

## Innovation Window

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The Innovation Window of the Greek ESIF FoF follows and is complementary to the creation of the newly established Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (ELIDEK) by the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs) with the backing of the European Investment Bank, which focusses on the support for R&D in Greece.

The Innovation Window is the second step in this project and derived from the creation of an “Innovation Fund” – henceforth referred to as the Innovation Window.

This Window has two main components: (1) a technology transfer component; and (2) an accelerator component. The former focusses on capitalising on the outstanding R&D taking place in Greece, which can have ample room for commercialisation when scrutinised and supported by an independent fund manager. The latter, focusses on supporting those start-ups established in or through accelerator programmes, which again can benefit from the nurturing and support of an independent fund manager. End target beneficiaries include professors, postgraduates and graduates students, as well as entrepreneurs willing to pursue their business opportunity. To this end, contributing to help reverse brain drain, encouraging brain gain and supporting talented individuals is the ultimate objective of this call.

<b>Financial Instrument</b>	Technology Transfer Fund(s) / Accelerator Fund(s). The financial instrument(s) must be established as a closed-end fund.
<b>Envisaged State aid regime</b>	Envisaged to be Article 21 of General Block Exemption Regulation <sup>1</sup> (GBER) or State aid free (in case of pari-passu distribution cascade).
<b>Investment focus</b>	(i) Technology Transfer: Projects and/or companies (SMEs) coming out from research centres, clusters, and/or any research linked organisations. Such Projects/companies must have a commercialisation potential in the form of licensing revenues, spin-outs, IP protection and subsequent commercialisation etc. The technology transfer fund(s) may also cover investment opportunities in university spin-offs and IP commercialisation companies with follow-on financing support possibly being offered to existing spin-offs under appropriate circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

	<p>(a) Partnership with research organisations / higher education institutions</p> <p>An adequate relationship with Research Organisations shall be sought, securing access to deal flow and support, whilst keeping them at arms-length and allowing for commercial decision to be taken independently by the Management Team. To the extent possible a partnership agreement between the Management Team and the Research Organisation (including the Research Commercialisation team if appropriate) will be sought.</p> <p>(b) Adequate Protection of IP policies and procedures are in place</p> <p>Specific attention should be paid by the manager to the IP policy of the Research Organisation. In particular it is important that any IP is adequately protected under the relevant legislation where applicable. Where the Research Organisations concerned are entitled to the ownership of IP, it is important that these Organisations have sound and proven policies in relation to the protection of IP.</p> <p>(ii) Acceleration:</p> <p>Projects/start-ups linked to incubator spaces, co-working spaces, accelerators, universities.</p> <p>No turnaround or rescue-type operations shall be allowed in either Technology Transfer or Acceleration.</p>
<b>Investment range</b>	<p>Pre-seed, proof-of-concept, seed stages defined as per Invest Europe (formerly known as EVCA). Typically up to 15% of the total fund size in any single investee (fund Advisory Board approval needed in case the limit needs to be exceeded).</p> <p>No regulatory cap for state aid “free” funds and funds under Notification under Community guidelines on State aid to promote risk finance investments. For General Block Exemption Regulation compliant funds the cap is at EUR 15m per investee.</p> <p>The General Block Exemption Regulation compliant funds may invest together with other General Block Exemption Regulation compliant funds up to the maximum cumulated limit of EUR 15m per SME.</p>

<p><b>Eligible investees</b></p>	<p>The investments shall be expected to be financially viable.</p> <p><b>Pari-passu Distribution cascade<sup>2</sup>;</b></p> <p>Shall target micro, small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and in suitably justified cases non-SMEs.</p> <p><b>Non-pari-passu Distribution cascade<sup>3</sup>;</b></p> <p>1. shall target enterprises that at the time of the initial investment round are unlisted micro, small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs)<sup>4</sup> and fulfil at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) they have not been operating in any market;</li> <li>(b) they have been operating in any market for less than 7 years following their first commercial sale;</li> <li>(c) they require an initial risk finance investment which, based on a business plan prepared in view of entering a new product or geographical market, is higher than 50% of their average annual turnover in the preceding 5 years.</li> </ul> <p>2. may also provide follow-on investments made in enterprises, including after the 7-year period mentioned in 1 (b) above, if the following cumulative conditions are fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the maximum amount of risk finance as per GBER (EUR 15m) is not exceeded in aggregate;</li> <li>(b) the possibility of follow-on investments was foreseen in the original business plan;</li> <li>(c) the enterprise receiving follow-on investments has not become linked, within the meaning of Article 3 of Annex I of GBER, with another undertaking other than the financial intermediary or the independent private investor providing risk finance under the measure, unless the new entity fulfils the conditions of the SME definition within the meaning of Annex I of GBER.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Replacement capital</b></p>	<p>The fund can provide replacement capital<sup>5</sup> only if the latter is combined with new capital representing at least 50% of each investment round into the enterprise.</p>

<sup>2</sup> See Distribution cascade section for more information.

<sup>3</sup> Idem.

<sup>4</sup> As defined, as applicable, in the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003, and in the Annex 1 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, as amended from time to time concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

<sup>5</sup> The purchase of a minority stake of existing shares in a company from another private equity firm or from another shareholder or shareholders.

<p><b>Private Investors</b></p>	<p>Private Investors shall be deemed to be any investors which (i) are economically and structurally independent from the fund manager, and from any entities and/or individuals connected thereto, (ii) are economically and structurally independent from the eligible beneficiaries where an Investment is made, and from any entities and/or individuals connected thereto, and (iii) in the reasonable determination of the Fund Manager, are normal economic operators (i.e. investors operating in circumstances corresponding to the market economy investor principle in a free market economy, irrespective of the legal nature and ownership structure of such operators, to the extent that they bear the full risk in respect of their investment). Upon the creation of a new company, private investors, including the founders, are considered to be independent from that company.</p>
<p><b>Private investor contribution</b></p>	<p>Minimum 10% private financing at the fund level.</p> <p><b>1) Pari-passu Distribution cascade<sup>6</sup>;</b></p> <p>50% private investor contribution at the fund level on pari passu basis. Investment on the same terms and conditions.</p> <p><b>2) Non-pari-passu Distribution cascade<sup>7</sup>;</b></p> <p>Additionally, the fund manager will be contractually required to constantly monitor the portfolio to ensure that the combined private participation at the fund and the portfolio companies level at all times represent at least the weighted average based on the volume of the individual investments in the underlying portfolio and resulting from the application of the minimum participation rates to such investments, as given in the next points:</p> <p>a) enterprises prior to their first commercial sale on any market, at the time of concerned initial or follow-on investment, require minimum 10% private participation, thus the fund may be the only investor (private participation is achieved through the private investors in the fund);</p> <p>b) enterprises that, at the time of concerned initial or follow-on investment, have operated in any market for less than 7 years following their first commercial sale, require minimum 40% private participation, thus the fund shall need to syndicate with private investors on enterprises level, unless the weighted average</p>

<sup>6</sup> See Distribution cascade section for more information.

<sup>7</sup> Idem.

	<p>participation rate in already existing portfolio, as mentioned above, doesn't already cover the shortfall;</p> <p>c) enterprises that, at the time of concerned initial or follow-on investment, have operated in any market for 7 years or more following their first commercial sale, require minimum 60% private participation, thus the fund shall need to syndicate with private investors on enterprises level, unless the weighted average participation rate in already existing portfolio, as mentioned above, doesn't already cover the shortfall.</p>
<b>Investment period</b>	No longer than 5 years from the first closing of the fund <sup>8</sup> .
<b>Follow-on investments</b>	<p>Provided that the following conditions are met:</p> <p>(1) the closing of the fund has taken place before 31 December 2017, and</p> <p>(2) at least 55% of the total commitments are drawn in Eligible investees or paid out as management fees by 31 December 2023,</p> <p>up to 20% of the total commitments can be allocated for follow-ons after 31 December 2023.</p> <p>The period through which follow-on investments can be made cannot exceed four years after 31 December 2023<sup>9</sup>. If the above follow-on capacity would not allow fully executing the fund investment strategy, further solutions may be analysed.</p>
<b>Type of financing</b>	Equity and / or quasi-equity.
<b>Fund duration</b>	10 +1 +1 years (with extensions being subject to an investor or Advisory Board approval).
<b>Fund manager's commitment</b>	At least 1% of fund size, to be decided as an alignment tool between investors and the manager, to be assessed against fund operational economics and broader financial position of the manager's team.
<b>Management fee basis</b>	<p>Case I: Product complying with the pari-passu principle as laid down in DA Art 13 (5):</p> <p>Typically paid on the committed capital during the investment period and on the invested capital (acquisition cost of the active portfolio of the fund reduced by the acquisition cost of the fund's investments</p>

<sup>8</sup> In no case initial investments can be made after 31 December 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Article 42(3) of EC Regulation 1303/2013.

	<p>that have been sold, written-off or written-down) thereafter. Alternatively fixed-fee for the post investment period could be considered.</p> <p>Case II: Products not complying with the pari-passu principle as laid down in DA Art 13 (5):</p> <p>Base Remuneration: 2.5 % per annum for the first 24 months after the signature of the funding agreement, thereafter 1% per annum, of programme contributions committed under the relevant funding agreement to the financial instrument, calculated pro-rata temporis from the date of signature of the relevant funding agreement until the end of the eligibility period, repayment of the contributions to the managing authority or to the fund of funds, or the date of winding up, whichever is earlier;</p> <p>Performance-based remuneration: 2.5 % per annum of the programme contributions paid within the meaning of Article 42(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 to final recipients in the form of equity, as well as of resources re-invested which are attributable to programme contributions, which have yet to be paid back to the financial instrument, calculated pro rata temporis from the date of payment to the final recipient until repayment of the investment, the end of the recovery procedure in the case of write-offs or the end of the eligibility period, whichever is earlier;</p> <p>Selection of funds through this Call for Expression of Interest constitutes a selection through a competitive tender for the purposes of Article 13(6) of EC Regulation 480/2014. As a result, the management fee caps referred to in Article 13(2) and (3) of said regulation do not apply if the outcome of the Call for Expression of Interest proves the need for higher management fees and costs.</p> <p>The period through which the management fee is paid after 31 December 2023 cannot exceed six years.</p> <p>The Management fee to be paid out to the Fund Manager after the end of the eligibility period will be paid through an interest-bearing escrow account specifically dedicated for that purpose.</p>
<p><b>Management fee and cost cap</b></p>	<p>In addition to the caps introduced in the previous section (“Management fee basis”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management costs and fees to be paid after 31 December 2023 shall not exceed 1.5 % per annum of the invested capital, calculated pro rata temporis from 31 December 2023 until repayment of the investment, the end of the recovery procedure in the case of defaults or 31 December 2029, whichever is earlier.</li> <li>- The management fee and costs cap shall be deemed to include any fees, expenses and costs necessary to set up and manage and wind-up the Fund including transaction costs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The aggregate management fee and costs paid to the Fund Manager throughout the Fund duration cannot exceed 20% of capital commitments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Distribution cascade</b></p>	<p>The Technology Transfer Fund(s) and the Acceleration Fund(s) may benefit from State aid - non-pari-passu incentives for private investors in the form of capping the net return on ESIF FoF investment at 6% p.a., for the benefit of private investors. In such cases, the incentives would be provided by the FoF only, whilst the EIF co-investment will not (i) be subordinate to any private investors; (ii) contribute to providing any preferential treatment to private investors or (iii) receive any extra return from the ESIF FoF investment. The return on EIF's co-investment would remain neutral to this arrangement.</p> <p>A pari-passu distribution cascade for all investors is allowed.</p> <p>The non-pari-passu versus pari-passu structure has some implications on other fund parameters, including those as highlighted in this termsheet. The fund manager is invited to highlight its preference in the proposal, and the choice between the two options, depending on the specific transaction and the need for creating incentives for private investors, will be finalized by end of the selection process, to be specified in the Operational Agreement. In case of equal proposals, pari-passu is always preferred as long as it doesn't hamper successful private fundraising.</p>
<p><b>Compliance</b></p>	<p>Clear procedures for KYC/AML and integrity checks on the sourced private investors and management of conflicts of interest shall be implemented by the fund manager in line with requirements of national legislation.</p>
<p><b>Prohibited types of investees and activities</b></p>	<p>Investments in following types of investees and activities shall not be supported (as per ERDF Regulation Art. 3(3)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the decommissioning or the construction of nuclear power stations;</li> <li>(b) investment to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC;</li> <li>(c) the manufacturing, processing and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products;</li> <li>(d) undertakings in difficulty, as defined under Union State aid rules;</li> <li>(e) investment in airport infrastructure unless related to environmental protection or accompanied by investment necessary to mitigate or reduce its negative environmental impact.</li> </ul> <p>The eligible investees shall not have a substantial focus on one or more Restricted Sectors. Such Restricted</p>

	<p>Sectors are as set out in the “Guidelines on the EIF Restricted Sectors” available for download on <a href="http://www.eif.org">www.eif.org</a><sup>11</sup>.</p> <p><b>Additional not supported activities in case of non-pari-passu Distribution cascade (as per GBER Art. 1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- aid to export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current costs linked to the export activity;</li> <li>- aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods;</li> <li>- aid granted in the sector of processing and marketing of agricultural products, in the following cases: (i) where the amount of the aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of such products purchased from primary producers or put on the market by the undertakings concerned; or (ii) where the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers;</li> <li>- aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines, as covered by Council Decision No 2010/787;</li> <li>- undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market;</li> <li>- aid to undertakings in difficulty.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Place of business of Eligible investees or development of projects</b></p>	<p>Fund shall only invest into Eligible investees that have an establishment or branch in Greece.</p>
<p><b>Publicity</b></p>	<p>Fund manager will have to carry out adequate publicity activities and ensure visibility of ESIF financing in line with ESIF requirements, to be specified in the Operational Agreement.</p>
<p><b>Reporting</b></p>	<p>The fund manager shall provide EIF with periodical information in a standardised form and scope as per Invest Europe (formerly known as EVCA) guidelines for reporting, in compliance with ESIF regulations, as to be specified in the Operational Agreement.</p> <p>It is important to note that ESIF and State aid reporting rules will require fund managers to provide new</p>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.eif.org/news\\_centre/publications/2010\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Restricted\\_Sectors.htm?lang=-en](http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/2010_Guidelines_for_Restricted_Sectors.htm?lang=-en).

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.eif.org/news\\_centre/publications/2010\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Restricted\\_Sectors.htm?lang=-en](http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/2010_Guidelines_for_Restricted_Sectors.htm?lang=-en).



	<p>data points (such as a split between base and performance management fees and the split between private and public nature of investors) which typically are not being tracked and a higher granularity of data (such as but not limited to Level 2 NACE and NUTS codes and country fiscal numbers). Furthermore, the fund manager should report any additional data that may derive from future changes to the ESIF regulations.</p>
<b>Monitoring and Audit</b>	<p>The fund manager and the investee companies shall agree to keep records as required under ESIF rules and to allow and to provide access to documents related to the Financial Instrument for the representatives of the European Commission (including the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)), the Court of Auditors of the European Communities, EIF, Managing Authority and any other authorised bodies duly empowered by applicable law to carry out audit and/or control activities. To that effect, the fund manager shall include appropriate provisions in each investment agreement</p>
<b>Fund's due diligence before investments</b>	<p>The fund manager will make investment decisions based on each investment's business plan, which should contain product description, turnover and profitability calculations and forecasts, previous assessment of project viability, as well as each investment's clear and real exit strategy.</p>
<b>Additional features of the Financial Intermediary</b>	<p>The fund manager will manage the fund based on commercial principles.</p> <p>Investors' representatives shall be appointed in appropriate advisory committee structures to review inter alia fund corporate governance.</p> <p>In the management of the fund, the fund manager shall apply best practices, inter alia considering guidelines developed by Invest Europe and ILPA, and shall perform controls as required by the public nature of FoF investment.</p>
<b>Fund Manager</b>	<p>Financial Intermediary selected by EIF to manage the Financial Instrument. The fund manager must be independent and must be in a position to take the management and investment decisions independently, in particular without the influence of investors, sponsors or any other third party which is not integrated in the</p>

	<p>structure.</p> <p>The fund manager will typically comprise a team of experienced professionals, acting with the diligence of a professional manager and in good faith, operating according to best industry practices, complying with professional standards issued by the Invest Europe, ILPA<sup>12</sup> or other equivalent organisation.</p> <p>Preferred fund managers shall have a strong network and partnership with international peers.</p>
<p><b>Additional requirements</b></p>	<p>When selecting a financial intermediary, the selection panel shall satisfy itself that the intermediary fulfils the requirements of Art. 7 of Delegated Regulation 480/2014<sup>13</sup>.</p> <p>The fund manager shall ensure compliance with applicable law, including rules covering the ESIF and relevant national law and regulations, State aid, money laundering, the fight against terrorism and tax fraud. The fund manager, may, in line with its internal rules and procedures and particularly in the cases where fraudulent behaviour is suspected, be required to perform monitoring checks at the level of the investee companies.</p> <p>The fund shall not be established and shall not maintain business relations with entities incorporated in territories, whose jurisdictions do not cooperate with European Union in relation to the application of the internationally agreed tax standards and shall transpose such requirements in its contracts with final beneficiaries.</p> <p>The fund shall comply with relevant standards and applicable legislation on the prevention of money laundering, the fight against terrorism and tax fraud to which they may be subject. Funds (and sub-intermediaries) shall not be incorporated in territories whose jurisdictions does not co-operate with the EU in relation to the application of internationally agreed tax standards. Each applying Financial Intermediary may inquire about the status of a particular jurisdiction with EIF.</p> <p>The fund manager shall refer to EIF Policies, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anti-Fraud Policy;</li> <li>- EIF restricted sectors;</li> </ul>

<sup>12</sup> Institutional Limited Partners Association.

<sup>13</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 480/2014 of 3 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

- Policy on Offshore Financial Centres & Governance Transparency;  
published on the EIF website.

The fund will be required to return amounts invested which become affected by irregularities. For irregularities affecting amounts invested by the fund into Eligible investees, the fund will be required to apply all applicable contractual and legal measures with due diligence for the purpose of recovering the relevant amounts.