

## JANUARY 2017 - SME FOCUS

Dear Readers,

With the full association of Switzerland to the entire Horizon 2020 Framework Programme as of 1 January, 2017, a great **opportunity opened for Swiss** small and medium-sized innovative enterprises (**SMEs**) with **market-disruptive ideas**. Considering the heavy export orientation of Swiss SMEs, **Horizon 2020 SME Instrument** provides an excellent **risk-sharing platform for SMEs** to bring their break through innovation to the European and Global markets. That is why we have prepared this special edition of newsletter, which among others includes information about 2017 SME Instrument topics and cut-off dates, upcoming informational events for Swiss SMEs and statistics from the past SME calls.

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## NUMBER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER

8,4

### % Success Rate of Phase 1 H2020 SME Instrument

Out of proposed 2091 projects **176** were selected for funding in the latest round of Phase 1 H2020 SME Instrument. Each project will receive **€50,000** to fund a feasibility study for new products and three days of free coaching. Most of the funded projects are from the areas of **transport (29)**, **ICT (26)**, and **health (21)**. The most successful applicants came from Spain (52), Italy (24) and UK (13). The next cut-off date for Phase 1 applications is **15 February, 2017**. Click [HERE](#) for more.

## WHAT'S NEW IN EUROPEAN R&D



### Protein to help much faster skin repair

Czech Republic – based company [Enantis](#), a spin-off of the [Masaryk University](#) in Brno received support from the SME Instrument Phase 2 for a research of the **fibroblast growth factor-based wound healing products**. The project has a potential to play an important role in treating and healing serious wounds such as burns, diabetic foot ulcers, bone regrowth, certain cancers or other traumas. **AMIRES** was happy to support the Phase 2 submission process. Click [HERE](#) for more.



### Phosphorus recycling from expired fire extinguishers

Supported by [AMIRES](#), the [PHOSave](#) project led by [ProPHOS CHEMICALS](#) received in 2016 a grant from H2020 Phase 2 SME Instrument to realize a pilot plant to recover and recycle phosphate from exhausted fire extinguishing powders. The project will implement a **new waste management method** and contribute to the reduction of otherwise very valuable phosphate that would have been disposed in landfills. Click [HERE](#) for a success story featured by the [European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform](#).

## HORIZON 2020



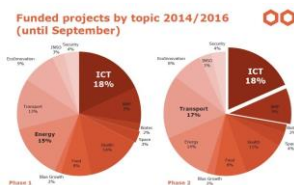
### Swiss Full Association to H2020

Since 1 January 2017, **Switzerland** has regained the status of an **Associated Country to H2020**, having now the same rights as EU member states. The Swiss entities can now lead or take part in any projects in any calls and receive funds directly from the European Commission. Moreover, **Swiss SMEs** can now **apply for grants from the SME Instrument**. On 14 March, SERI and Euresearch will hold the **Swiss National Conference** on the changes and new opportunities for Swiss entities. Click [HERE](#) for more.



### H2020 Support to SMEs in 2017

In 2017, €437.5 mio of a financial support is available support to SMEs with innovative business idea at European or global scale. For that purpose, 13 topics were identified by EC. In 2017, four cut-offs are available for submission of proposals under Phase 1 and four under Phase 2. For more details on the call topics, phases and submission cut-off dates click [HERE](#).



### Profile of H2020 SME Winners

SME Instrument is highly competitive with **success rate 8% for Phase 1** and **6% for Phase 2**. Spanish SMEs have been particularly successful, followed by firms from Italy, UK and Germany. **ICT** sector counts the biggest number of applicants and selected companies. Around 55% of all **resubmissions get a better score** compared to previous submissions, offering the companies an opportunity to improve their applications both in concept and in presentation, thus **increasing chances of receiving funding**. To read more about the profile of SME winners click [HERE](#).

## WHERE YOU CAN MEET AMIRES



### H2020 Opportunities for Swiss SMEs

On 21 February, 2017, [AMIRES](#) along with [Service d'économie](#), and [Euresearch](#) will hold a **workshop for Swiss SMEs from the Canton of Neuchâtel** interested in finding out about **opportunities offered by H2020 SME instrument**. The event will not only provide success stories and best practices for

applying for H2020 SME Instrument funding, but also allow the participants to network. Click [HERE](#) for more and to register.

## AMIRES SERVICES



### **Proposal Management and Coaching Support for SMEs**

With its vast experience in the H2020 SME Instrument and expertise in SME coaching, [AMIRES](#) can be of your **support in preparation of SME proposal submission**. We provide a **range of tailored services** from selection of suitable partners (Strategic Partnering), through proposal commenting (Expert Package), proposal preparation (Full

Proposal Management) up to a complex support (Long-Term Cooperation). Click [HERE](#) for more.

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