



<b>Vision and Aims</b>	The aim of the Horizon 2020 GO-SME project is to share the best practices of participating research funding organisations (RFOs) and their mutual learning in designing programmes which would support SMEs and start-ups in an initial assessment of their innovative ideas so that they can progress to more advanced stages of innovation development.
<b>Target Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● RFOs</li> <li>● SMEs</li> </ul>
<b>Key Features</b>	<p>Throughout Europe, the fragmentation of innovation ecosystems and the lack of interconnection among public national and regional agencies appear to be one of the main obstacles to securing support for the most promising SMEs. Minimising this barrier is one of the main goals of the GO-SME project.</p> <p>The GO-SME project is formed by 15 partners – innovation agencies from 12 EU Member States, 8 of which from the widening countries. The GO-SME consortia is well represented geographically. The partners play different roles at national or regional levels and have different experiences with SMEs support. Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) is the project coordinator of the consortium.</p> <p>The GO-SME project responds to the need to provide financial support to SMEs and start-ups for the development of their innovative ideas.</p> <p>To achieve the aim of the project, a combination of the following activities will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● learning from best practices already applied in support schemes for innovative SMEs and start-ups,</li> <li>● motivation of agencies from widening countries to design innovation support schemes for SMEs and start-ups,</li> <li>● cooperation in the setting up of comparable support schemes and sets of selection criteria,</li> <li>● sharing of best practices in the work with (international) experts and sharing of their pools,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● learning from best practices in providing coaching and mentoring services to innovative SMEs and start-ups,</li> <li>● mutual opening up pools of coaches and mentors,</li> <li>● offering of special services to running projects which will be selected as the most promising by an independent international panel.</li> </ul> <p>The added value of the project rests in its ambition to design national and regional programmes supporting innovative SMEs, which could act as a pipeline for the EIC Accelerator and be part of the “plug-in” mechanism. At the same time, it can serve as a pilot project for a possible partnership co-funded from innovation ecosystems in the Horizon Europe framework programme.</p> <p>The GO-SME project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No.101034176.</p>
<b>Launch &amp; Duration</b>	1.5.2021 – 30.4.2023 (24 months)
<b>Partners/ Sponsors</b>	<p>Technology Agency of the Czech republic (TA CR), Czech Republic,  Service public Wallonie (SPW-EER), Belgium,  Startup Europe Regions Network (SERN), Belgium,  Ettevõtluse Arendamise Sihtasutus (EAS), Estonia,  German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany ,  National Research and Development Office (NRDI), Hungary  Invitalia, Italy,  Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA), Lithuania,  Luxinnovation (LXI), Luxembourg,  Ministry for Research, Innovation and the Co-ordination of Post Covid-19 Strategy (MRIC), Malta,  National Innovation Agency of Portugal (ANI), Portugal,  Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic (MoE SR), Slovak Republic  Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), Spain,  Catalan Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIÓ), Spain,  IESE Business school of University of Navarra (IESE), Spain.</p>
<b>Further Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GO-SME project: <a href="https://www.tacr.cz/en/go-sme-2/">https://www.tacr.cz/en/go-sme-2/</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Video presentation</a></li> </ul>

<b>Contact</b>	Martin Bunček ( <a href="mailto:buncek@tacr.cz">buncek@tacr.cz</a> ) Táňa Hálová Perglová ( <a href="mailto:tana.halova.perglova@tacr.cz">tana.halova.perglova@tacr.cz</a> ) Alžběta Plachá ( <a href="mailto:alzbeta.placha@tacr.cz">alzbeta.placha@tacr.cz</a> )
----------------	--