

THE EUROPEAN TREND CHART ON INNOVATION

Thematic Report:
'Start-up of Technology-Based Firms'

Covering period:
May – September 2001

INBIS Ltd

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
INNOVATION/SMEs PROGRAMME**

The European Trend Chart on Innovation

Innovation is a priority of all Member States and of the European Commission. Throughout Europe, hundreds of policy measures and support schemes aimed at innovation have been implemented or are under preparation. The diversity of these measures and schemes reflects the diversity of the framework conditions, cultural preferences and political priorities in the Member States. The 'First Action Plan for Innovation in Europe', launched by the European Commission in 1996, provided for the first time a common analytical and political framework for innovation policy in Europe.

Building upon the Action Plan, the *Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe* is a practical tool for innovation policy-makers and scheme managers in Europe. Run by the Innovation Directorate of DG Enterprise, it pursues the collection, regular updating and analysis of information on innovation policies at national and Community level, with a focus on innovation finance; setting up and developing innovative businesses; the protection of intellectual property rights; and the transfer of technology between research and industry.

The Trend Chart serves the 'open policy co-ordination approach' laid down by the Lisbon Council in March 2000. It supports policy-makers and scheme managers in Europe with summarised and concise information and statistics on innovation policies, performances and trends in the European Union. It is also a European forum for benchmarking and the exchange of good practices in the area of innovation policy.

The 'Trend Chart' products

The Trend Chart on Innovation has been running since January 2000. It tracks innovation policy developments in all EU Member States plus Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The Trend Chart website (www.cordis.lu/trendchart) will provide access to the following services and publications, as they become available:

- a database of policy measures across Europe;
- a 'who is who?' of agencies and government departments involved in innovation;
- a series of six-monthly country reports for all countries covered;
- a series of six-monthly trend reports covered on each of the four main themes;
- a number of benchmarking reports;
- the European Innovation Scoreboard and other statistical reports;
- a news service and thematic papers;
- the annual reports of the Trend Chart.

The present report was prepared by **INBIS Ltd**. The information contained in this report has not been validated in detail by the Member States or by the European Commission.

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1 Executive Summary

It has become very clear that the success of high-tech starters and technological innovation depends on more than the provision of capital alone, though capital remains a major factor. Other considerations also play a part and not all of these factors can be influenced in any substantive way by policy; others are largely driven by the market. Even where policy measures do have an effect, this may take some time before the effects become visible.

Few new measures in the NTBF field have been introduced during the period under review. Overall, longer-term trends show a shift towards the appearance of more enabling measures. Of all the measures introduced since 1996, over 80% are enabling measures, compared to a figure of only about 40% in the period 1991-1995.

Life Sciences is an area that has generated much interest and activity in recent years. However, not all countries have introduced policies to target this area specifically. Those countries that have are surveyed in this report.

The measures that have been adopted to support the development of the life sciences sector are broadly the same mix as applied elsewhere. There is evidence of a combination of direct and indirect funding, together with some enabling measures. Only in the Netherlands can an integrated approach be found, based upon an earlier initiative that had been considered successful.

2 Introduction

New technology-based firms (NTBFs) continue to play a major role in driving innovation, in spite of recent economic and political developments which have had a negative impact on the technology sector. Government policy constitutes a significant factor in defining the environment for NTBFs, and EU Member States recognise the need to stimulate the establishment and development of this environment for such innovative companies to grow.

It is still fair to say that little information is available concerning the measurement of the effectiveness of government policies on promoting technology-based start-ups. It is therefore difficult to assess with any confidence whether policies are adequately addressing the needs of a rapidly changing world, or are effective in maintaining the growth of high-tech start-up ventures.

An area of great interest to innovation policy-makers is the life sciences and biotechnology sector. This sector has been something of a hot topic of debate recently, with governments anxious to ensure that this rapidly developing sector does not leave them behind. Measures to stimulate start-up companies in this sector are therefore surveyed in a separate section of the report.

During this reporting period only three new measures have been introduced by policy-makers in the Trend Chart countries that are directly concerned with the start-up of technology-based firms. These measures are analysed in the next chapter along the lines of the analytical framework as set out in previous reports. In addition, all currently entered measures dealing with the creation of NTBFs are analysed for trends.

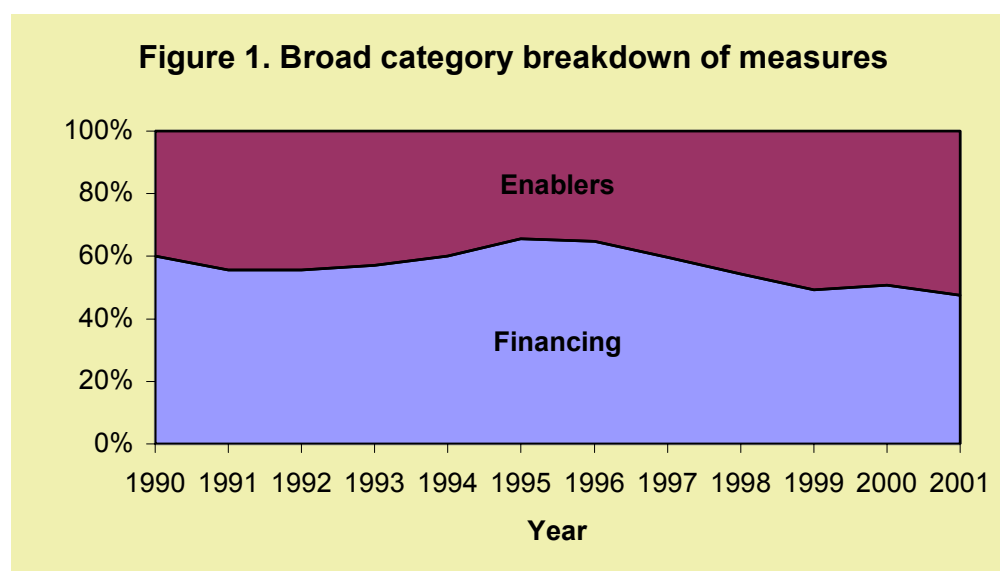
3 Analysis of policies

3.1 Current policies

The analytical framework has not changed from that of the previous reports in this series. We have analysed more than 50 measures which have been gathered under the heading of ‘Start-up of new technology-based firms’.

Most of the measures are enablers, aimed at helping the start-up enterprises to get off the ground and establish themselves by providing support to investors, intermediaries and incubators. The second grouping is the provision of financial support aimed at the firms themselves.

The following breakdown¹ of the measures currently in the Trend Chart database shows the clear change in emphasis over time, from the use of direct financing measures towards the greater use of enabling measures. This trend has been particularly marked since 1995, with enabling measures now accounting for some 52% of measures currently in operation (some of very long standing), up from a low of 35%. It is worthy of mention that many other measures are available for the provision of finance to innovative companies, but these measures are not specifically reserved for new technology-based start-ups. Hence the increasing use of enablers to assist such new firms to access the finance which is already available from other sources.



Financial support to firms

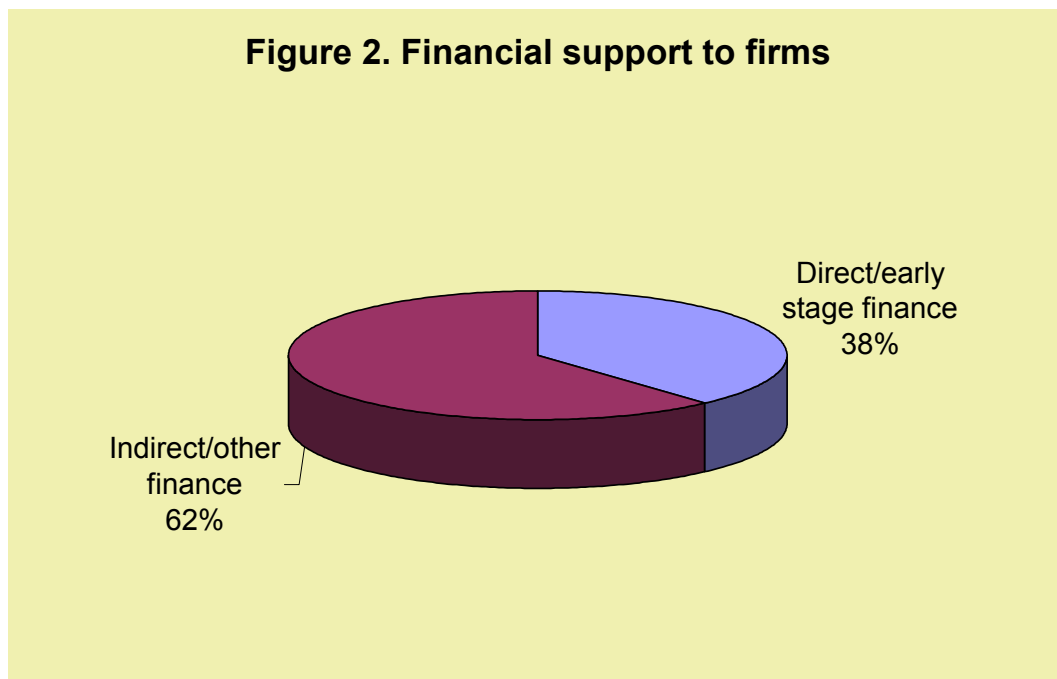
- **Early stage** financing is one of the key policy measures for the creation of NTBFs. A large part is done through seed and start-up capital. Seed Capital is money provided in the very early stages of a business venture. Typically, it is the money necessary for the business to get off the ground and, as a result, is regarded as carrying higher risks than

¹ Some of the measures have several different facets and hence fall into more than one category. The distortion that this might cause is minimised by classifying according to the primary mechanism(s) of each measure.

other development capital. Start-up capital is aimed more at product development, for example, and marketing investments.

- **Grants or soft loans**, which are normally provided to companies in order to finance a proportion of the innovation and R&D process.
- **Taking equity in companies**, Government or government-backed agencies may also provide capital to companies that undertake innovative activities.
- Providing innovative firms with **loan and equity guarantees** for their lenders/investors, making it economically profitable for the financiers to provide loans or equity to these firms

These measures are not considered in detail here, as they are covered in the accompanying report in this series covering Innovation Financing. The chart in figure 2 below, however, indicates the breakdown of financial support measures for NTBFs into broad categories of direct and indirect financial participation by governments.



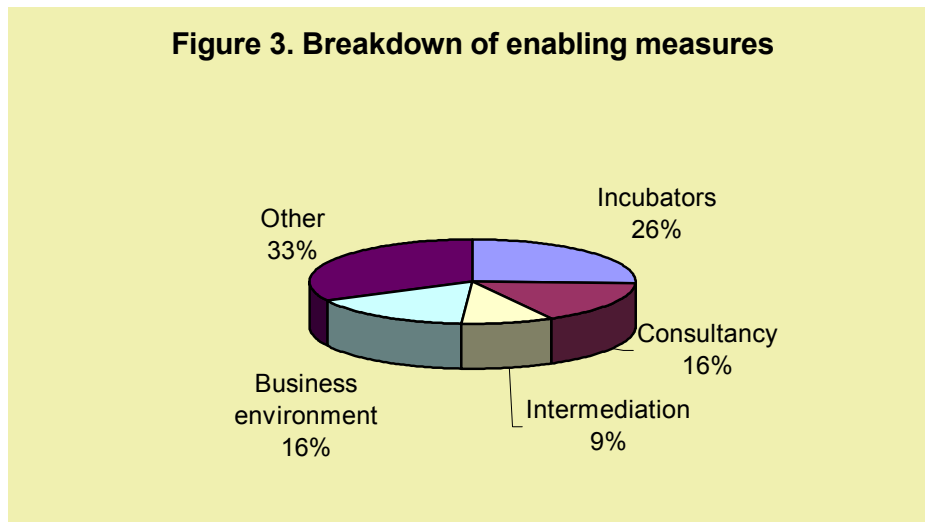
Enablers

The main enabling measures can be classified as:

- Provision of **consultancy** services. New entrepreneurs are often in greatest need of consultancy when they create their own company. They have a wide range of problems to deal with and very limited resources. They sometimes have very little experience themselves of business issues, and are not able at that stage to hire the necessary competence while having very little money to buy outside consultancy services. Making consultancy and other support and advisory services available to start-ups is therefore a major field for public intervention.

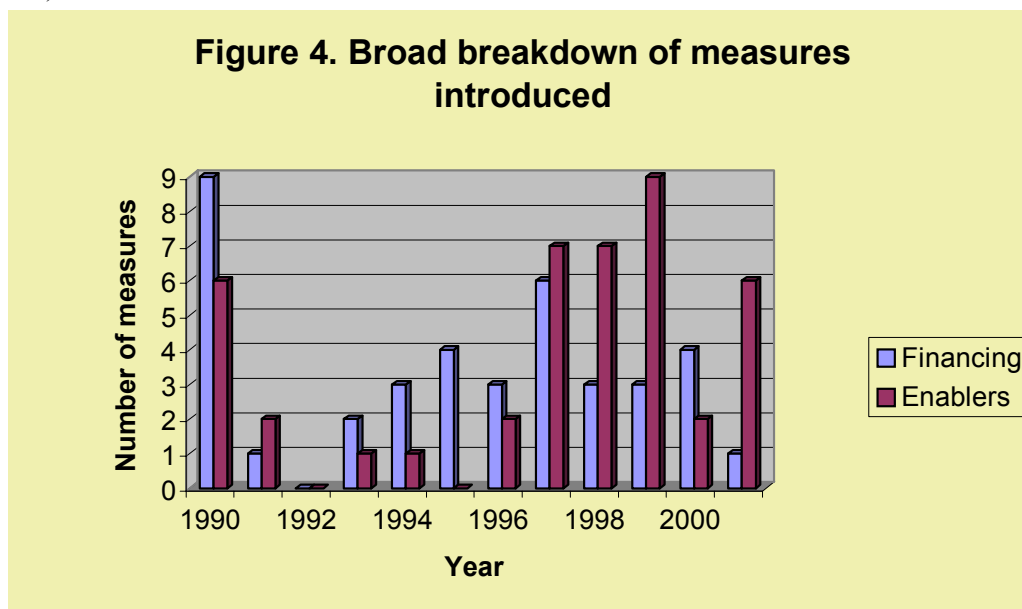
- **Intermediation** services. It can be argued that the recognition of intermediation as a tool to support innovation is relatively new. It is based on the assumption that ‘tacit knowledge’ is probably one of the most efficient ingredients of innovation and entrepreneurship in a knowledge-based economy². Intermediation processes do not provide consultancy or advice as such, but provide a matchmaking service such that they may find appropriate partners for developing their companies. This is most often related to financial issues, but can also be concerned with finding potential technology partners, other entrepreneurs, researchers, etc.
- **Incubators** – the notion of incubators is not new. Business Innovation Centres have been in operation since the late 1980s. Until recently, however, they were mainly concerned with the issue of regional economic development. Incubators specifically concerned with the issue of new technology start-ups, technology exploitation and transfer are a relatively new phenomenon in Europe. Incubators are, by definition, local; they are very often associated with a science park or research centre. They are designed to provide, normally in a single location, all the services that a fledging enterprise needs, and which are provided under specific labels: physical hosting; consultancy services; strategic, professional and sometimes management support; intermediation; finance (in particular, early-stage finance); equipment and facilities; etc. They also implement and co-ordinate at a low level the policies initiated at national and/or regional levels.
- **Other** measures covers a mixed bag including
 - **Promotion** of university spin-offs
 - **Tax relief for investors**
 - **Science & technology parks**

The number of incubator initiatives continues to increase. They now account for 26% of the active enabling measures.



² See, for example, the document prepared for the European Commission *Towards European Innovation and Diffusion Policy for the Knowledge-Driven Economy* – Paul David, 2000

The overall tendency shown in the broad breakdown towards greater use of enabling measures is shown very clearly in the chart below, which shows the new measures introduced across the EU Member States to support NTBFs on an annual basis. Since 1996, 65% of the new measures have been enablers (31 measures) rather than financial measures (17 in number).



3.2 Analysis of the new measures

During the period covered by this report only three new measures targeted directly at the start-up of new technology-based firms have been initiated, one each from Germany, Greece and the Netherlands.

The latest German initiative (DE 66) is the BTU – Early Stage programme. This measure has been developed in the light of experience gained in the operation of previous measures, notably the ‘tbg Venture Capital Programme’ (DE 11) and the BTU-Programme (DE 12). Start-up companies that have been established for less than six months may be eligible for seed or pre-seed finance of up to €150 000 under the scheme, but are required in tandem with this to work with a ‘coaching investor’, who provides support and assistance to the management team of the new company. Thus the programme attempts to tackle two of the most common issues related to the successful development of new companies – finance and management – in an integrated fashion.

Greece has recently introduced the ‘Programme for the market exploitation of research results through the establishment of academic spin-offs – PRAXE’ (GR 39). The objective of this programme is to establish and develop entrepreneurial activities aiming to exploit the knowledge that has been generated in research laboratories. This is a direct financing measure which is able to provide funding for two phases of activity: the initial research and company development, and the exploitation of the results of the initial work, co-financed by the private sector. The total budget for this measure is €66 million, a little over half of which is to be provided by the public sector.

The most recent initiative in the Netherlands is the Dreamstart programme (end NL 32) which is an extension of the earlier Twinning initiative (NL 15). The Twinning initiative focuses on ICT and life sciences companies, and this latest measure is an extension to cover other technology sectors. One of the functions of the Dreamstart initiative is to improve the accessibility of existing measures to start-up companies, but it is also intended to stimulate the development of networks covering both companies and education and research establishments, and to lead to the foundation of more incubators. The budget for the measure is approximately €50 million.

4 Survey on stimulating SME start-ups in life science technology

4.1 Survey introduction

This survey considers the policies and policy measures in the EU Member States that are specifically aimed at stimulating SME start-ups in life science technology. Life sciences, along with ICT, are frequently cited by governments and business pundits as the keys to future innovation and the areas offering greatest scope for development in the knowledge-based economy of the future. The Trend Chart correspondents have therefore examined the extent to which governments and policy-makers have implemented support measures to assist the development of this exciting area of technology. A copy of the questionnaire used for the survey can be found in section 8 of this report.

4.2 The Survey

4.2.1 Overview

The survey shows very clearly that policy towards the stimulation of life science SME start-up companies is still very much in the development phase. Nearly all the EU Member States recognise that life sciences will be an important area of innovation in the near future, but in the great majority of countries, no measures have yet been implemented that are specifically targeted on the life sciences or biotechnology sectors.

Sweden provides a good example of the current status of policy development in this field. In a recent report on the Swedish biotechnology innovation system³, VINNOVA, the Swedish Innovation Agency, examined the drivers and barriers to the successful development of the sector with a view to identifying suitable public measures to promote growth. The results indicated that the forces acting upon the sector were very much the same as those affecting other innovative activities. Areas of concern included:

- the need for high quality research and collaboration between industry and academia;
- improved links and more channels for exchange of knowledge and expertise between academia and industry;
- availability of capital, especially for very early-stage development;
- increased awareness throughout society of biotechnology and its benefits;
- attraction and retention of high quality researchers.

These concerns are, of course, not unique to the life sciences and biotechnology fields, hence the limited number of specific measures currently in existence. The study did, however, also identify some other issues which are more specific to the sector, such as genomics and clinical trials.

In order to address the needs of the growing life sciences sector, many governments, reflecting these findings, have implemented – or plan to implement – measures which are of general applicability to several innovation sectors but which have a number of specific focus sectors. These include, for example, life sciences, biotechnology or medical research. Using

³ *The Swedish Biotechnology Innovation System*. VINNOVA Innovation in Focus VF 2001:2

Sweden as the example once again, the proposed BIOIT programme aims to integrate university research in topics such as microelectronics, physics and biotechnology, and to stimulate greater co-operation between academic researchers and companies.

Norway and Ireland exhibit similar characteristics to Sweden in their approach to the life sciences start-up issue. The Irish 'Advanced Technologies Research Programme' (IE 27) evolved out of earlier initiatives known as 'Programmes in Advanced Technology (PATs)', one of which was called Bioresearch Ireland. The new programme has the field of biotechnology as one of its themes, but is by no means limited to this, being open to all research and development fields.

In a similar vein, Norway has, through the Research Council of Norway, established a 'competence field' in biotechnology, which is aimed primarily at SMEs, and set up the MEDKAP programme, which focuses on improving the exploitation of medical and health research through the development of industrial activities based upon the outcomes of such research.

4.2.2 Measures in place

Policy measures with the specific target of stimulating the life sciences sector have been implemented in only four of the EU Member States: Austria, Germany, Netherlands and UK.

Austria

Austria has implemented life sciences support mainly through its more generally applicable measures, e.g. the 'K plus' Centres of Competence (AT 23) which includes biomolecular therapeutics, and the 'K ind' programme (AT 27) Austrian Centre for Biopharmaceutical Technologies. There is also an existing biotechnology cluster in Vienna which is being strongly promoted, with plans for a similar development in the Salzburg region. Life sciences are also included within the scope of the more general 'A plus B' (AT 47) measure for the stimulation of university spin-offs.

The most important policy initiative in Austria in this field is, however, the Impulse Biotechnology Programme (AT 41). This programme aims to provide a service point, especially for biotechnologists who wish to utilise their research findings commercially, either by forming a company themselves or by patenting and licensing their research. The *Innovationsagentur* offers support and consulting for developing a business plan, advice on financing matters and legal aspects, help in finding a suitable location, and expertise in patent issues. To increase awareness (and thus the number of start-ups), a business plan competition started at the beginning of the year 2000, focused on Life Science. The budget is small (in 2000 it was €145 000), and the scheme does not appear to address any specific concerns that may be unique to the life sciences sector, but it does focus exclusively on this and so provides a dedicated – albeit small – resource for the sector.

Germany

The most active country in the life sciences policy field would seem to be Germany, with three different policy measures that specifically address this sector. These are 'BioChance' (DE 23), 'ioProfile/BioRegio' (DE 52) and 'Direct Research Promotion – Life Sciences, Design of Working Conditions' (DE 70).

Biotechnology is seen as one of the key technologies for the coming decades and hence the German government considers it necessary to make a particular effort in basic research and diffusion of results in this technology area. The ‘**BioChance**’ programme provides support for high-risk projects in applied research carried out by young biotechnology firms, preferably in collaboration with universities and/or research institutions. The aim of the scheme is to strengthen research in biotechnology and to promote the application of the results of such research. For this purpose, grants are disbursed to successful applicants to subsidise the costs of the research, which should be pre-competitive yet aiming to lead to the development of new commercial products. The average grant is just under €1 million and the programme will run until the end of 2002.

‘BioRegio’ and ‘BioProfile’ are connected programmes (DE 52). In the original ‘BioRegio’ programme, the Federal government initiated a competition at regional level in 1997 in which consortia formed from public and private sector organisations would develop a concept for biotechnology research and commercialisation on a regional basis. Each concept had to have a particular emphasis on biotechnology start-ups. Out of 17 consortia submitting bids, three were selected and were awarded funding of around €75 million in total to develop and implement their concepts. These regions should serve as best practice examples in the future.

Building on the success of ‘BioRegio’ in strengthening the support infrastructure for biotechnology (an effect seen in all regions that participated in the competition) ‘BioProfile’ has been developed to allow regions to define a specialisation within the overall biotechnology area on which they can concentrate and in which they can identify a regional competitive advantage. This approach is open to smaller regions that do not have the high-level research capability that was required for success in ‘BioRegio’. The competition is still in progress, with funding of €50 million at stake.

The ‘Direct Research Promotion – Life Sciences, Design of Working Conditions’ programme is the third German measure, and one of a number of long-running thematic measures in operation in Germany. Calls for Proposals are announced periodically for projects in areas indicated in the Call. Successful bids are provided with funding which may span several years and which is provided directly as a grant to the company or consortium undertaking the work. A particular theme in this measure relates to the commercialisation of biotechnology and SMEs are especially encouraged to participate.

The Netherlands

The ‘Life Sciences Action Plan’ (NL 24) has been developed out of the success of the Twinning Initiative (NL 15). There are five lines to the Action Plan, each of which tackles an identified barrier to the development new companies in the Dutch life sciences sector:

1. Platform life sciences
2. Seed capital fund
3. Incubators
4. Equipment fund
5. Start-up participation fund.

This integrated approach has also been adopted in other sectors, as described in section 3.2 above.

United Kingdom

Policy in the UK is directed in general at the broader level of high-technology companies rather than emphasising a specific sector such as life sciences. Some more focused measures exist, however, and the first of these to support life sciences in the UK was the 'Biotechnology Mentoring and Incubator (BMI) Challenge' (UK 5). The scheme was a competition to encourage intermediary organisations to provide new incubator facilities and specialist business mentoring services. Successful bidders were awarded 50% grants of up to £500 000 (about €800 000) over the first three years of operation of the proposed facilities. This scheme has now ended, although no evaluation of its effectiveness has yet been made.

A second programme currently in operation is 'BIOWISE' (UK 26), which provides advice and information on biotechnology, and demonstration support to biotechnology companies. This programme aims to raise awareness amongst companies of biotechnology's potential to benefit industry and hence increase the opportunities available to innovative biotechnology companies. The provision of demonstration support will then help biotechnology companies to show the effect of the technology and turn promising ideas into commercially viable products and processes.

5 Conclusions

As in previous reporting periods, new measures continue to be introduced at a steady but rather slow rate, with only four new measures coming into force during the period May-September 2001.

The trend towards the greater use of enabling measures over giving direct financial support to new technology-based firms that appears to have started in the mid-1990s is still continuing. Enabling measures now account for 52% of the policy measures in place in EU Member States aimed specifically at start-up companies, up from only 35% in 1995.

It should be borne in mind, however, that a whole raft of other policy measures exist to provide financial support to innovation, though not specifically aimed at young companies. Thus it would seem that governments are to some extent rationalising their innovation financing measures. They are also providing greater facilitation and intermediation in order to improve the accessibility of these more general funds to young innovative companies, rather than target them with specific funding streams. Even so, targeted funding remains a valid and still widely used innovation policy tool, as illustrated by the short survey on life sciences and biotechnology start-ups.

Many EU Member States have not adopted any specific schemes to assist the development of new firms in the life sciences sector. It is not clear in most cases whether these countries consider their existing, broader measures to be sufficient on their own, or whether more specific policies are under development.

In those Member States that have specific policy measures to encourage the development of the life sciences sector, the measures selected are typical of policies applied to other sectors or that are applied more broadly to high-technology innovation. The Dutch Life Sciences Action Plan is the only integrated measure which is a modification of an initiative which was applied to ICT and has been considered a success. Further study at a future date will be necessary to see whether there is any 'policy transfer' made to other countries.

6 Distribution of Measures by Country/Theme

Measure	<- 1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Incubator		IL1					IE28	DK4	NL15 BE27 LU4	UK21 FR12	NL24	NL32 GR45
University Spin-offs				FI6	NO11			DE21	BE18	BE37	IT26	AT 47 GR39
Consultancy.	DE5 FI1 FR1							DE20	AT43	AT41		DE66
Financial/ Commercial Environment	GR2 UK2	IL3								GR 37 NO10 IT11 AT24		
Intermediation							UK6	DE50	DE40	SE13		
Other Innovation Finance	DE11 IL2				SE8 DK2	DE12 DE13	UK5 NL4 NL23	AT12	AT7 LU2	FR13	UK31 GR36	
Direct Finance To Firms/ Early stage finance	AT3 AT5 AT44 IL5 SE2 FR1 BE48	IL3		AT15 AT14	GR14	AT13 DE12		AT29 DE20 AT11 AT38 AT42	AT43	FR11 NO9	DE20 ES17	DE66
Other	AT49							AT11 DE22 DE52	DE60			GR46
Total measures	14	2	0	3	4	3	5	11	9	12	6	6

7. Table of measures

A summary of Innovation support measures since 1990, as from the data sheets provided by national correspondents .

NB : The measures highlighted in **bold** have been added since the last report.

TREND CHART ON INNOVATION CREATION OF TECHNOLOGY FIRMS

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Austria	AT 3 Seed Financing Programme (Venture Capital Programme)	1989	Provides quasi-equity (up to €728 000) to technology-based start-ups and new ventures promising to offer superior know-how (products, processes or services); also supports the coaching of entrepreneurs by the investors. www.innovation.co.at	Loans – Firms Financial environment	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Austria	AT 5 BÜRGESS/Young Entrepreneurs Programme and Equity Capital guarantees	1977	Supports the build-up of equity capital for the foundation of new enterprises through grants for interest of saved-up own capital resources, and guarantees of equity holdings in SMEs for minority participation in cash and for a minimum of 10 years. www.buerges.com/en/naviset/f_ford.html	Grants – firms Equity guarantee Early-stage financing	Individuals SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Austria	AT 7 Technology financing programme for SMEs–ERP	1998	Supports the development of technology-oriented SMEs by providing risk-sharing guarantees and loan guarantees to companies also using venture capital co-financing funds. www.fgg.at/	Equity Guarantee Loans – firms	Venture Capital Funds, Technology-orientated SMEs
Austria (Styria)	AT 11 Regional Initiatives Styria	1997	Grants and participation for the setting up and development of SMEs. The scheme provides in particular a ‘silent participation’ of up to 75% of eligible costs (max. €728 000) over 5 to 10 years. www.sfg.co.at	Grants – firms Equity – firms	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Austria (Vorarlberg)	AT 12 Saving for the creation of an enterprise	1997	A guarantee of up to 50% of equity investment in enterprises with growth potential in international markets. Duration up to 5 years, (max €1,8 million). www.vorarlberg.at	Early-stage financing Guarantee – firms	Enterprises located in Vorarlberg with innovative products and services and potential for growth
Lower Austria	AT 13 Young Entrepreneurs Programme	1995	Supports the costs of external consultancy in connection with the formation of new enterprises. The maximum support goes up to €1 090. Supports SMEs to strengthen their equity capital base – €72 000 to €363,000 participation between 10 and 20 years. www.ooe.gv.at/foerderung/wirtschaft/	Consultancy services Equity Firms Early-stage financing	Individuals SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Lower Austria	AT 14 Lower Austria participation model, business start-ups		Financial participation and subsidies for existing companies and start-ups in Lower Austria. www.noel.gv.at/service/	Equity – firms Interest subsidy – firms	Start-ups; innovative enterprises

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Austria (Carinthia)	AT 15 Equity Capital guarantee scheme	1998	Guarantees equity holding in SMEs for minority participation in cash and for a minimum of 10 years. Maximum guarantee offered by the Carinthian Government up to 100%.	Equity Guarantee	SMEs and investors
Austria	AT 16 Technologiemarketing Austria (TecMa)	1998	TecMa locates industrial partners, provides financial assistance during the patenting phase. It also offers consulting services for the exploration of R&D results. www.innovation.co.at	Consultancy services Early-stage financing	Scientists at universities and research institutions; private inventors
Austria (Vienna)	AT 24 Vienna Science and Technology Park TechGate	1999	Park targeted at technology-orientated industrial enterprises which work in 'urban technologies of the 21st century' (mainly telecommunication, energy, transport, health or building industry), research institutions. www.magwien.gv.at	Science and technology park	Technology-orientated industrial enterprises working in 21 st century urban technologies (mainly energy, transport, telecommunication, health, building industry); Research institutions
Austria	AT 29 ERP Special Programme on Growth and Technology	1997	A loan granted for 5 years at 0.5% between €363.000 and €14.5 million. The borrower has to raise equity capital at least to match the loan amount. If he fails to find an investor, or to raise capital at the stock exchange, the loan has to be repaid at 120%. www.erp-fonds.gv.at/erp	Loans – firms	Start-ups
Austria	AT 41 Impulse Programme Biotechnology	1999	The programme aims to provide a service point especially for biotechnologists who wish to commercialise their research findings, either by forming a company themselves or by patenting and licensing their research. We offer them support and consulting for developing a business plan, advice on financing matters (international venture capital network) and legal aspects, help in finding a suitable location and expertise in patent issues. www.innovation.co.at	Services	Life Sciences Researchers
Austria	AT 47 Start-up of technology-based companies Co-operation Research/Universities/ Companies	-	Networks of regional partners (universities, research centres, regional support agencies, firms, qualification agencies etc.) compete for national support on the basis of their specific models of start-up centres. www.tig.or.at/	A plus B centres are financially supported for a period of 10 years. Evaluations take place in the 3rd and the 6th year after foundation and a yearly report is obligatory.	Graduates Research Institutes Researchers Universities
Austria	AT 49 Techinform	1980	Techinform offers access to thousands of databases on diverse topics www.techinform.at/	Mail, email, handouts	Large companies/Large industrial companies Managers SMEs/Industrial SMEs

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Belgium (Flanders)	BE 18 University and Higher Education Institute Interfaces	1998	Promotion of the collaboration between university and enterprises - Promotion of economic valorisation of research and the setting up of spin-off companies. Delivered by the AWI, the regional administration in charge of technology and innovation. The co-ordination between the interfaces is assigned to IWT. www.iwt.be/	University spin offs	University and high-school interface services
Belgium (Flanders)	BE 27 Incubators and Innovation Centres	1997	The Flemish government supports the establishment of innovation centres and incubators, located in research and scientific parks or in an university campus with the aim of fostering the creation of spin-off companies.	University spin-offs Incubators	
Belgium (Wallonia)	BE 37 FIRST 'Spin-Off / Training and Impulse for Scientific and Technological Research'	1994	The Walloon Region pays the salary costs of a researcher, delivers a subsidy to the research laboratory and pays the costs of training necessary for the researcher to carry out research in a spin-off company.	Early stage financing University spin-offs	Universities Higher education institutes
Belgium (Wallonia)	BE 51 Business Innovation Centres		They provide a wide range of services for the creation and development of enterprises, including access to financing, promotion of innovation and technology transfer, spinoff projects from enterprises and laboratories. www.heracles.be	Incubators	
Denmark	DK 2 Equity Guarantee Programme	1994	Selected venture capital companies to receive a 50% guarantee on investments made in emerging growth companies, on a case by case basis (from seed/start-up stage to a later developmental stage)	Equity guarantee	
Denmark	DK 4 <i>Innovationsmiljøer</i> – Technology incubators	1997	Six technology incubators situated at universities or science/research parks to bridge research environments, innovative entrepreneurs and finance companies. They offer state-financed seed-capital, counselling and training, premises and administrative services.	Incubators Intermediation	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Denmark	DK 8 Approved Technological Service Institutes (GTS-institutes)	1996	Supports and promote innovation within business and industry by collecting, developing and creating new advanced knowledge and by ensuring that companies have access to advice and knowledge transfer through 14 approved technological institutes. www.efs.dk	Consultancy services	Large companies/Large industrial companies Other public authorities/organisations SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Finland	FI 1 SPINNO - A business incubator scheme.	1990	Training, a combination of government grants and other methods of support (technical, etc.), Venture capital available through SPINNO-seed Ltd, external consultants and experts on a limited basis, legal services, a support and advisory programme, accommodation in one of the science parks of the area. Up to 2 years of leave of absence can be granted to the researchers wishing to start a new company. Flexible rules for the transfer and payment of intellectual property rights. www.spinno.fi	Incubators	Graduates Other Researchers

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Finland	FI 6 TULI scheme	1993	The aim is to direct commercially potential results of research projects towards commercialisation and new venture companies. Regional TULI-projects are run by local technology transfer companies. www.tekes.fi	University spin-offs	Managers Research Institutes Universities
France	FR 1 Support for innovation	1979	Provision of finance and expertise to newly created start-ups, entrepreneurs, laboratories or SMEs planning an innovative project with high technology content. Services include: IPR - market studies; search for partners; setting-up of European projects; acquisition or sale of technologies; setting-up of prototypes and preparation of industrial launch; preparation for introduction to the stock market. www.anvar.fr	Consultancy services	Other Research institutes SMEs/Industrial SMEs
France	FR 11 National competition for creation of new technology-based firms	1999	Selected projects can receive a) financial assistance for the preparation of business plan, market studies, access to external competencies, b) assistance after the creation of the company and for financing part of the development from 12 to 36 months. www.education.gouv.fr/creation	Consultancy services Early stage financing	Individuals
France	FR 12 Creation of regional incubator structures	1999	The structures detect and evaluate projects, support the elaboration of the project (management, organisation, juridical or commercial support, information and clustering recruitment, etc). They receive a subsidy of 50% for three years with the minimum objective of supporting 15 projects that create new innovative firms. www.education.gouv.fr/technologie/mesur/incub.htm www.education.gouv.fr/technologie/mesur/assemnat.htm	Incubators	Research institutes Universities
France	FR 13 Support for the creation of seed capital funds	1999	Creation of seed capital funds for major areas of technology with partnership of public research institutions and private investors. Development through regional incubators regional funds to invest 75% of its funds in firms linked to public research. www.education.gouv.fr/technologie/mesur/incub5b.htm	Equity – Investors	Research institutes
Germany	DE 12 BTU- Investment capital for small and medium-sized companies	1995	Mobilisation (with a co investor) of up to DEM 6 million (€3 068 000) to finance R&D spending, changes in existing technology or marketing.	Equity – firms Equity Guarantee	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Germany (New Länder)	DE 20 FUTOUR	1997	Subsidies, venture capital, consulting and technical support towards financing and implementation of R&D projects up to the market place.. subsidies and venture capital might not exceed €750 000 (up to 90% of project costs) over 10 years. www.vdivde-it.de	Loans – firms Equity – firms	SMEs/Industrial SMEs Young, technology-oriented very small firms (not more than 10 employees and not older than 3 years) and start-ups in the New Länder

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Germany	DE 21 EXIST <i>Existenzgründer aus Hochschulen</i> –Start-ups from colleges and universities	1998	The BMBF subsidises the winning projects for programmes that help students to set up their own companies; programme lasts until end 2001 with around DEM 45 million (around €23 million). www.bmbf.de www.exist.de	Early-stage financing Spin-offs	Individuals Large companies/Large industrial companies Research institutes Researchers
Germany	DE 22 <i>Multimedia Wettbewerb</i> –Multimedia Contest	1996	Competition to motivate start-ups in multimedia. The best 20 ideas receive DEM 20 000 (€10 225), the other 80 ideas selected each receive DEM 10 000 (€5 112). Some DEM 40 000 (€20 450) per start-up may be provided for the development of business plans with the aid of professional advisers. www.bmwi.de/ www.gruenderwettbewerb.de/	Consultancy services Early-stage financing	Individuals SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Germany	DE 38 On-line Academy for New Firm Founders	2000	www.focus.de/existenzgruendung www.focus.de/D/DB/	Consultancy services	New and recent firm founders in search of resources and assistance with their businesses
Germany	DE 47 INSTI Inventors Clubs		Offer a platform for exchanging of experience and advice for inventors and young creative individuals. www.insti.de	Intermediation	Graduates Large companies/Large industrial companies Researchers SMEs/Industrial SMEs Universities
Germany	DE 50 Business Angel Network of Germany (BAND)	1998	Provides a platform for contacts between business angels and potential start-ups or young firms. Presentation is through the Internet, legal aid is provided through the network. www.business-angels.de	Intermediation	Large companies/Large industrial companies Other SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Germany	DE 52 BioProfile/BioProfile	1999	Competition between regions to develop a regional biotechnology concept. Subsidies of up to 50% for coordination and R&D projects will be available for implementing the concepts in the three winning regions. www.fz-juelich.de/beo/beo.htm	Incubators	Large companies/Large industrial companies Research institutes SMEs/Industrial SMEs

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Germany	DE 66 BTU - Early Stage	2001	The BTU Early Stage programme provides financial support for pre-seed and seed stages of technology oriented start-ups. www.tbgbonn.de/	Venture capital investment	Individuals Researchers Others
Greece	GR 2 Investment Law – Support for the creation of NTBFs	1990	Clusters grants and other support initiatives for NTBFS giving high priority to the utilisation of cutting edge technologies, high-tech services and the application of innovative procedures and production of innovative goods and services.	Grants – firms	Large companies/Large industrial companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Greece	GR 14 Support of new entrepreneurs for the establishment of SMEs	1994	Support given to productive SMEs in order to improve their competitiveness and access to the international market, also to improve their financial situation and increase employment.	Grants – firms	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Greece	GR 37 Venture Capital Forum for the New Economy	1999	Explores the international experience on financial mechanisms for the new technology-based firms, increasing awareness amongst researchers and entrepreneurs and present government initiatives in this area. Creates a partnering event between venture capital firms on the one side and Greek researchers, entrepreneurs and new technology based firms on the other. www.elke.gr	Venture capital conference and meetings between the interested parts.	Greek researchers or young companies focusing on innovative technologies Greek or foreign venture capital companies.
Greece	GR 45 Development of Incubators and S&T Parks in Greece – ELEFTHO Programme	2001	Support the further development of incubators and S&T parks that have already been established to operate in Greece, in order to expand their facilities and acquire the tangible and intangible means which are necessary for the incubation of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurial activities. Contributes to the creation of new incubators and S&T parks resulting from entrepreneurial initiatives, in agreement or co-operation with regional and local authorities. Provides incentives for the installation of tenants in the incubators and in the S&T parks. It is expected that a call for proposals will be launched in June 2001. www.gsrt.gr/	Grants	The ultimate beneficiaries are the potential tenants. Contractors may be existing S&T park SAs, private entities (SAs etc), public entities. Partners may be existing S&T park SAs, private entities, public entities, research centres, HEIs and TEIs or natural entities

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Greece	GR 46 Reinforcement of Youth Entrepreneurship	2001	The programme aims at developing, supporting and promoting youth entrepreneurship (both for males and females) from 18 to 35 years old who wish to start up a business in manufacturing, commerce, services and tourism by utilising their knowledge, training and skills to create new enterprises. All Greek regions are eligible, and the target is to reinforce regional business dynamics and enhance endogenous development. www.ypan.gr/ and www.eommex.gr/	Grants	Individuals
Ireland	IE 23 Graduate Enterprise Programme	1995	The programme has been designed to assist graduates interested in establishing their own businesses, including through the commercialising of R & D, particularly on-campus. www.enterprise-ireland.com/		Graduates
Ireland	IE 24 Campus Companies Programme	1996	The Programme has been designed to assist individuals interested in commercialising R & D on the college campus. An element of the programme is the provision of CORD (Commercialisation of Research & Development) grants. www.enterprise-ireland.com/	Grants	Graduates Managers Researchers
Ireland	IE 28 Business Incubation Centre programme	1996 for universities 2001 for institutes of technology	Within the existing Business Incubation Centre programme (aimed at expanding the base of high-tech companies operating on college campuses through developing and expanding incubation space facilities) a new initiative has just been launched to support Regional Business Incubation and R&D Space in Institutes of Technology. It will be operated by Enterprise Ireland on behalf of the Office of Science and Technology under the authority of the Regional Assemblies as Managing Authorities for the two Regional Operational Programmes under the NDP 2000-2006. www.enterprise-ireland.com/		Small-Medium Firms – final target Institutes of Technology – intermediate target
Israel	IL 1 Technology incubators	1991	General assistance for entrepreneurs including assistance in obtaining financial resources and raising capital	Incubators Grants – Firms Intermediation	Individuals
Israel	IL 2 INBAL Government guaranteed research and development		Support for the Research and Development Funds by purchasing 80% of the shares from any investors wishing to sell their investments.	Guarantee – equity	Individuals SMEs/Industrial SMEs Private investors
Israel	IL 3 YOZMA	1991	Draws foreign capital to invest in the Israeli hi-tech industry by co investing in Israel high tech industry either directly or by the creation of new venture capital funds.	Equity – investor Financial environment	
Israel	IL 4 The Law for the Encouragement of Industrial R&D	1985	Under the Law, proposals for R&D projects are awarded grants according to the terms and conditions set by a Research Committee. www.tamas.gov.il/root/meida_lefi_nosim/ipc.htm	Conditional grant	SMEs/Industrial SMEs Other

Coverage	Measures	Date	Content summary	Mode of operation	Targets
Italy	IT 23 Reordering of the promotion bodies and establishment of Sviluppo Italia SpA	1999	Sviluppo Italia is the national development agency which was created by legislative decree on 9th January 1999 in order to enable Italy to promote its activities and to ensure that the states full potential is known to the international marketplace. Its mission focusses on three areas for this development: regional promotion, investment attraction, development of sectors with a high degree of technology. www.sviluppoitalia.it/	-	Large companies/Large industrial companies Public authorities/ organisations Research institutes SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Italy	IT 26 Agreement Sviluppo Italia-MURST	2000	Supports academics to develop and marketing the results of their own research activities. Service are free for the project and start-up phases. Six months and 500 million lire (30% Murst and 70% Sviluppo Italia). http://www.igol.it/ www.sviluppoitalia.it www.murst.it	Consultancy services	Graduates Research institutes Researchers Universities
Italy	IT 36 Decree for the implementation of the Fund for Research Support	2001	the MURST intervenes to support the industrial research activities. The intervention may even support non-predominant pre-competitive development activities. These activities are eligible only if necessary for the validation of the results of the industrial research activities.		Large companies/Large industrial companies Research institutes SMEs/Industrial SMEs Others
Italy	IT 37 Decree for the implementation of the Fund for Technological Innovation	2001	Eligible activities are those defined as linked to pre-competitive development, but may also cover activities that are linked to project industrial research not seen as predominant.	Financial incentives	Large companies/Large industrial companies Research institutes SMEs/Industrial SMEs Universities
Luxembourg	LU 2 SME Capital-Development Company (CD-PME)	1998	Public/private joint venture (50/50) providing participating loans up to 25 - 30 million LUF and 2/3 of the total cost of the project. www.snci.lu/CD-PME.htm	Equity - Investors	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Luxembourg	LU 4 <i>Technoport Schlassgoart</i> - start-up incubator	1998	Targeted to existing and future start-up SMEs by offering its infrastructure and an efficient business environment. Companies must be technology oriented start-ups, presenting realistic business plans and showing synergy with the PRC Henri-Tudor. www.technoport.lu	Incubator	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Netherlands	NL 15 Twinning Centres	1998	Provide accommodation and management support (Twinning Network) for Start up firms in the ICT sector. The Twinning Funds –the Seed Fund and the Growth Fund – both offer financial support. www.twinning.com and www.syntens.nl	Equity - Firms Incubators Early-stage financing	Start-up firms in the ICT sector
Netherlands	NL 23 ‘Aunt Agatha’ scheme	1996	Tax exemptions on revenues (up to €2 275) and deductions (up to €227 500) on losses for informal investors that invest in new companies (up to eight years old) or funds directly investing in such companies.	Taxation – investors	Business angels Informal investors New entrepreneurial firms

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Netherlands	NL 24 Life Science Action Plan	2000	Creation of a Life Sciences Platform aiming to encourage the start-up and growth of Life Science firms, a seed-capital fund, incubators, equipment fund and a start-up participation fund. www.syntens.nl	Incubator Early Stage finance Equity firms	Public authorities/organisations, Research institutes Researchers Universities
Netherlands	NL 32 Techno-Starter Platform - Dreamstart	2000	Financial means made available by the Ministry of Economic Affairs	Early-stage finance	Start-up firms
Norway	NO 09 Project Development Funds	1999	Grants given to support researchers and innovators in developing their projects and ideas into plans that can attract potential investors. ICT is given high priority. www.snd.no	Early-stage finance	Managers Researchers
Norway	NO 11 FORNY – Science and technology based Innovation)	1994 renewed 1999	Improves the ability to commercialise research-based business concepts. The funding is used on the commercialisation, not the development, of the product. www.program.forskningsradet.no/forny	Early-stage finance	Graduates Researchers Individuals Research institutes Universities
Norway	NO 19 Municipal Business Development Funds	1997	Funds administered by city councils and distributed as both grants and loans to support the starting up of new companies, and the further development of existing ones.	Early-stage finance	Public authorities/organisations
Norway	NO 24 Grant for Entrepreneurs (Start-up Grants)		May be used to cover living expenses, consultancy services, travel expenses, guardian schemes and other follow-up services, minor investment, market surveys and costs associated with start-up operations.	Early-stage finance Grants - Firms	Entrepreneurs, particularly in the regional areas
Portugal	PT 16 Promotion of company development	2000	To strengthen and stimulate investments that enhance company competitiveness www.icep.pt	Reimbursable loans at zero interest; non-reimbursable grants; achievement premiums	Large companies SMEs
Sweden	SE 5 Simplified registration of start-ups	2000	Common registration form.	Administrative simplification	New companies (and implicitly SMEs)
Sweden	SE 13 The Venture Capital Database	1999	The Venture Capital Database is a database on the Internet which start-ups and SMEs looking for venture capital can access in order to find the most suitable risk capital companies to contact. The database has a search function. To find the most suitable venture capital companies, the start-ups and SMEs specify various parameters such as industrial sector, investment phase, size of the investment and geographic location. www.nutek.se	Service to companies – web portal	SMEs/Industrial SMEs

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Spain	ES 17 Development of technical Research (PROFIT)	2000	Subsidies to R&D, technology centres and companies to carry out technology transfer and innovation activities. www.mcyt.es	Grants – intermediaries	Large companies/Large industrial companies Public authorities/ organisations Research institutes, SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Spain	ES 19 The Information society for all	2000	Subsidies (including equity provision in firms) to promote the use of the information society in companies. www.mcyt.es	Grants – firms	Individuals Public authorities/ organisations, Researchers Students in upper secondary schools
UK	UK 2 Liaison at Ministerial and official level with private-sector providers of finance		To enhance understanding of the needs of innovative SMEs and how to match them among providers of private finance. To improve the business skills of SMEs and to ease their access to appropriate finance	Financial environment	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
UK	UK 5 Biotechnology Mentoring and Incubator (BMI) Challenge	1996	To stimulate the start-up of new high-quality biotechnology companies which will contribute to the growth of the UK biotechnology industry. A competition to encourage intermediary organisations to support such start-ups through the provision of grants.	Grants – intermediaries Financial Environment	Large companies/Large industrial companies Public authorities/ organisations Research institutes, SMEs/Industrial SMEs, Universities
UK	UK 6 Biotechnology Finance Advisory Services	1996	To improve biotechnology SMEs' awareness of, and access to, sources of finance, in order to develop the UK biotechnology sector. To identify potential sources of private sector funds or appropriate government grants in all business development phases.	Intermediation	Individuals Large companies/Large industrial companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
UK	UK 8 Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme	1981	70% guarantees on loans from banks and other financial institutions for small businesses with viable business proposals which have tried and failed to obtain a conventional loan because of a lack of security	Loan guarantees	SMEs/Industrial SMEs
UK	UK 21 Science Enterprise Challenge	1999	To establish up to eight centres of enterprise in UK universities in order to foster the commercialisation of research and new ideas, stimulate scientific entrepreneurialism, and incorporate the teaching of enterprise into the science and engineering curricula. www.dti.gov.uk/COMMS/dtiexweb	Incubators	Universities

Coverage	Measures	Date	Content summary	Mode of operation	Targets
UK	UK 31 Corporate venturing tax relief	2000	Relief on corporation tax payable by companies at 20% of the amount invested in specific economic activities. www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/home.htm	Taxation – investors	Larger companies wishing to invest in smaller companies.
UK	UK 46 Small Business Research Initiative	2001	Allow small businesses to have access to R&D procurement from Government Departments. www.dti.gov.uk	Not yet known	SMEs Industrial SMEs
Hungary	HU 5 Integrator	1999	To develop the Hungarian SMEs' competitiveness and innovative abilities, to build their network and help them to become the strategic partners of large companies. www.om.hu	50% in non-refundable grants	Large companies/Large industrial companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Hungary	HU 23 Application for establishing innovative enterprises	2001	To build national and international networks - To give innovation details for enterprises. www.om.hu	Grants	Other
Czech Republic	CZ 6 Park Programme	1995	The programme aims to improve the country's innovation infrastructure by supporting science and technology parks. www.mpo.cz	Government subsidy.	Graduates Others Researchers
Estonia	EE 1 Joint spin-off programme of Tallinn Technical University and the Tallinn Technical University Innovation Centre Foundation	1999	The aim of the spin-off programme is to support the commercialisation of innovative ideas by selecting promising ideas and provide basic training for start-ups (financial management, budget, marketing, legislation, drafting a business plan etc.), followed by the phase of individual mentoring and consultations (engaging Finnish experts) leading to the formulation of a business plan. http://www.tuic.ee/tik-eng.html	Subsidised training, mentoring and consulting, incubator services.	Researchers
Estonia	EE 14 Tartu University Innovation Office spin-off programme	1998	The university supports the creation of spin-off companies for more efficient implementation of R&D results. The aim of the university is not to offer commercial services, thus private structures are established for bringing research intensive products to end users. www.ut.ee/innovation/	Rent of material assets (rooms, communications), consulting, assistance in getting financing	Graduates Researchers
Cyprus	CY 5 High-Technology - Business Incubators	1999	The objective of the measure is to support the creation of new High Technology and Innovation enterprises. agrino.org/hightech/incubator_programme_engl	Grants	Individuals Researchers SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Cyprus	CY 14 Scheme for Subsidising Specialised Software in Industry	1999	The aim of this scheme is to contribute decisively to the automation of procedures and processes, saving of resources and increase of productivity. This scheme encourages and offers subsidisation towards the cost of the development, purchase and installation of specialised software	Grant	Large companies/Large industrial companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Latvia	LV 4 Latvian Technological Centre (LTC)	1993	The Latvian Technological Centre (LTC) was established (1993) as a "test-bed" for the development of innovation and technology oriented SME support structures in Latvia. www.innovation.lv/LTC/		SMEs/Industrial SMEs

<i>Coverage</i>	<i>Measures</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Content summary</i>	<i>Mode of operation</i>	<i>Targets</i>
Latvia	LV 5 National Programme for SME support	1997	The Latvian Ministry of Economy has taken the initiative to work out the National Programme for the development of SMEs. This programme was published, discussed and accepted in the first half of 1997. www.innovation.lv/ltc/		Other Public authorities/ organisations
Latvia	LV 7 Innovation Relay Centre – Latvia (IRC)		The main goal of this project is to promote competition through innovative development and quality appraisal. www.innovation.lv/irc/		Researchers SMEs/Industrial SMEs Universities
Latvia	LV 8 Electronic Industry Business Innovation Centre of Latvia (LEBIC)	1997	The Electronic Industry Business Innovation Centre of Latvia (LEBIC) was created (1997) as a support structure for SME in the fields of electronics and information technology. www.lebic.lv/		SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Latvia	LV 14 Latvian Academy of Sciences (LZA) web-site		Latvian Academy Of Sciences (LZA) has created a Web site containing information about the most important inventions created in Latvia, the most outstanding inventors and about the patent system of Latvia. inventions.lza.lv/		Individuals Researchers Students in upper secondary schools
Latvia	LV 15 Innovation Relay Centre - Latvia (IRC) of Latvia Technology Centre	2000	Latvian Innovation Relay Centre (IRC Latvia) is a technology advisory centre that provides trans-national technology co-operation services. The activities are mainly oriented on SMEs. The main task of IRC Latvia is the improvement of SMEs competitiveness by development of new products in a new quality. www.innovation.lv/irc/		SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Latvia	LV 16 LEBIC Regional Development Programme	1998	www.lebic.lv		SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Latvia	LV 36 Action Plan to Improve the Business Environment		To take steps towards overcoming obstacles, which impede the improvement of the business environment. Major areas include: tax policy and tax administration, border crossing and customs, corruption, administrative barriers and others.		Business community
Romania	RO 8 Programul 'Cooperare si parteneriat international' - CORINT	2001	Strategic directions pursued by the programme include: promotion of clustering and co-operation for innovation between Romanian and international companies - intensified co-operation and international partnerships between companies - strengthening research carried out by Romanian companies together with neighbouring countries, with traditional Romanian companies partners and with EU countries. www.mct.ro/web/1/programe/plancd/corint	Co-financing	SMEs/Industrial SMEs

8. Questionnaire

COUNTRY:

With regard to **Topic 2 ‘Stimulation of SME start-ups in life science technology’**, please provide information on the following questions:

1. Does this topic form an area of *innovation policy concern* in your country? For example, is it the subject of policy debate, or have measures been introduced to address it? (If YES, please give brief details but see 3 below for the specific details of any relevant measures).
2. Have there been any specific *studies or reports/documents* produced on this topic? Please give brief reference and description of their main objectives/findings.
3. Are there any *existing policy measures* which directly or indirectly address this topic? (Please give reference numbers and names of relevant datasheets, or a brief description)

For each measure described please provide the following details:

Name of scheme and reference number:	
Brief description of scheme (or refer to country report/datasheet)	
a) Level of operation and targets of measure: (e.g. researchers, universities, government laboratories, companies, local/regional government, etc.)	
b) Does the scheme operate directly (e.g. provision of financial or fiscal incentives/benefits for start-ups) or indirectly? (e.g. amendment of legislative framework to ease NTBF creation).	
c) What is the primary objective? (e.g. to strengthen industry, to strengthen science base, to promote exploitation of science base)	
d) Does the scheme have any particularly novel or interesting aspects?	

4. Have any of these measures a) formed the *subject of evaluations* or b) *been transferred* (with or without modification) to/from another country? Please give details, particularly of possible ‘good practice’ examples.
5. Are there plans to introduce *new policy measures*, which directly or indirectly address this topic? What is the likely time scale for their introduction?