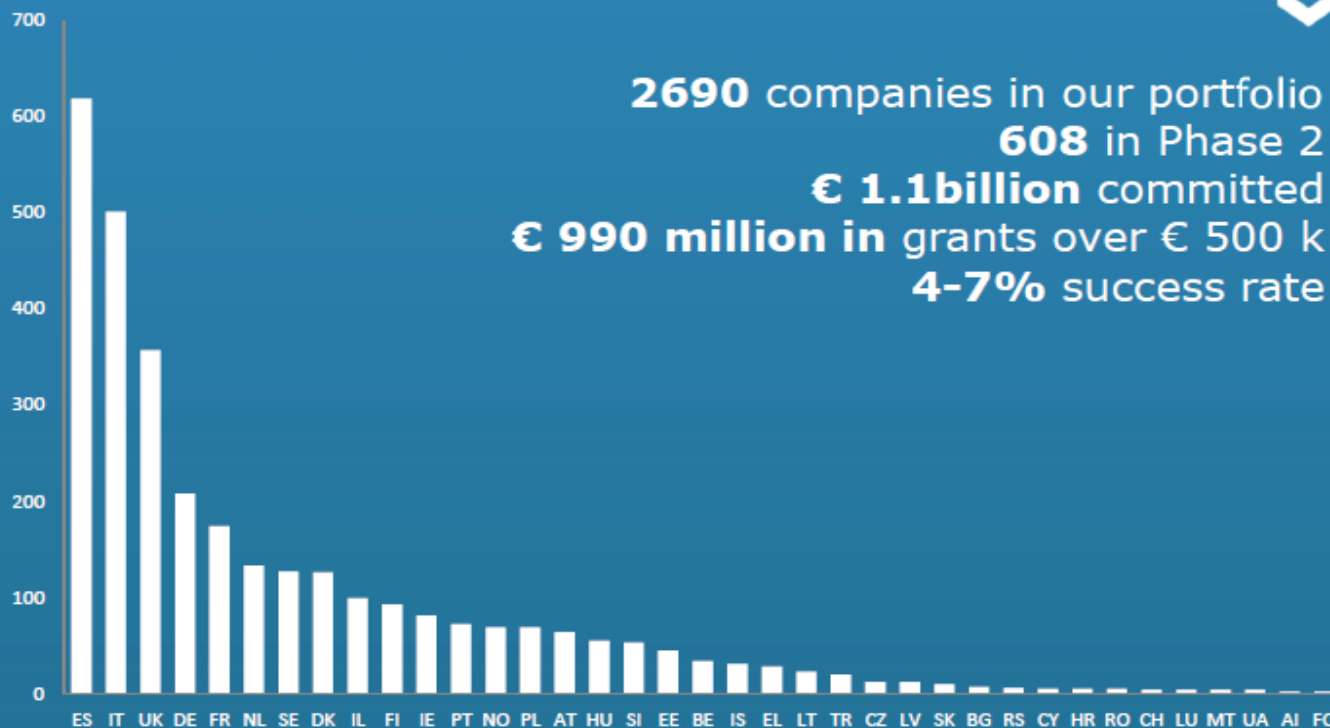
Business  
Coaching



Acceleration Services



# SME Instrument in numbers





# Private equity investments

€697 M

Invested in 119 SMEI companies

dealroom.co



European  
Commission

Executive Agency for  
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
RESEARCH AND SPORT  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



# SME Instrument: The new evaluation process

Submission of Proposals



Remote Evaluation



Ranking of Proposals



Interview



Grant Agreement



Research and Innovation



European  
Commission



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
RESEARCH AND SPORT  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

## Useful links:

Self-evaluation form:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call\\_ptef/ef/2016-2017/h2020-call-ef-sme-2016-17\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/ef/2016-2017/h2020-call-ef-sme-2016-17_en.pdf)

Project proposal – comments, recommendations

<http://www.access4smes.eu/publications/?cmd=files-management&sort=asc&order=name&type=5>

Support in Slovakia:

[http://h2020.cvtisr.sk/sk/veduce-postavenie-priemyslu/europska-inovacna-rada/vyzvy.html?page\\_id=1897](http://h2020.cvtisr.sk/sk/veduce-postavenie-priemyslu/europska-inovacna-rada/vyzvy.html?page_id=1897)





# Thanks

JUDr. Viera Petrášová  
National contact point

