

# **EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021**

## **Business Development, Innovation and SMEs**

### **(“Business Innovation Greece”)**

#### **Pre-announcement**

#### **3rd Calls for Proposals**

##### **Background and general information**

Business Innovation Greece is a Programme financed by the EEA Grants and managed by Innovation Norway, with the aim to increase the competitiveness, value creation and sustainable growth of Greek private sector enterprises.

Greek enterprises can apply for a grant to finance part of a project to bring more innovation in products, services and processes. (Note that this is neither a research programme, nor an energy programme.) It is a business development Programme that will finance business growth and scale-up of activities in more mature enterprises.

This Programme does not have a fixed grant rate. The financial contribution will be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking all relevant factors into account. Innovation Norway will use the General Block Exemption Regulation as the legal basis for calculating eligible costs and grant rates <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN>

As a general rule, a small or medium-sized enterprise in Greece could get approximately 50 per cent grant out of the total approved project budget for an investment project. The grant amount could be in the range of Euro 50,000 to Euro 1,500,000., depending on company size and project type. Large companies can also apply but they will normally get a lower grant rate.

##### **Status of previous Calls**

Two calls have been organised so far. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Call, 35 applications were received and 16 of them were approved. These projects are well under implementation. A list of the approved projects is available on the official Programme web-site (see below). There is also a link to a video presenting the selected projects. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call, 37 applications were received. Innovation Norway expects to approve up to 11 of them. A list of the approved projects will be published on the Programme as soon as it is ready.

## **Pre-announcement 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals**

A third Call for Proposals are expected to be announced in February 2022 with a deadline for submission of applications after three months. The available budget will be approx. Euro 8,500,000. The Call will be published on the Programme web-site (see below). The three focus areas of the Programme and the third Call are: Green Industry Innovation, Blue Growth and ICT.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals, we encourage projects related to:

- Greening of the manufacturing and production industries. Support can be given to investments in more green technologies to increase the production capacity, diversify products or services, or contribute to a fundamental change in the production process to make it more environmentally friendly. (All sectors are eligible.)
- Digitalisation/automation/optimisation of production/process lines (in the direction of Industry 4.0).
- Blue Growth can support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sector in general. Examples of projects could be development or investment in maritime supra-structures, ship repair, maritime and marine safety, development of solutions related to marine litter and waste, development of solutions on blue energy etc.

## **Project partnership opportunity**

This Programme represents a unique partnership opportunity – a gateway to new expertise and modern technology from project partners in one of the Donor States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) or from Greece. Project cooperation offers many benefits, both immediate and in the long term.

Please note that the project partnership model is not as you might be used to from EU programs like Horizon2020. In the Business Innovation Greece Programme the main focus is to develop the Applicant enterprise from Greece. They need to be the main beneficiary of the project results.

Companies, clusters, NGOs, institutions etc. from the Donor States and/or from Greece could be project partners, for the individual Greek company.

Partners should be actively involved in, and effectively contribute to, the implementation of the project. The contribution from a partner should be necessary to achieve a successful project result and it should be required by the Greek Applicant. However, the contribution needs to be tailor-made for the project, and not something that can be bought “off the shelf” from several suppliers/consultants.

- Ex. in an investment project:

Sharing of best practices and contribute with expertise/competence/know-how, from similar company/activity in Donor States. This is usually a small part of the project and the Applicant/the Greek company must be willing to co-finance this additional cost, which they most probably will, if they see it as an added value to the project.

- Ex. in an R&D project:

A) The partner could contribute with contractual research (sell and invoice their services) to the Greek Applicant. The Greek Applicant must cover the co-financing for this additional cost.

B) The partner could develop a product/solution together with the Greek Applicant. In this case, they share the project result/IPR, and in such cases the partner must cover the co-financing of their cost from their own funds. However, it is very important that the Greek company is the project owner and the main beneficiary of the project result.

**Programme web-site:**

For more information related to the upcoming Call, as well as previous calls, procedures and the Programme in general, please visit the Programme website [www.innovasjon Norge.no/Greeceinnovation](http://www.innovasjon Norge.no/Greeceinnovation)

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