

Introduction of funding and financing opportunities – Pros and Cons

This document introduces most private and public funding opportunities per phase (INVENT, GROW, HARVEST) with their indicative budget, pros and cons. The detail of each funding opportunity (including funding rates, duration, pre-requisite topics etc.) will be detailed in the next sections.



Source (public/private)	Corresponding phase	Indicative budget	Pros	Cons	
INVENT PHASE					
Business Angels	INVENT/GROW	10k€ - 60k€	Good financial and mentoring support; access to a large network of future investors/partners/clients etc	Not always easy to find; highly intuitu personae	
Hackathons	INVENT	0€-15/20k€	Cross-sectorial ideation; broadened perspectives	Support services and grants not always offered	
Foundations	INVENT	5€ - 500+k€	International visibility	Mostly for charity and non-for-profit	





ERC frontier research grants	INVENT	1,5M€	All scientific fields are covered	Dedicated to researchers; strong personal success- record expected
EIC pathfinder	INVENT	3M€	Funds both researchers and innovators; possibility to answer to the open call or challenge call	Opened to SMEs but will mostly fund research institutes
GROW PHASE				
Business Angels	INVENT/GROW	10k€ - 500+k€	Good financial and mentoring support; access to a large network of future investors/partners/clients etc	Not always easy to find; highly intuitu personae
Seed and Venture capital	GROW/HARVEST	Few hundred thousand to few millions euros	High financial support; opportunity to enlarge network;	Often involves at least a partial control lost;
Crowdfunding	GROW		Access to private funding without letting go of control; securing a consumer base;	Uncertainty on the amount that will be raised;
InvestEU	GROW	/	Guarantees and equity provided by public and	Funding is organised by intermediaries



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			private partners to high risk SMEs		
Horizon Europe	GROW/HARVEST	100k€-several M€ depending on the role and call budget	Allows SMEs to find strong research and innovation partners; important grants covering from 70% to 100% of the innovation costs	Need to find an existing consortium; large competition; very specific funding topics	
Proof of concept ERC	GROW	150k€	Facilitate the commercial valuation of a research project	Only for Principal Investigators in one of the ERC frontier research main grants	
Cascade funding	GROW/HARVEST	30k€-100k€	Less formal proposals; easier access to the evaluators	Smaller grants; deadlines and regularity of calls very uncertain	
HARVEST PHASE					
Venture and exit capital	GROW/HARVEST	Few hundred thousand to few millions euros	High financial support; opportunity to enlarge network;	Control lost;	
EIC Accelerator	HARVEST	2M€-17,5M€	High budget for one single SME; Different budgets for	Highly competitive programme; need	



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			open calls and challenges; no need to form a consortium	strong proofs of both risks and business establishment;
Eurostars	HARVEST	€500k	Allows SMEs to collaborate with international SMEs/research centres or larger companies at reduced costs	Eligibility and funding criteria are nationally set, which can complicate the proposal set-up
Innovation Fund	HARVEST	7.5 - 40M€	High funds for non- collaborative projects; only funds sustainable projects	Focus essentially set on flagship projects
LIFE	HARVEST	0,5M€-10M€ depending on the role and call budget	Wide topics allowing the funding of a large variety of projects related to climate/environment;	40% cofunding; high TRL levels
13	HARVEST	Depending on the project	More than 60% of the total funding must be allocated to SMEs (directly involved in the partnership of under the form of cascade funding)	Must be coordinated by a region of non- for-profit organisation





