

Urząd Marszałkowski  
Województwa Lubelskiego  
w Lublinie



# INNOVATION VOUCHERS IN POLAND



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- Vouchers for Innovation from Poland - **good practice** identified in the **BRIDGES** project

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/good-practices/voucher-for-innovation>)

- BRIDGES (*Bridging competence infrastructure gaps and speeding up growth and jobs delivery in regions*) - Interreg EUROPE project

<https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/bridges/>

# The challenge

The main challenge for regional and national economy was **low level of overall innovation performance in SME sector** due to:

- limited potential to develop R&D works internally;
- limited awareness of possible forms of cooperation with R&D sector;
- fear of risk;
- need for different - from innovative companies - type of support (simply instrument, to enable quick improvement of product/service);
- high percentage of micro and small companies, operating in local scale (not interested in competing with big companies)



# The aim for 2014-2020 perspective

**To rise innovation activity of SMEs through**  
**investments in R&D infrastructure and**  
**implementation of instruments enhancing**  
**cooperation of SMEs and R&D sector**

public bodies  
(universities,  
institutes, etc.)

private R&D  
institutions,  
R&D units in  
company

R&D projects  
(company  
+university)

open  
innovation –  
technology  
transfer

innovation  
services for  
SMEs

acceleration  
programmes

**innovation  
vouchers**



# Innovation vouchers in 2014-2020 in Poland



- **Smart Growth OP**
- **Sub measure 2.4.2. Innovation vouchers for SMEs**
- **IB: Polish Agency for Enterprise Development**



- **ROP for Lubelskie Voivodship**
- **Measure 1.5. Innovation vouchers**
- **IB: Lublin Agency for Entrepreneurship Support**



# How does it work?

business idea for innovation



research institute ready to cooperate



project application



competitive procedure to select R&D partner

R&D institutions with headquarter in Poland:

- universities and their special purpose companies, RTTC;
- R&D companies;
- accredited laboratories

# How does it work?

submission of application



- **open call:** IX rounds, 3 months each round;
- project has to be coherent with **national smart specialisation**



- **4 calls** for proposal;
- project has to be coherent with **regional smart specialisation**

	PL		LV
	Phase I	Phase II	
Max. EU funding	340 000 PLN (~77 000 E)	560 000 PLN (~127 000 E)	300 000 PLN (~ 68 000 E)
Eligible costs of the project	60 000-400 000 PLN (~ 13.6 000 – 91 000 E)	up to 800 000 PLN (~182 000 E)	Min. 15 000 PLN (~3.4 000 E)



# How does it work?

implementation  
of the project



**Phase I.** Purchase of R&D services leading to preparation of new or significantly improved product, service, technology or new design project

**Phase II.** Implementation of technological innovation elaborated in Phase I (initial investment)



- Purchase of R&D services leading to preparation of new or significantly improved product, service, technology or new design project
- Purchase of R&D services enabling implementation or development of product/service/technology



# Benefits for SME

- quick procedure: evaluation takes 90 days;
- simple application (simple template with basic information (PL), submission online);
- relatively low entry threshold (minimum eligible costs);
- modular character of support (PL).



# Recomendations

- strong impact on the launching of innovation oriented activities, but minimal impact on employment;
- IV on regional level less popular than at national level (more bureaucracy, less flexible schedule of calls for proposals);
- SME appreciate cooperation with R&D institutions, new knowledge and competences for employees;
- high percentage of SME that started their very first research project;
- relatively low flexibility of scope of support, limited possibilities of modification during R&D works



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**THANK YOU**

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