

FTI Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

New initiative under H2020 for 2015 and 2016

The last push before the market!

The FTI Pilot (2015-2016) is the only fully bottom-up measure in Horizon 2020 promoting close-to-the-market innovation activities that is open to all types of participants.

Why participate?

Ensure market potential
Increase chances for market success
Increase visibility in the market
Collaborate with international partners
Access to new markets
Benefit from the high impact of the FTI funding

Who can apply?

FTI is open to all types of participants whom are based in the **EU-28** and/or in countries **associated to Horizon 2020**. Only consortiums of **at least 3** and **at most 5** international legal entities of any type.

Specific conditions?

Only innovation actions
EU grant limited to 3 M€ proposals!
All partners should established in the EU
Limited consortia: minimum 3 and maximum 5 partners
Duration: 36 months to get into the market after the grant is awarded
Any type of legal entity can participate, but one of the following must apply:

- **Either:** at least **60% of the overall budget of the proposal** must be allocated to private-for-profit partners
- **Or:** in a **consortium of 3/4 partners**, at least 2 of them should be private-for-profit partners
- **Or:** in a **consortium of 5 partners**, at least 3 of them should be private-for-profit partners

TIP: Although it is not a specific condition and no limitations are mentioned regarding this matter, be careful with the coordinator partner choice, because coordinators will have financial viability check!

Coverage?

Market take-up of innovations: FTI Pilot has been created mainly to allow private-for-profit entities (including SMEs) to **finalise** high-potential innovation and proceed to market deployment.
The level of development of the technology should be higher or equal to TRL 6.

Activities supported?	<p>Activities for final validation and secure certification of the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advanced and specific research and development activities ▪ Performance testing ▪ Piloting ▪ Demonstration ▪ Business model validation ▪ Certification ▪ Real working conditions validation ▪ Market driven activities ▪ Standard setting ▪ Pre-normative research ▪ EU quality label <p>This FTI supported activities list is not fully exhaustive. General rule: the FTI supports activities that are of strategic commercial or technical relevance and that are close-to-market</p>
How to participate?	<p>One-stage scheme Participation rules under H2020 Proposal template available on the participant portal Technical annex with a maximum length of 30 pages which is not a goal (a solution with a strong potential will probably need less space to convince experts) Identify your market and your niche very clearly Solution beyond the current state-of-the-art</p>
Criteria	<p>Same criteria as for standard innovation actions: impact, excellence and quality and efficiency of the implementation EU added value and beyond (not only economic!): society, economy, climate, environment The participation of new comers from industry in the consortium is relevant Proposals with an overall initial score lower than 12/15 will not be ranked Proposals with an initial score lower than 4/5 for impact will not be ranked Criteria for further differentiation: Impact value SME's allocated budget Number of first-time industry applicants (legal entity private-for-profit that did not have a PIC before the proposal writing) Number of industry participants (industry participants are flagged automatically by the system if the legal status during registration is not set to non-public or for-profit) Gender balance of the consortium staff</p>
Proposal Evaluation	<p>Experts'skills: market knowledge, business experience and skills and background on the proposal area Panel of 4 independent experts Experts are bound by strict confidential rules Not more than one evaluator can be from the main applicant's country per proposal No networking between experts: no consensus meeting</p>

**Results
Communication**

Maybe before the ranking process if the evaluation result is below the thresholds
In case the proposal is above threshold, communication may be delayed until after the ranking process
Individual report will be provided about the submitted proposal, which will allow participants to understand what elements can still be improved

Budget

Total budget of €200 million (€100 million per year)

Deadlines

Call is permanently open from 6 January 2015
Cut-off dates for 2015: **29 April, 1 September** and **1 December**
First grants signed – end of October

Call page

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-ftipilot-2015-1.html>

**More
information**

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/fast-track-innovation-pilot-2015-2016>

Link to infoday

<https://scic.ec.europa.eu/streaming/index.php?es=2&sessionno=2e9777b99786a3ef6e5d786e2bc2e16f>

Key words

Innovation, Market, Business plan, Private-for-Profit Entities
