

EU Funding Opportunities

The EDA aims to raise awareness, transfer know-how and build capacity across the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base on how to access EU funding opportunities, with particular focus on European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), the new EU COSME (Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs) Programme and Horizon 2020.

	European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)			COSME		Horizon 2020		
	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) ¹	European Territorial Cooperation goal (ETC ² : CBC / Interreg)	European Social Fund (ESF ³)	Financial instruments ⁴	Access to markets (EEN ⁵)	Thematic areas	SME instrument ⁶	Financial instruments
Overall Goal	JOB CREATION and COMPETITIVENESS	Cross-border / Transnational COOPERATION	HUMAN CAPITAL training and skilling	FINANCING SMEs	SME/Clusters ACCESS to MARKETS	Cross-border RESEARCH and INNOVATION (R&I)	RESEARCH and INNOVATION in SMEs	Access to RISK FINANCE for R&I
WHO (can apply)	SMEs ⁷ , large companies, academia, (other) research institutes, public bodies, consortia	SMEs / large companies, academia, (other) research institutes, training centres, NGOs, other private/ public bodies, consortia	Projects from enterprises / companies, academia, (other) research institutes, training centres, NGOs, other private/ public bodies, consortia	SMEs (but EIF restricted sectors ⁸)	Clusters / Cluster partnerships	Consortia with minimum 3 participants from 3 different Member States	SMEs	Innovative ⁹ SMEs, Mid-Caps ¹⁰ , Large Caps (but EIB excluded sectors ¹¹ / EIF restricted sectors)
WHAT ¹² (for)	Projects on dual-use items ¹³	Dual-use projects	Dual-use skills development	Enterprise expansion and growth ¹⁴	Projects on partnership building / cluster internationalisation	Research and innovation activities with an exclusive focus on civil applications	Research and innovation activities with an exclusive focus on civil applications	Enterprise viability and growth ¹⁵
WHICH (funding tool)	Grants, loans, loan guarantees, equity	Grants, loans	Grants, loans	2014-2020: always open (demand-driven ¹⁷)	2014-2020: calls for proposals	Grants, prizes, procurement, pre-commercial procurement, public procurement of innovative solutions	2014-2020 (3-4 cut-off dates per year)	2014-2020: always open (demand-driven)
WHEN (deployment period)	2014-2020: calls for proposals and/or (continuously) «open window»	2014-2020: calls for proposals ¹⁶ and/or (continuously) «open window»	2014-2020: calls for proposals and/or (continuously) «open window»	2014-2020: always open (demand-driven ¹⁷)	2014-2020: calls for proposals	2014-2020: (normally) open call for project proposal	2014-2020 (3-4 cut-off dates per year)	2014-2020: always open (demand-driven)
WHERE (to apply)	Managing Authorities ¹⁸	Managing Authorities	Managing Authorities	Financial intermediaries ¹⁹	EASME ²⁰ , EEN	European Commission and JUs ²¹ (Brussels)	EASME	Financial intermediaries
HOW MUCH (per capita)	Up to €50 mn (but also above if EC approves)	Up to €50 mn (but also above if EC approves)	Not defined (call related)	Loans: ≤ €150.000 for all SMEs; above only for "non-innovative" SMEs	Not defined (call related)	Funding range: €1-50 mn	Phase I: €50.000 (lump sum) per project. Phase II: €500.000-2,5 mn ²²	Loans: between €25.000 and €7,5 mn
HOW	Project folder application	Project folder application	Project folder application	No need for projects or business plans ²³	Project folder application	Online application (Horizon 2020 participant portal ²⁴)	Online application (Horizon 2020 participant portal)	No need for projects or business plans ²⁵

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¹ **ERDF**: European Regional Development Fund - one of the five European Structural and Investment Funds (R&T, SMEs, ICT, energy, etc.).

² **ETC**: European Territorial Cooperation goal - provides for joint actions/projects between national, regional and local actors from different Member States.

³ **ESF**: European Social Fund (jobs, skills, training, ...). N.B.: ERDF + ESF are together often referred to simply as «Structural Funds».

⁴ **Financial instruments**: loans, guarantees, equity investments («money that has to be repaid back by the recipient»: not grants / subsidies).

⁵ **EEN**: Enterprises Europe Network (e.g., chambers of commerce and industry, technology centres, development agencies and universities) set-up by the DG GROWTH of the European Commission to help SMEs enhance their competitiveness by providing them cross-border partnership and free of charge advisory services.

⁶ H2020 budget earmarked for SMEs.

⁷ **SME definition**: see [EC Recommendation \(2003/361/EC\), 6 May 2003](#).

⁸ EIF (European Investment Fund) restricted sectors: "The EIF applies restrictions to ... the financing of the production of and trade in weapons and ammunition of any kind. This restriction does not apply to the extent such activities are part of or accessory to explicit EU policies" (Guidelines on the EIF Restricted Sectors, Board of Directors, 13/07/2010).

⁹ Innovative entities: see [Annex III to EIF Open Call for Expression of Interest to select Financial Intermediaries under InnovFin SME Guarantee facility, "2. Innovation Eligibility Criteria": pages 9-10](#).

¹⁰ Mid-Caps: 250-3000 employees.

¹¹ EIB (European Investment Bank) excluded activities: "Activities excluded from EIB lending (22 April 2013) - Type of activities: 1) Ammunition and weapons, military/police equipment or infrastructure. Comments/Clarifications: includes explosives and sporting weapons"

¹² This is meant to be limited to a purely EDA perspective.

¹³ **Dual-use items**: dual-use technologies, products, services, mainly national / regional (but still "ETC goal" for purely cross-border / transnational).

¹⁴ Not start-ups.

¹⁵ «Equity window» is only for SME startup phase.

¹⁶ Calls for proposals are all expected to be time-limited, unless specified.

¹⁷ Demand-driven: "first-come, first-served" basis.

¹⁸ Agencies in Member States, mainly at national/regional level.

¹⁹ Financial intermediaries: banks, leasing companies, mutual guarantee schemes/societies, as selected by EIF ([information on EU single portal on Access to Finance](#)).

²⁰ **EASME**: the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises set-up by the European Commission to manage on its behalf several EU programmes.

²¹ Joint Undertakings (JU) organise their own research agenda and award funding for projects on the basis of open calls (for more information see [Partnerships with Industry and Member States](#)).

²² **"SME Instrument"**: for each phase (1 or 2), EU grant do not cover more than 70% of total cost of the project.

²³ Case has to be made for overall entity financial viability.

²⁴ For EC, executive agencies and JU calls.

²⁵ Case has to be made for the financial viability of the overall entity.