OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
“INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS”
2014-2020

Sofia, 25th of February, 2016
OPIC 2014-2020 is the main programme document on national level outlining the support for the Bulgarian business from the ESIF for the 2014-2020 programming period in the field of innovation, capacity for growth of SMEs, energy and resource efficiency.


The total budget of OPIC 2014-2020 after the amendment in September amounts to 1,270 bn EUR, the ERDF funding is 1,079 bn EUR (85% of the total budget) and the national co-funding amounts to 191 m EUR (15 % of the total budget).
OPIC structure and budget allocation (1/3)

**Priority Axis 1:**
Technological development and Innovation

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

23.25%
(295.3 m EUR) of OPIC budget

**Priority Axis 2:**
Entrepreneurship and Capacity for growth of SMEs

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

45.47%
(577.5 m EUR) of OPIC budget

*Investment Priority 2.2:*
Capacity for SMEs to grow
(Thematic Objective 3)
**Priority Axis 3:**
Energy and Resource Efficiency

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

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

**Priority Axis 4:**
Removing bottlenecks in security of gas supplies

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

**Budget Allocation**

- **Priority Axis 3:**
  - 24.46% (310.7 m EUR) of OPIC budget

- **Priority Axis 4:**
  - 3.54% (45 m EUR) of OPIC budget
### 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

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

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**Budget:** 235.3 m EUR
### PA 1, IP 1.1 “Technological development and Innovation”

#### Support through Financial Instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned FIs</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity instruments for innovation in enterprises:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Guarantees covering losses from debts, or&lt;br&gt;• Credit and/or leasing for investment in assets and/or working capital for growth and development</td>
<td>• Developed or already existing enterprises developing/integrating innovation (SMEs and large enterprises);&lt;br&gt;• Enterprises performing research and development and innovation activities (SMEs and large enterprises);&lt;br&gt;• Other enterprises based on knowledge.</td>
<td>• Fund of funds&lt;br&gt;• Fund managers and the like&lt;br&gt;• Credit and financial institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity and/or quasi equity investments</strong> Investments in technological transfer, commercialization of research results, intellectual property rights, etc.</td>
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</table>

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

**Budget:** 60 million Euro
OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation“
Procedures 2015

**Procedure “Support for integration of innovation in undertakings”**

**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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible applicants/activities</th>
<th>Eligible expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible applicants:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Investment expenses (long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The applicants must have at least three completed financial years (2013, 2014 and 2015)</td>
<td>Expenses for services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible activities:</strong></td>
<td>Minimum amount of grant: 100 000 BGN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets</td>
<td>Maximum amount of grant:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultancy and support services in favour of innovation.</td>
<td>Micro, small and medium enterprises – 1 000 000 BGN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large undertakings – 1 500 000 BGN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Date of announcement:** 23 December 2015

**Deadline:** 4 April 2016
## OP 1 „Technological Development and Innovation“ Procedures 2016 (1/3)

### Procedure „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
### Procedure “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)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Eligible applicants/activities</th>
<th>Eligible expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible applicants:</strong> SMEs and large enterprises</td>
<td>Investment expenses (long-term tangible assets and long-term intangible assets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible activities:</td>
<td>Expenses for services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing innovation in the thematic areas of the RIS3.</td>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied research in the enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creation and testing of prototypes and pilot lines.</td>
<td>Minimum amount of the grant: 50 000 BGN</td>
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<td>Maximum amount of the grant: 1 000 000 BGN</td>
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<td>Date of announcement: December 2016</td>
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</tbody>
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## Procedure for direct provision of Grant Amount to „Sofia Tech Park“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main purpose:</th>
<th>Development of a pro-innovative structure and technological park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget:</td>
<td>26 650 000 Euro (52 122 869.50 BGN)</td>
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</table>

### Eligible applicants/activities

**Eligible applicants:**
- Sofia Tech Park SA

**Eligible activities:**
- Investment activities not financed under OP Development of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy 2007-2013.

### Eligible expenses

**Investment expenses not financed under OP Development of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy 2007-2013.**

**Minimal amount of the grant:** n/a

**Maximum amount of the grant:** 52 122 869.50 BGN

**Date of announcement:** March 2016