Innovate the Innovation Support: Initiatives of the Commission for Innovation agencies

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Background

✓ Wide range of public sector support through grants, subsidised loans, equity, and innovation services

But...

• SMEs often dissatisfied with these: need to improve innovation support
• High return is expected from the support provided: need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in providing public innovation support

Specific actions to support the development of the innovation ecosystem for SMEs in Europe
INNO-Partnering Forum

✓ Funded by CIP 2007-2013

✓ Bringing together innovation agencies in the MS and regions to:

• Foster transnational cooperation in the area of public support for SMEs

• Establish an operational platform for mutual learning and collaboration
INNOSUP calls for proposal I.

As part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 'Innovation in SMEs'

Actions:

- To provide opportunities to Member States and regions to enhance their service through collaboration and peer learning

- To further test new approaches for better innovation support, such as experimentation in innovation agencies with RCTs, workplace innovation, blockchain technology
INNOSUP calls for proposal II.

✓ 2 calls specifically targeting Innovation agencies
  • INNOSUP-05-2018: Peer learning of innovation agencies
  • INNOSUP-06-2018: Supporting experimentation in innovation agencies

✓ Any entity designing/delivering SME innovation support programmes on behalf of a national/regional public entity
  • Examples: Innovation agencies, Incubators, Technology parks, Knowledge transfer offices, etc. (not exhaustive)
Peer-learning of Innovation Agencies I.

✓ **Objective:**
  - Encourage peer learning of innovation agencies on all topics relevant for the design and delivery of innovation support programmes for SMEs

✓ **2 options:**
  - Twinning activities
  - Quality assessment based on EFQM
Peer-learning of Innovation Agencies II.

**Expected Impact:**

- Increased number of innovation agencies engaged in peer learning activities
- Results taken up by national/regional innovation support programmes
- A broad range of new topics and approaches in innovation support to SMEs is investigated and developed
- Increased efficiency of service delivery and customer satisfaction
Peer-learning of Innovation Agencies III.

✓ Regular calls since 2014:
  - Challenge-based / open to innovative proposals
  - 2 cut-offs per year (March and October)
  - Yearly budget: EUR 0.5 million
  - Type of action: lump sums
  - Around 10 projects funded per year

✓ Next cut-off dates:
  - 15 March 2018
  - 18 October 2018
Supporting Experimentation in Innovation Agencies I.

✓ Objectives:
  • Incentives to **engage more in policy experimentation** and use Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) to evaluate the impact of schemes
  • To encourage "**innovating the innovation support system**" through brand new schemes or significantly improved ones

✓ 2 options:
  • **Small-scale experimental pilots** for the **feasibility of a promising idea** for a brand new SME innovation support scheme ('proof of concept'), or **testing different options of significantly revised existing support schemes**

  • **Large-scale experimental pilots** to test on a larger scale with RCTs **new SME innovation support schemes**
Supporting Experimentation in Innovation Agencies II.

✓ **Expected Impact:**

- **Increased number** of innovation agencies ***engaged in policy experimentation***
- **Use of RCTs** in design and testing of innovation support schemes
- A broad range of **new or significantly improved SME innovation support schemes** are investigated and developed and their ***impact is rigorously tested***
Supporting Experimentation in Innovation Agencies III.

✓ Two-stage-call:
  - Stage 1: 27 March 2018
  - Stage 2: 13 September 2018

✓ Budget: 4 EUR Million
  - Small-scale projects: EUR 60 000 lump sum
  - Large-scale projects: EUR 0.3–0.5 million/project

✓ Support:
  - **Background note on RCTs** to be published on Participant portal.
  - **Event/webinar** before stage 2 deadline
  - **Beneficiaries will be assisted** from the onset of their project by a contractor in design and running of RCTs
More information

• **Request for information** on the INNOSUP Actions:
  
  GROW-innosup@ec.europa.eu

• **Contact EASME for general questions/suggestions:**
  
  ➢ Peer Learning (INNOSUP-05-2018-2020):
    
    EASME-INNOSUP-5-2017@ec.europa.eu

  ➢ Experimentation in innovation agencies (INNOSUP-06-2018):
    
    EASME-INNOSUP-6-2018@ec.europa.eu

• If you are an applicant: **Research Enquiry Service:**
  
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries