

**Fast Track to Innovation (FTI)** pilot is a **fully-bottom-up measure** in Horizon 2020 to **promote close-to-market innovation activities**, and open to all types of participants. FTI aims to reduce the time from idea to market and to increase the participation in Horizon 2020 of industry, SMEs and first-time industry applicants.

The pilot is implemented through one continuously open call, meaning that proposals can be submitted at any time. Proposals are evaluated and ranked and funding decisions taken after three cut-off dates during year.

- Continuous open call until end of 2016 with deadline 25th of October 2016
- Budget 100 M€ per year
- Open to all themes from Societal challenges and Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies

Proposals should build on strong and promising business plan, and focus foremost on achieving high market and business impact (corresponding to a score of minimum 4 out of 5 during evaluation in criteria “impact”). As for other evaluation criteria, “excellence” and “implementation” will also be assessed, yet only if the minimum threshold for “impact” is achieved. Other factors playing a role during the evaluation process will be the size of the budget allocated to industry participants (especially SMEs), the number of industry participants and gender balance of the staff representing the consortium in the proposal. Due to strong competition only the best and well prepared proposals with disruptive innovation and sound business plan may expect good ranking and funding.

**FAST TRACK TO INNOVATION OVERVIEW**



**FUNDING**

- Reimbursement rate: 70% of the eligible costs, for industrial partners (up to 100% for non-profit organisations)
- EU contribution for project: 1-2 mil EUR; maximum 3 mil EUR can be considered

**APPLICANTS**

- All types of legal entities, strong involvement of industry
- Industry- intensive consortia of minimum 3 and maximum 5 legal entities established in at least 3 different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020:
  - either the allocation of at least 60% of the budget to industry participants in the consortium,
  - or minimum 2 industry partners in a consortium of 3 or 4 partners, or of 3 industry partners in a consortium of 5

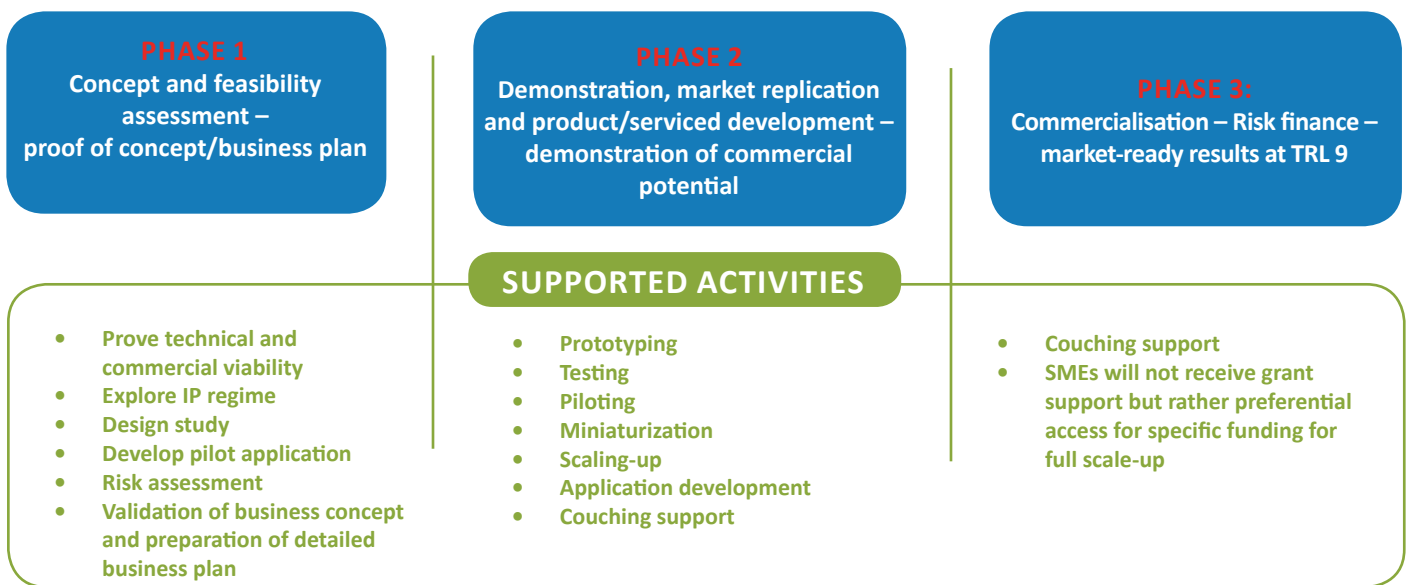
**HELPDESK**

*[Technology Readiness Level TRLs on Participant Portal](#)*  
*[Fast Track to Innovation \(FT I\) SME Instrument \(SME I\)](#)*  
*[Definition of SME at Participant Portal](#)*

**Don't forget to discuss your project idea and rules of participation with your NCP**

The SME Instrument targets highly innovative SMEs showing a strong ambition to develop, grow and internationalise, regardless of whether they are high-tech and research-driven or non-research conducting, social or service companies. The SME Instrument takes innovation in SMEs to the next level, by granting tailored support to SMEs that have ground-breaking ideas with a high market potential, but are short of certain resources, or a real strategy, to deliver. Close-to-market activities are main core of SME Instrument.

- Continuous open call with cut-off dates
- Budget 3 billion € for period of 7 years
- Open to all themes from Societal challenges and Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies, (for specific thematic restriction please consult respective Work Programmes)



**APPLICANTS:** A highly innovative expanding SME or consortium of innovative SMEs with global ambitions can apply for SME Instrument. Do you comply with criteria for SME? Find out the definition of SME at Participant Portal

**FUNDING:** Reimbursement rate: 70% of the eligible costs.

EU contribution for project: 50.000 € (flat rate for Phase 1); 0,5 -2,5 mil EUR (Phase 2).

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FTI AND SMEI

CATEGORY	FTI	SME INSTRUMENT
Theme	bottom-up for LEITs and SCs	bottom-up for LEITs and SCs
Applicants	mainly industry, open for all types of applicants	only SMEs
Level of TRL	6	6
Consortium	3-5 members	1 or more SMEs
Time to grant	6 months	phase 1: 3 months phase2: 6 months
Duration of project	24-36 months	phase 1: 6 months  phase 2: 12-24 months
Funding	70% reimbursement rate  100% for non-profit organisation	70% reimbursement rate
Project budget	maximum 3 mil. EUR	phase 1: 50 000 EUR phase 2: 0,5 -2,5 mil. EUR
Market launch	3 years after start of project at the latest	phase 1: 2,5 years after start of project at the latest phase 2: immediately after end of project