

Subject to brainstorm:

**What funding structures will best support research & innovation in SMEs?**

Points raised by a group of ca. 25 people:

1. More “Research for SMEs” style schemes (RTD performers, SME own results, bottom-up)
2. Stronger differentiation between: a) research (that produce knowledge) and b) product development (that use knowledge)
3. Involving other stakeholders from the entire value chain (related more to product development)
4. Smaller, more focused, bottom-up projects, less competitive (means more grants money available). On the other hand, some state that they require more control over the outcomes, e.g. stronger evaluation of the progress with possibility to stop unsuccessful projects before they naturally come to an end
5. Correlate the national funding schemes with the international schemes (to avoid cases where international scheme approved project but it was refused by national schemes that are supposed to provide the funding (e.g. EuroStars)
6. Increase facilitation and dissemination of the funding schemes, especially for newcomers, think of some mentoring methods
7. Promote initiative such as “innovation vouchers” to assist SMEs in their innovation management process
8. Make SMEs confident in prompt payments by the granting authority
9. Increase “IAPP” (Industry-Academia Partnership Programme) schemes to enable quality research at SMEs
10. Need for more “healthy”/“fair” competition
11. Need for more rewarding approach for successful SMEs
12. Need more 2-stage submissions to reduce frustrations at SMEs

**Personal conclusion from discussion:**

The mechanisms and schemes are already in place. Probably there is no need to “reinvent the wheel”. Indeed there is a need to tune the schemes to better fit the needs of SMEs.

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WHAT FUNDING STRUCTURES WOULD  
SUPPORT RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN  
SMEs BEST?

"Research for SMEs" style structure  
(RTD Performers, ...)

Differentiate (stronger) between

~~basic~~ research (that produce knowledge)  
& product development

Involving other stakeholders from the  
value chain

Smaller, focused & bottom-up projects  
less competitive (more €€€) ☒

Correlate the national schemes (e.g. Eurostars)  
with the Intl. ones

increase Facilitation & dissemination of schemes!  
& specially for new comers, mentoring scheme  
something like "Innovation Vouchers"  
Confidence in prompt payments

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FUNDING

21/01/2018 MOND

Increase "IAPP" style schemes  
to enable quality research

Need for more "healthy" competition  
"fair" — — —  
more rewarding approach

More 2-stage submissions