

Support to Horizon 2020 business innovation projects in Canton of Neuchâtel

Swiss companies can participate and benefit from several European programmes supporting innovation projects. The most known is Horizon 2020 – the EU framework programme for Research and Innovation – the Worlds’ largest scheme for public funding of Research, Development and Innovation. While the political discussions between Switzerland and EU continue, the Swiss participation is possible in most of the funding tools and the methods and processes of budget flow are now fully in place and resulted in more than 200 Swiss participations over the last 18 months. It has been observed, that Swiss participants and coordinators are having one of the highest success rate, among all European participants. This creates an opportunity also for business driven innovation projects.

In line with the Neuchâtel long-term innovation strategy, a specific support is offered to companies and particularly to SMEs, willing to develop new product, process, service, distribution or reaching so far underserved clients and new markets within Horizon 2020 framework. The development of prototypes of components or complex systems, their validation and building of new value chains towards production and application is highly anticipated in these projects. The experienced coaches and advisors will significantly lower the administrative entry barrier, will contribute to designing future business cases and to help finding potential partners. Selected number of Neuchâtel-based companies will have an opportunity to benefit from this new support and therefore increase their Global competitiveness by cooperation for business innovation.

This newly designed support is based on two complementary services:

- A) Targeted information and analysis of Horizon 2020 funded projects and opportunities, specifically designed to each selected enterprise and
- B) Technology scouting combined with hands on experience towards involvement in EU business driven innovation projects. Support for project preparation in case coordination by Neuchâtel-based SME will be anticipated.

This support is principally focused on Horizon 2020 opportunities during 2016 and 2017, however it would be fully beneficial also for other European funding schemes (e.g. Eurostars, JTIs). The services are jointly provided by platinn and the Université de Neuchâtel through its Grants and Euresearch Office.

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