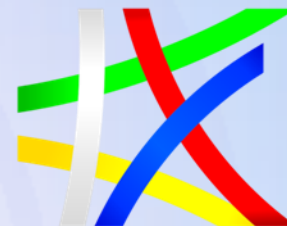


Investing in your future



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND



OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
**INNOVATIONS AND
COMPETITIVENESS**

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME “INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS” 2014-2020

**Synergies between European Structural and
Investment Funds &
Research and Innovation Funding:
The Stairway to Excellence**

Sofia, 14th of July 2016

Operational Programme „Innovation and Competitiveness” 2014-2020

- OPIC 2014-2020 is the main programming document at national level outlining the support for the Bulgarian business from ESIF for the 2014-2020 programming period in the field of **innovation, capacity for growth of SMEs, energy and resource efficiency**.
- OPIC 2014-2020 was officially approved by the European Commission on 13th March 2015, subsequently amended with EC Decision as of 30th September 2015.
- The total budget of OPIC 2014-2020 after the amendment amounts to **1,270 bln. EUR**, the ERDF funding is 1,079 bln. EUR (85% of the total budget) and the national co-funding amounts to 191 mln. EUR (15 % of the total budget).

OPIC structure and budget allocation (1/2)

• *Investment Priority 1.1:*
**Technological development and
Innovation**
(*Thematic Objective 1*)

Priority Axis 1:
Technological development
and Innovation

23.25%
(295.3 mln. EUR)
of OPIC budget

• *Investment Priority 2.1:*
**Access to finance for supporting
entrepreneurship**
(*Thematic Objective 3*)

Priority Axis 2:
Entrepreneurship and
Capacity for growth of
SMEs

• *Investment Priority 2.2:*
Capacity for SMEs to grow
(*Thematic Objective 3*)

45.47%
(577.5 mln. EUR)
of OPIC budget

OPIC structure and budget allocation (2/2)

• *Investment Priority 3.1:*
Energy technologies and energy efficiency
(*Thematic Objective 4*)

Priority Axis 3:
Energy and Resource Efficiency

24.46%
(310.7 mln. EUR)
of OPIC budget

• *Investment Priority 3.2:*
Resource Efficiency
(*Thematic Objective 6*)

• *Investment Priority 4.1:*
Improving energy efficiency and security of supply through the development of smart energy transmission systems
(*Thematic Objective 7*)

Priority Axis 4:
Removing bottlenecks in security of gas supplies

3.54%
(45 mln. EUR)
of OPIC budget

PA 1, IP 1.1 “Technological development and Innovation” Grant Support

Activities

- Development of cooperation for innovation between enterprises, between business and academia
- Support for innovation in enterprises, incl. development and introduction of new products, processes and business models in enterprises
- Support for development of environment and research and innovation infrastructure for business needs

Expected Results

- Increase of the innovation activity and capacity of the enterprises
- Increased share of enterprises which individually develop, introduce and disseminate innovation
- Bringing Bulgarian enterprises and innovators to the international market
- Building innovation capacity and create long-term competitive advantages of the country

Beneficiaries

- Enterprises or group of enterprises, including partnerships with research organizations
- Clusters;
- Agencies, institutions, business organizations;
- Technology transfer offices and technology centers;
- Sofia Tech Park

The Support will be provided for operations/investments falling exclusively within the areas of smart specialization set in the RIS3

Budget: 235.3 mln. EUR

PA 1, IP 1.1 “Technological development and Innovation”

Support through Financial Instruments

Planned FIs

Equity instruments for innovation in enterprises:

- Guarantees covering losses from debts, or
- Credit and/or leasing for investment in assets and/or working capital for growth and development

Equity and/or quasi equity investments

Investments in technological transfer, commercialization of research results, intellectual property rights, etc.

Target Group

- Developed or already existing enterprises developing/integrating innovation (SMEs and large enterprises);
- Enterprises performing research and development and innovation activities (SMEs and large enterprises);
- Other enterprises based on knowledge.

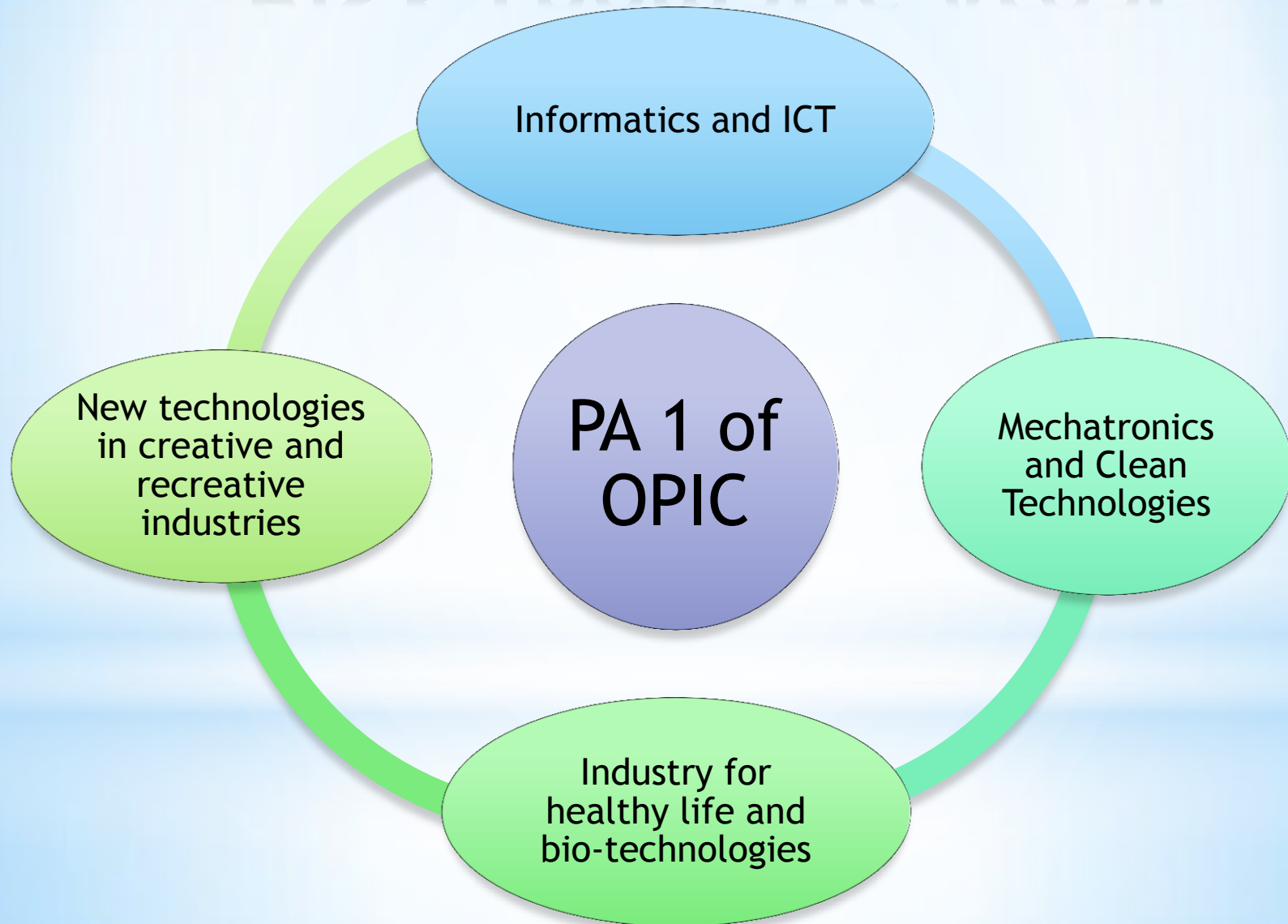
Beneficiaries

- Fund of funds according to art. 5 of the Management of Resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds Act and to art. 38, par. 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (CPR).

The Support will be provided for operations/investments falling exclusively within the areas of smart specialization set in the RIS3

Budget: 60 million Euro

RIS3 Thematic Areas



Synergies between OPIC, H2020 and FP

According to the Guidance for Enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related Union programmes there are **three main approaches:**

- Parallel complementary projects with good timing;
- Co-financing under the same project with clear demarcation of expenditure;
- **Building on the results of the projects under the Framework Programmes – implemented under PA1 of OPIC.** Project proposals involving building on the results under 5, 6, 7 Framework Programme and Horizon 2020 and ECSEL Joint Undertaking, are **advantageously encouraged under the principle of bonus points during assessment.**

OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation“

Grant Schemes - 2015

Grant Scheme “Support for Introduction of Innovation in Enterprises”

Main purpose: Providing focused support to increase innovation activity of Bulgarian enterprises in the thematic areas of the Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3)

Total Budget – 97 791 500 BGN (50 million EUR)

Eligible applicants/activities

Eligible applicants:

- Micro, small, medium and large enterprises - the applicants must be merchants according to the Bulgarian Commerce Act or the Cooperatives Act or to be an equivalent entity according to the law of a member-state of European Economic Area.
- The applicants must have at least three completed financial years (2013, 2014 and 2015)

Eligible activities:

- Acquisition of long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets
- Consultancy and support services in favour of innovation.

Eligible expenses

- Investment expenses (long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets)
- Expenses for services

Minimum amount of grant: 100 000 BGN

Maximum amount of grant:

Micro, small and medium enterprises - 1 000 000 BGN

Large undertakings - 1 500 000 BGN

- **Date of announcement:** 23 December 2015
- **Deadline:** 4 April 2016
- **567** project proposals

OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation“

Grant Schemes 2016 (1/3)

Grant Scheme „Support for Development of Innovations by Start-ups“

Main purpose: Providing focused support to increase the innovative activity of startups enterprises, developing innovation in the thematic areas of the Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3)

Budget: 19 558 300 BGN (10 million EUR)

Eligible applicants/activities

Eligible applicants:

- Micro, small, medium and large enterprises - the applicants must be merchants according to the Bulgarian Commerce Act or the Cooperatives Act
- The applicants must have less than three completed financial years
- **Eligible activities:**
 - Developing innovation in the thematic areas of the RIS3.
 - Applied research
 - Creation and testing of prototypes and pilot lines.

Eligible expenses

- Investment expenses (long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets)
 - Expenses for services
 - Operating expenses
-
- Minimum amount of grant: 50 000 BGN
 - Maximum amount of grant: 391 166 BGN
 - **Date of announcement:** February 2016
 - **Deadline:** 5 May 2016
 - **889** project proposals

OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation” – Synergies in practice

Grant Scheme “Support for Introduction of Innovation in Enterprises”

The Criteria for technical and financial evaluation include a criterion which gives **bonus points in the assessment to project proposals that upgrade results achieved under the EU Framework Programmes (5th, 6th, 7th FP, Horizon 2020 incl. ECSEL Joint Undertaking) .**

Grant Scheme „Support for Development of Innovations by Start-ups“

The Criteria for technical and financial evaluation include a criterion **which gives bonus points in the assessment to projects proposals sent by applicant teams of experts who took part in projects funded by Framework Programmes (5th, 6th, 7th FP, Horizon 2020 incl. ECSEL Joint Undertaking).**

OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation“

Grant Schemes 2016 (2/3)

Grant Scheme “Development of product and production innovation”

Main purpose: Growth of the share of undertakings developing and disseminating innovation, as well as raising the innovative capacity of the undertakings.

Budget: 35 000 000 Euro (68 454 050 BGN)

Eligible applicants/acitivities

- **Eligible applicants:** SMEs and large enterprises
- **Eligible activities:**
 - Developing innovation in the thematic areas of the RIS3.
 - Applied research in the enterprise
 - Creation and testing of prototypes and pilot lines.

Eligible expenses

- Investment expenses (long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets)
 - Expenses for services
 - Operating expenses
-

Minimum amount of the grant: 50 000 BGN

Maximum amount of the grant: 1 000 000 BGN

Date of announcement: December 2016

OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation“

Grant Schemes 2016 (3/3)

Grant scheme for direct granting of support to Sofia Tech Park

Main purpose: Development of a pro-innovative structure and technological park

Budget: 6 391 149 Euro (12 500 000 BGN)

Eligible applicants/activities

Eligible applicants:

- Sofia Tech Park SA

Eligible activities:

- Finalizing investment activities related to:
 - the constructed infrastructure for R&D and Innovation;
 - Support and incubation of a high-tech SME Incubator;
 - Museum and experiment facility;
 - Sport playground and facilities, etc.

Eligible expenses

- Investment expenses not financed under OP Competitiveness 2007-2013.

Maximum amount of the grant: 12 500 000 BGN

Date of announcement: 2016

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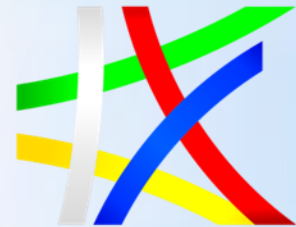
New Opportunities

2014 - 2020

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