

CONNECT + INNOVATE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER Q4 2013

Welcome to the latest edition of the information sharing newsletter from the National University of Ireland Maynooth Commercialisation Office. Our goal is to share relevant market news and activities on the commercialisation of NUI Maynooth research. We hope you enjoy this newsletter. For more information visit:

EU HORIZON 2020 SUPPORT FOR SMEs

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Peter Conlon of the Commercialisation Office recently attended the major European ICT2013 conference hosted by the Lithuanian Presidency in Vilnius. The conference themes and work programme was focused on building up to the launch of the recently approved Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

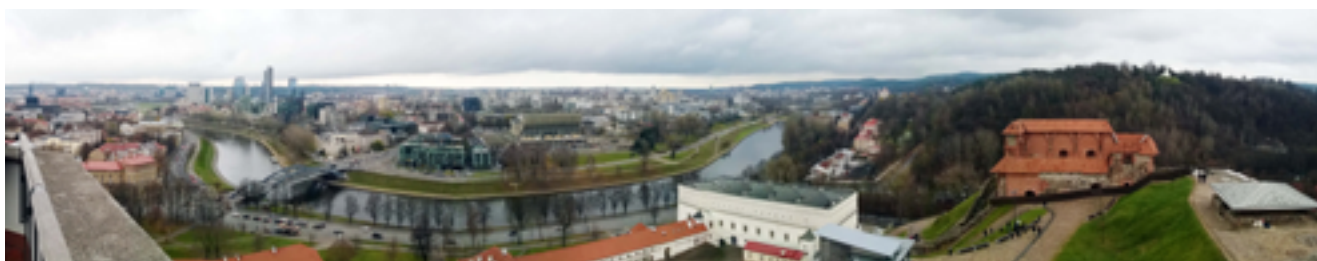


Photo: Vilnius, November 2013

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of just over €70 billion, the EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. H2020 funding will target projects that deliver Excellent Science, create Competitive Industries and tackle Societal Challenges.

While H2020 has a broad set of aims a significant portion of its budget will be targeted at Small and Medium Enterprises with the aim that 20% of the total budget from two key pillars namely: "Societal Challenges" (SC) and "Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies" (LEIT) will target SMEs. In practice this will mean about 8.65 billion Euros in EU support for Research and Innovation activities going to SMEs. Funding can be availed through: (1) Collaborative projects (13% of total budget) and (2) SME Instrument (7% of total budget).

SMEs will be further supported through two additional programmes: (1) Eurostars II and (2) Access to Risk Finance. SMEs will be supported through the Competiveness and SME programme (COSME) which runs in parallel with H2020. COSME has a budget of €2.3b to support the following areas: (1) Better access to finance for SMEs (2) Supporting entrepreneurs (3) Access to markets and (4) More favourable conditions for business creation and growth. Finally, SMEs will also be encouraged to participate in other parts of Horizon 2020, such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions or the activity on Future and Emerging Technologies.

To coincide with the Irish launch of Horizon 2020 on December 10th at the National Convention Centre, NUI Maynooth will release a more in-depth guide to SME supports available through the programme.

NUI Maynooth is the lead partner in a technology transfer alliance with Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT), the Institute of Technology Carlow (ITC) and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). With a combined research expenditure of more than €45m annually and internationally recognised research capabilities and infrastructure, the consortium is focused on ensuring a professional and efficient approach to the identification, protection and commercialisation of research.

The consortium has a team of dedicated technology transfer experts with considerable experience in directing innovation and commercialising technologies across a wide range of sectors including engineering technologies, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, drug delivery, sensors, biomaterials and ICT.

The consortium is supported by Enterprise Ireland under the Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative (2013-2016) with an agreed set of annual target metrics. Our consortium has had a very successful first year, exceeding target metrics in all specified categories, which includes spinout companies, licence deals completed, patents and invention disclosures filed and research collaborations with industry.

Our consortium is committed to supporting new enterprise development and employment creation. We also have a proven track record in the creation of spinout companies, for example Profector Life Sciences, RaiseYourIQ, Feedhenry and Belenos Labs, which have all emerged from innovative research.

The partnership is committed to enhancing the innovative capacity of Irish based industry and work with academic researchers and industry to ensure collaboration and technology transfer is professional and in line with best practice nationally and internationally.



INNOVATION VOUCHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Enterprise Ireland (EI) continues to support the Innovation Voucher Programme that provides funding support for small projects, completed in collaboration with the higher level institutes or knowledge providers.

If you own or manage a small limited company with a company registration number and you have a business opportunity or problem that you want to explore, why not apply for an Innovation Voucher worth €5,000?

The objective of the Innovation Voucher initiative is to build links between Ireland's public knowledge providers and small businesses and create a cultural shift in the small business community's approach to innovation.

The call for innovation voucher applications is open from **Wednesday, 15th January to Wednesday, 29th January 2014.**

The online application is available at www.innovationvouchers.ie

Please feel free to contact the Commercialisation Office with any queries you may have on this Enterprise Ireland funded programme (01) 708 6589 E: Lorraine.kane@nuim.ie



COMMENTS + QUESTIONS

E commercialisation@nuim.ie
www.commercialisation.nuim.ie
 T +353 1 708 6589



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
 Programmes 2007 - 2013
 Co-funded by the Irish Government
 and the European Union

