

18th Steering and Working Group Meeting

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Presentation of the INNOVATION EXPRESS 2.0 cross-macroregional initiative-
Response to Covid-19 recovery



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CRAFTS



Baden-Württemberg
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND HOUSING

I. What is Innovation Express 2.0?

- **Innovation Express 2.0** is a joint initiative of the four macroregional strategies of the European Union.
- The initiative is based on the BSR STARS Innovation Express programme which run between 2012 and 2017.
- It is a funding scheme with synchronised calls where **each partner country or region applies own rules and funding from existing programs**, but the focus of the calls, the activities to be supported, the time of the call as well as the duration of the projects are jointly decided by the Funding Partners.



II. Objectives of the Call

- The Innovation Express 2.0 shall support **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)** through **cluster organizations** in order to be able to adapt themselves to the new situation as fast as possible.
- The **final thematic focus** of the Innovation Express 2.0 will be defined by the Funding Partners. However, bioeconomy and smart digital services might be preferred topics, which are supporting the “Smarter Europe” Cohesion Policy objective.



III. Funds allocated for the call and co-financing

- Each Funding Partner will select an own national/regional programme which aims (at least partly) to support the above mentioned topics/beneficiaries.
- Through this selected programme/funding instrument the Funding Partners will dedicate sources for this call for proposals.

Remark: The participation at coordinated calls through EU funded programs (like ERDF) are strongly supported by the European Commission (embedding of funding programmes into the macroregional strategies).



IV. Timeframe

- The (pilot) call for proposals will be launched in each country/region in the first half of 2021 (the exact date to be agreed by the Funding Partners).
- Interested Funding Partners can express their commitment until 18 December 2020 in a written form by addressing the Coordination Body.



V. Coordination and Assessment

- For the 1st Innovation Express call for proposals, the Cluster Agency Baden-Württemberg will act as a Call Secretariat.
- Each region/country will assess its own applications.
- As regards the “transnational component” of the project, a common Evaluation Jury shall be established that provides funding recommendation for the partners of the 1st Innovation Express 2.0 Call. The Funding Partners are not bonded by the recommendations of the Jury.



VI. Participating countries of the first pilot call

Countries / partner regions officially expressed their interest to join the 1st Innovation Express 2.0 Call:

- The Ministry of Economics, Labour and Housing Baden-Württemberg
- The Canton of Fribourg/Switzerland
- Ministry of Economy and Innovation Lithuania

