

FP7 Feasibility Study Support - Information & Guidelines

The EU 7th Framework Programme assists companies involved in negotiating with research partners and/or in preparing joint R&D proposals for submission to the EU by way of funding under the Feasibility Study Support initiative.

What studies are eligible?

The FP7 Specific Programmes constitute the four major building blocks: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. The Cooperation Programme includes the following ten priority thematic areas:

- Health
- Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology
- Information and communication technologies
- Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including climate change)
- Transport (including aeronautics)
- Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
- Space
- Security

Companies should be clear as to the broad area of R&D in which they wish to become involved and also to which Thematic Area (within the Framework) most closely matches their area of R&D.

Companies should discuss proposed projects with the relevant National Framework Programme Delegate or National Contact Point in order to obtain an opinion regarding closeness of fit with current EU Calls for Proposals.

Project ideas must be discussed with your assigned Development Adviser prior to submitting a completed online application form. You will be required to clearly demonstrate to your Development Adviser the specific benefits of undertaking the proposal.

What costs are eligible?

Costs	Max. Eligible	Comment
Salaries/Wages	€1,000 per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries & Overheads are only available to client companies that employ 15 persons or less at end of the calendar year prior to the date of application (excluding client companies that employ less than 15 employees but are subsidiaries of a larger group). • Maximum allowance of up to €1,000 per week for Salaries. • Financial support for Salaries & Overheads are limited to a maximum period of up to 60 days.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the discretion of the Department Managers and subject to funds being available, Salaries & Overheads may be allowed as eligible in exceptional cases where clients intend placing a person outside the island of Ireland for a number of months to assess/build the market. • Promoters undertaking their own studies who are not otherwise in receipt of income aid and who can show loss of income as a result of carrying out a feasibility study, are entitled to claim an income allowance for the actual verifiable loss up to the €1,000 per week maximum. The number of days for which salaries are claimed must be specified in the application form together with the weekly rate of pay for each individual.
Consultancy Fees	<p>Max. consultancy rate is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 20 consultant days is €900 • 21 – 40 consultant days is €700 • 40+ consultant days is €600 	<p>The cost of obtaining specialist advice necessary to establish the viability of a project is eligible for assistance.</p> <p>Consultancy rate per day must be inclusive of travel and subsistence and all out of pocket expenses</p>
Prototype Expenditure	Should not exceed 25% of the total study costs	<p>Prototype design and fabrication expenditure (where not already funded by Enterprise Ireland) is eligible for assistance. Eligible prototype costs include materials, labour, subcontract costs, and the hire of necessary facilities. For projects where it would be inappropriate to develop a prototype, the cost of designing and printing a brochure for market research purposes (but not for direct marketing) may be considered on merit.</p>
Travel & Subsistence	see Comment	<p>Daily Allowances</p> <p>Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy Air/Rail Fares • Mileage 60 Cents/Km • Economy Car Hire • Subsistence*: 24 hr period €150 per Day OR Day rate, €60 <p>Overseas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy Air/Rail Fares • Mileage 60 Cents/Km • Economy Car Hire • Subsistence*: 24 hr period, €200 per Day OR Day rate, €60

		<p>*For all out of pocket expenses including, hotels, meals, taxis, local fares, incidentals etc.</p> <p>Please indicate the Purpose of Travel</p> <p>Note: Subsistence can only apply where a person is absent on business at a location more than 20 kilometres [overnights 80km] from their work base.</p>
Overheads and Sundry Expenses	30% of actual wage/salary costs	The company's normal overhead provision, up to 30% of actual wages/salary costs, is the appropriate allowance for businesses where wages/salaries are paid. For Individuals and Groups where wages/salaries are not paid, the actual cost of overhead/sundry expense items (phone, postage, rental, stationary, etc.) is claimable.

NOTE: Salaries/wages and overheads may only be included in your application following discussions with your DA.

Retrospective expenditure?

Expenditure incurred prior to the date the application form is received in Enterprise Ireland CSU and after the Call closing date is ineligible. In the case of successful proposals eligible expenditure extends to the Grant Agreement Sign-off date.

Defining Project Start Dates?

The start date of the project is the date of receipt of the application in CSU.

Maximum support limits?

The maximum grant for companies under this support is €25,000 (at 50% grant rate i.e. €25,000 based on a total expenditure by the company of €50,000). This R&D offer is part of funding awarded under Category 1 funding which includes grant support for various types of consultancy and feasibility studies, market research, participation at trade fairs, mentors, training and recruitment of a key manager.

Please note that approval by Enterprise Ireland of any grant sought shall be subject to Enterprise Ireland being satisfied:

- of the merits of providing grant support to the activity set out in the application
- that the approval is in accordance with Enterprise Ireland policy
- that the approval is in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements
- that there are sufficient funds available to Enterprise Ireland

Who can apply?

Enterprise Ireland clients who are:

- manufacturing, an internationally traded services companies
- high potential start up companies
- an individuals or group who wish to develop a Business Plan

It is recommended that the **technical** opinion of the relevant National Delegate or National Contact Point is sought before online submission of the application to Enterprise Ireland. If

this evaluation has not been completed prior to submission, the review and recommendation will be advised to EI's relevant Development Adviser (DA), who makes the final **commercial** decision. The final decision to fund the client is with the DA/SDA.

Please note: Project ideas must be discussed with your assigned Development Adviser prior to submitting a completed online application. You will be required to clearly demonstrate to your Development Adviser the specific benefits of undertaking the proposal.

Information on how to **register for Enterprise Ireland's online application process** is available by clicking on the following link:

<https://secure.enterprise-ireland.com/Xtranet/CredentialManagement/cmLogin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fXtranet%2fDefault.aspx>

Information on the **Grant Claims Process** is available by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Process/Companies/Feasibility-Grant-Claim-Forms.html>