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facts about Horizon 2020's SME Instrument

As part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission is selecting potentially disruptive businesses to invest in and support as part of the SME Instrument. SMEs with a strong growth potential and the ambition to become world-market leaders could receive up to €2.5 million in funding, and world-class business support and mentoring.

An ambitious programme

€ 3 billion and
7500 SMEs funded
until 2020

Highly competitive

success rate 8%
for Phase 1 and
6% for Phase 2

Popular & targeted

20k applications in
2 years and 88% of
companies are new
to EU funding

Easy and fast

10-30 page application
and shortest time to
information and grant
under Horizon
2020

Smart money

up to € 2.5 million
and business innovation
coaching

Fast-paced funding

over € 500 million for
more than 1400 projects
in 2 years

Across the board

single SMEs or consortia,
all sectors,
all types

Young, small & growing

almost half SMEs are
micro-sized and almost
a third are younger
than 3 years

Manufacturing

the most common activity

ICT

the most trending
topic

Spain & Italy

most succesful

Ireland

most efficient

New customers & distribution channels

are a first priority for
44% of SMEs

Recognised potential

25% are in the venture
radar of top 10% growing
companies & 5 are in the
Deloitte fast growing
enterprises



11%

backed by accelerators

12% spin-offs

from academia

Better access to private investment

3x more private invest-
ments; € 692 m private
equity; faster access to
markets

Promising projections

for Phase 1, 400% growth
in turnover and 100% in
employment
expected.



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