

**A PATH THROUGH THE FUNDING MAZE:
GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF NATIONAL & REGIONAL
FUNDING PROGRAMMES**

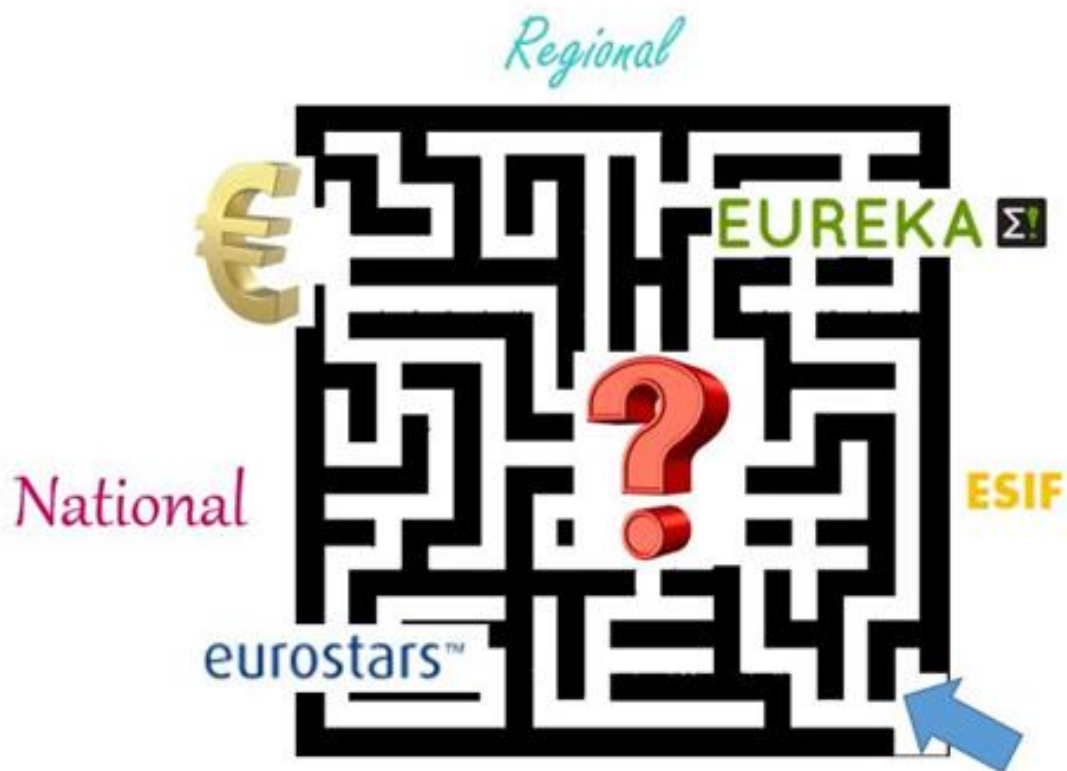


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1. FOREWORD

European research & innovation programmes offer a rich opportunity for innovative projects, but they are becoming more and more competitive. In addition, dedicated funding for LT/LR/MT is scarce. Therefore, the LT Observatory project investigated the national/regional support given to languages and language technology in the EU Member States, in particular national/regional funding opportunities including EUREKA and Eurostars schemes.

These guidelines shall help potential users of the complementary funding sources to find their way through the maze of national and regional funding opportunities.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National and regional language strategies and support for them are mainly apparent where a country/region wants to preserve its language and fosters it through language learning or preservation strategies. It is far rarer to find strategies and funding programmes that involve language technologies explicitly. Funding programmes are divers and often difficult to access. However, LT projects can often fit into research and innovation programmes, or programmes for the support of SMEs (e.g. internationalisation).

These guidelines are addressed to companies/developers of LT tools and solutions, researchers that want to develop market-near LT or MT solutions, in particular in lesser used official languages, at national or regional level, or in cooperation with a partner in another country. The funding opportunities covered are:

- ➔ ESIF – European structural and investment funds, in particular ERDF – European Regional and Development Fund
- ➔ National and regional R&I programmes or programmes to enhance the internationalisation of SMEs
- ➔ EUREKA/Eurostars

3. WHAT IS THIS GUIDE ABOUT?

3.1 FIND A PATH THROUGH THE FUNDING MAZE

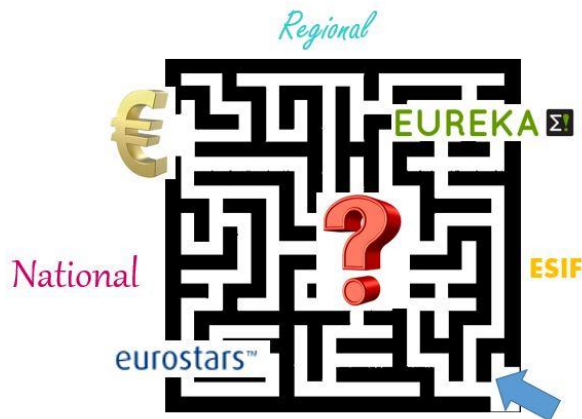


FIGURE 1 THE FUNDING MAZE

Languages determine a people's culture, tradition and behaviour. At the same time, languages are of considerable economic relevance. Content exists in all possible languages and translation is necessary to communicate/exploit it. High costs of translation and translation tools are inhibitors for all content/data markets and the linguistic diversity, the pride of Europe, is at the same time a barrier to implementing the Digital Single Market.

Horizon 2020 and other EU programmes are often oversubscribed and have only limited resources, apart from the fact that funds explicitly dedicated to LR and LT became rare. On the other hand, there exist national or regional funding opportunities, that are difficult to detect and are therefore often underused.

Public funding at national and regional level has a different aim than EU funding: The latter looks for a European value that goes beyond the partners in the project consortium. There are few programmes that support one single entity (e.g. the SME Instrument). In general, collaboration from three different entities located in three different countries is the minimum, underlining the "Europeanness" of the project.

At national/regional level, aims are different. They can be targeting the development of a region (through ESIF with its Smart Specialisation objectives), or to improve the R&D&I capacity of a country. Or to improve the performance of start-ups and SMEs. By their nature, these programmes are focussed on a geographical region that can be an entire Member State, or a region within such a Member State.

EURKEA and Eurostars programmes were included as they are based on national funding but in collaboration with a partner from at least one other country. Both programmes have a bottom-up approach so that potentially, LT projects can fit in. It should be mentioned that the EUREKA/Eurostars programme goes beyond the EU and other countries like Israel that provide funding for SMEs and Large Enterprises, could be considered as partners.

Below, an overview table with funding opportunities:

	ESIF	ESIF	ESIF	National Funding	Regional Funding	EUREKA	Eurostars	Explanation
	national	regional	topical					0 means no LT/MT/LR opportunities
Country								* little opportunities for LT/LR/MT ** opportunities but either not at the moment, or restricted or complex
Austria	***			***		Y	Y	*** good opportunities that should be exploited
Belgium		Flanders*, BXLO, Wallonie*			Flanders *** Wallonia **	Y	Y	
Bulgaria	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Y	Y	
Czech Republic	*	Prague*2018	Y			Y	Y	Y = Yes (in general, funds available) N = No (no funds available) n.a. = information not available
Cyprus	*			**		N	Y	
Denmark	0			*		Y	Y	
Estonia	*			***		N	N	
Finland	*	**		**		Y	Y	
France		0 to **		*		Y	Y	
Germany		*_***		**	*_***	Y	Y	
Greece		**	Y			Y	N	
Hungary			Y within ICT			Y	Y	
Ireland		**_***		**		Y	Y	
Italy	*	*(complex)	Y			[Y]	N	
Latvia	***					Y	Y	
Lithuania	***					Y	Y	
Luxembourg	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	*		Y	Y	
Malta	Y0			*		Y	Y	
The Netherlands		*to**		0 to *		Y	Y	
Poland		*	*			Y	Y	
Portugal		*	*	*		Y	N	
Romania		*	**	**		Y	Y	
Slovakia			*	**		N	Y	
Slovenia	*			*		Y	Y	
Spain		**to***	**			Y	Y	
Sweden		*	*(SMEs)	*to**		Y	Y	
UK		*(Wales, Scotland ***)		*	Scotland **	N	Y	

The aim of this guide is to make realistic opportunities visible and to guide potential users of such funding through the maze. This is not a trivial task as EU Member States are highly individualistic and governed by different systems and administrations. Funding opportunities can be either at federal level, or at regional level, or at both; it can be addressed to research only, mixed for research and companies, or geared at SMEs for their competitiveness and internationalisation. LT/MT can fit into all of these – or none. LTO explored the opportunities in all 28 countries (with some few exceptions regarding ESIF, e.g. Bulgaria and Luxembourg). Where possible, regional opportunities were also investigated. The mapping below shows the availability of funding per country, to give an overview. The maps are split into 4 groups of funding: ESIF¹, national/regional funding, EUREKA and Eurostars.

3.2 MAPPING COUNTRIES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

To give a quick overview, the investigated EU Member States are mapped against their availability of funds for LT/MT/LR projects (and not for available funding in general). More details on it can be found in chapter 5 where a summary analysis per country is given. This is by its nature a status quo by October 2016. However, many programmes run until 2020 so that the information, in particular relevant websites and contacts, are valid for longer than just one call or one year.

3.2.1 ESIF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

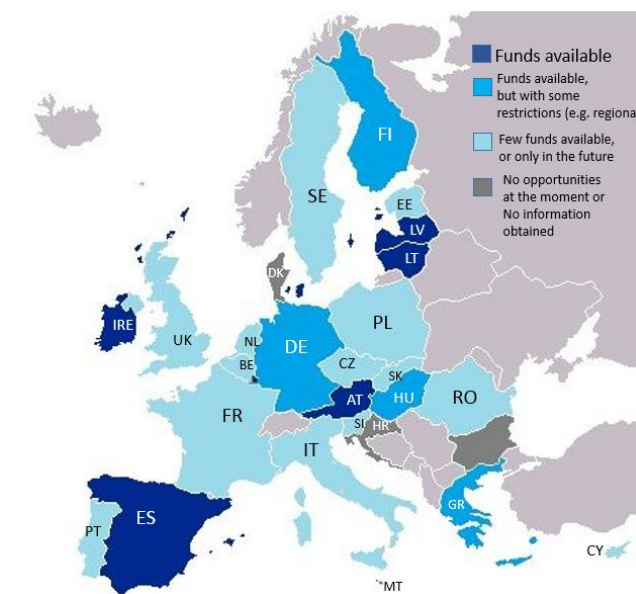


FIGURE 2 ESIF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The European Structural and Investment Funds, and most importantly, the ERDF – European Regional and Development Fund, provide financing for Member States/regions to “step up the ladder of growth, development and innovation”. For financing LT/MT/LR projects, some countries/regions look for innovation or support SMEs (e.g.

¹ An explanation about ESIF and its funding can be found at: <http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/how-does-esif-work>

AT, LT, LV) or they provide funding for vertical sectors where LT might fit in. Some countries integrate ESIF into their national funds for a mixed funding (e.g. AT, PT, LT, LV, partially IT) or use ESIF for regional funding (e.g. DE, ES, PT)..

3.2.2 NATIONAL/REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

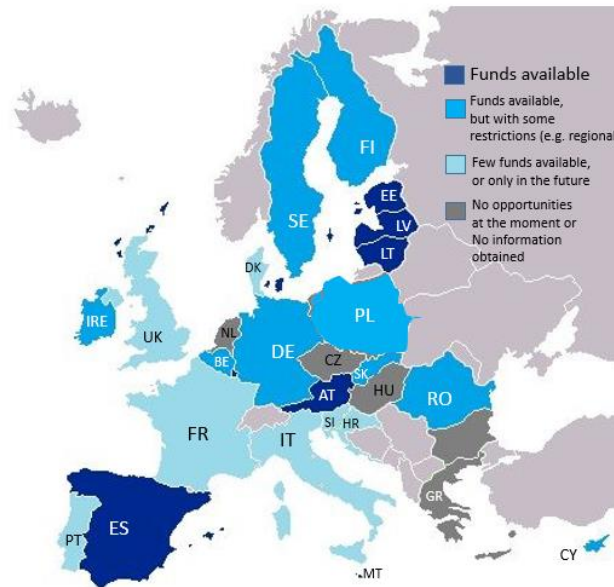


FIGURE 3 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

While all investigated EU Member States have some R&I programmes, or programmes to support SMEs, not all are suitable for the purpose of these guidelines, i.e. LT/LR/MT project funding. Where less-used languages are concerned, the Baltic States saw the benefit in supporting them and continue to do so (using ESIF funds in the case of LT and LV). The same is valid for countries with (strong) regional languages, like Spain and to a lesser extent, UK and Ireland. In most cases, LT/MT/LR projects would fit into their general programmes for R&I (like AT that funded such projects in the past). Some countries have – scattered – regional opportunities (DE, IT). France has some schemes that one would not recommend (e.g. repayable grants if one is successful) but some loan schemes that might be interesting for SMEs.

3.2.3 EUREKA MAP

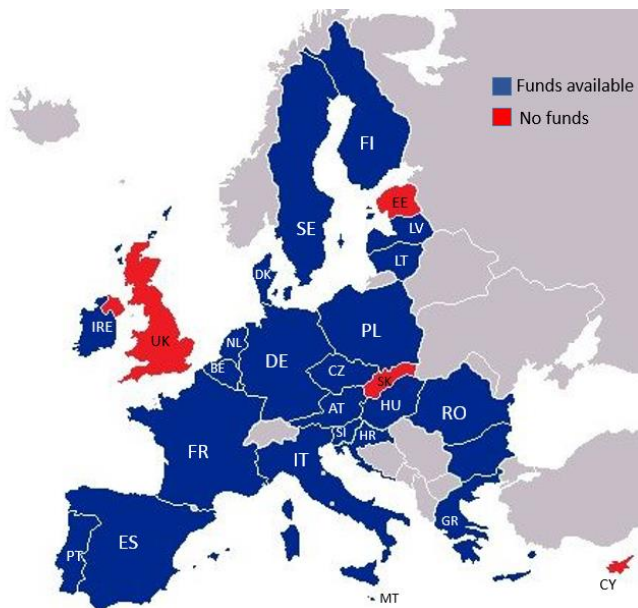


FIGURE 4 EUREKA MAP

As can be seen, most of the EU Member States provide for funds for EUREKA. However, it must be noted that the conditions to obtain them differ considerably. Sometime, they are only provided as loans (e.g. NL), sometimes, different institutions grant different type of funds or have rather complex systems (e.g. IT, FR, DK, LV). The general bottom-up approach is suitable for LT/MT/LR projects.

3.2.4 EUROSTARS MAP

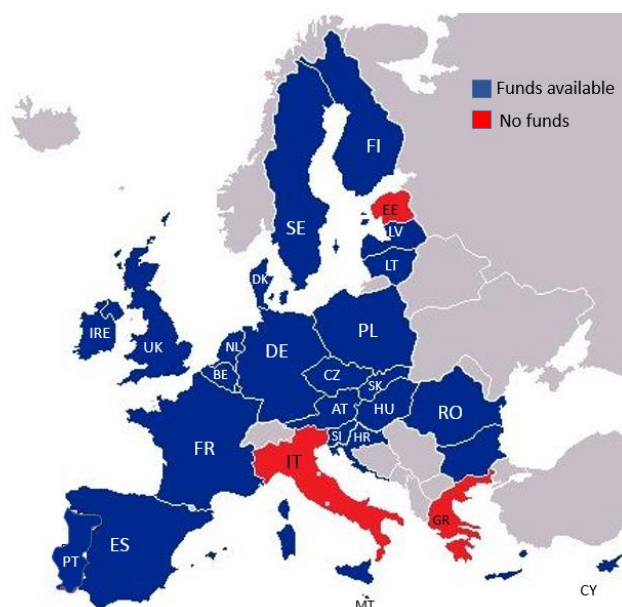


FIGURE 5 EUROSTARS MAP

As with EUREKA, not all EU Member States that were investigated provide funds for Eurostars. But this may change from one year to the other. For example, Italy is still in negotiation for 2016, and other countries may reconsider their financials and make some available for future calls.

4. WHO SHOULD READ THE GUIDE?

The guide is geared at any **person/entity** that has a project idea in the area of LT/MT/LR and is looking for financing. Primarily, it is geared at **companies** (start-up or SME or large company), but also **research institutes** or a **university institutes** that engage in market-near research and development. Funding opportunities exist for all these entities, but not all are for all types of beneficiaries or projects. This differs considerably.

Another element must be taken into consideration: **Funding percentage** and **upper funding limits**. As national/regional funding is subject to EU competition rules, any funding % complies with these rules (whereas, for example, Horizon 2020 is exempt of these rules). Therefore, there is hardly ever a 100% funding, but rather a funding in the area between 40 and 60%, sometimes with upper total limits. Project types are often divided into two types: “industrial research” = higher funding % or “experimental development” = lesser funding % as considered more market-near.

Finally, one needs to be clear if one wants to carry out the project alone, or with a subcontractor, or with a partner (that can/must be from the same country/region or outside the region, depending on the country and programme). For more details regarding the steps on how to approach funding, see chapter 6, *Vademecum*.

5. COUNTRIES/REGIONS WITH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The below country funding descriptions give an overview about opportunities. Details and in particular, contact details and links to respective websites can be found on the website that is given at the beginning of each country. Please note that the country sheets on the web may include more funding options and should therefore be consulted. Here, only the most promising funding opportunities for LT/MT/LR are mentioned. The information reflects the status quo in October 2016. However, links and contact data are a unique compilation that is valuable also for information on future opportunities.

5.1 AUSTRIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/austria-0>

ESIF:

Special programme “EFRE Top” for Austrian SMEs and large enterprises (exception Vienna); for industrial research, max. 50% funding up to 1MEUR; for experimental development, 25-40% funding up to 3 MEUR. Runs until 2020, administered by FFG (Austrian Funding Agency).

National funding:

FFG basis programme for R&I projects; open to all beneficiaries, continuous submission scheme; already funded LT and LT-related projects in the past.

Regional funding:

Vienna Business Agency: Innovative projects for start-ups; all kind of beneficiaries can participate.

EUREKA: Yes.

Small Companies up to 60%; Medium Size Companies up to 50%; LE up to 40%; Research Organization and Universities only as subcontractors.

Eurostars: Yes.

SMEs (small companies) max 60%, max. grant is EUR 500.000;

SMEs (medium sized companies) max. 50%, max grant is EUR 500.000

LE grants max 30%, max. grant EUR 500.000.

Research Institutes and Universities grants max. 40 %, up to max. EUR 500.000 (only eligible if there is an Austrian SME in the consortium; max 60%).

5.2 BULGARIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/bulgaria>

ESIF and national/regional funding information is not available. Interested companies are advised to contact the EUREKA/Eurostars agency (National Innovation Fund) for potential national funding.

EUREKA: Yes

Funds for SMEs and Large Enterprises are available for Industrial Research, Experimental Development or Technical Feasibility Projects. Depending on size and activity, % ranges from 50 to 80% with upper limits between EUR 200.000 and 400.000.

Eurostars: Yes

Funding varies according to company size, type of activity and collaborative structure, between 25% and 80%, with max. limits between EUR 125.000 and EUR 400.000.

5.3 BELGIUM

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/belgium-0>

ESIF:

Potentially available in Flanders and in the coming years in Wallonia.

Regional funding:

IWT/VLAIO (Flanders Agency): *R&I projects* for all beneficiaries located in Flanders, result must bring an economic impact in Flanders. Partners from other regions can be subcontractors. Several cut-off dates per year. *SME feasibility studies* and *SME Innovation projects*: small-scale support for SMEs.

Innoviris (Brussels): BEL-SME promoted the cooperation in R&D projects of Belgian SMEs. Next call 2017.

EUREKA: Yes

Flanders: SME 35 – 60%; LE² 25 – 50%; Research Institute/universities only as subcontractors

Brussels: SMEs 50-80%; LE 40% - 65% Research Institute and University up to 100%

Wallonia: SMEs 60-80%; LE 40% Research Institute: 50-100% University 50-75%

Eurostars: Yes

Flanders: SE³ 55%, ME 45%, LE 35%; others only as subcontractors; max. project amount EUR 500.000;

Brussels: SME 50-80%, LE 40-65%, Research Institute/University up to 100% but only in collaboration with a Brussels SME

Wallonia: SE 55-80%, ME 45-70%, LE 40%; University 50-100%, Research Institute 50-75%

5.4 CZECH REPUBLIC

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/czech-republic-0>

ESIF:

In the area of Prague, S3 priorities include Digital media, mobile applications, visualisation and design, production & distribution of media products. There will be calls with more specifications in the future, but probably not before 2018.

EUREKA: Yes

Funding for SMEs, Research organisations and universities (NOT large enterprises), 50%, between EUR 71000 and 107000. Project leader should be a company.

Eurostars:

Funding for all beneficiaries at 50%, max. EUR 130.000, with an additional 10% bonus for R&D performing SME.

5.5 CROATIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/croatia>

² LE = Large Enterprise

³ SE = Small Enterprise; ME = Medium Enterprise

National funding:

Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO): Incentive measures for SME support, activities like business performance improvement or improved services e.g. in tourism may include LT. EUR 50 – 150.000.

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs 50% per project and for project duration up to three years, EUR max. 150.000;
Research Organization and Universities 50%, EUR max 150.000 (cannot be main partner in a project).

Eurostars: Yes

SMEs 70%, EUR 200.000; LE can participate with 100% self-funding; Research Institutes and Universities can participate as subcontractors.

5.6 CYPRUS

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/cyprus>

ESIF/National Funding:

The Research Promotion Association announced the publication of calls in autumn 2016. Most national projects are funded by ESIF (ERDF).

Eureka: Yes

SMEs 75%; Research Organization 100%. Max. EUR 170.000

Eurostars: Yes

SME 80%, LE 65%; University 100% Research Institutes 100% up to max. EUR 150.000. At least one Cypriot SME must participate.

5.7 DENMARK

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/denmark-0>

National funding:

Innovation Fund Denmark: Two types of programmes: Strategic Growth Technologies (SMEs, LE; next call 2017) and InnoBooster (SMEs, startups, scientists; next cut-off date 30 Nov. 2016).

EUREKA: Yes

Funding is available for all types of beneficiaries but in different programme types.

Eurostars: Yes

All type of beneficiaries can participate but % and upper limit depend on different parameters like size, participation of an R&D performing SME etc.

5.8 ESTONIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/estonia-0>

ESIF:

ICT as horizontal technology may include LT. The Estonian Development Fund manages ESIF and should be contacted.

National level:

National Programme for Estonian Language Technology (2011-2017): Annual calls, opened usually in November.

EUREKA: No**Eurostars: No****5.9 FINLAND**

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/finland>

ESIF:

The smart specialisation strategies of some Finnish regions open windows of opportunities for LT, e.g. eHealth in Etela Pohjanmaa or in the area of digital technologies and smart citizens in the Helsinki region.

National Funding:

TEKES provides innovation programmes for SMEs and large enterprises and evaluates project ideas within one week: <https://www.tekes.fi/en/test-your-idea/#/>

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs if loan 70%, grant up to max. 50%; LE if loan 30%, grant up to max. 40%; University grant up to max. 60%; Research Organization grant up to max. 60%.

Eurostars: Yes

SMEs 50%, LE 40%; University grant up to max 60%; Research Institutes grant up to max. 60%. EUR 120.000 when two Finnish R&D performing SMEs and 60.000 EUR if one or no Finnish SMEs participate in a R&D project.

5.10 FRANCE

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/france-0>

ESIF:

ESIF opportunities are available at regional level, e.g. Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Lorraine and Bourgogne where LT fits into their defined smart specialisation.

National/regional funding:

Funding schemes are available but often in form of loans. Grants repayable when successful are also on offer.

EUREKA: Yes

France provides funding schemes for EUREKA projects but they are complex and often consist of a mix of grants and loans.

Eurostars: Yes

SMEs up to 40%; LE grants < 2000 personnel up to 30% ; LE >2000 0%; University grants up to 40%, up to max. EUR 100.000 (per participant). Research Institutes grants up to 40%, up to max. EUR 100.000 (per participant).

5.11 GERMANY

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/germany-0>

ESIF:

ESIF opportunities are available at regional level, e.g. Bavaria or Berlin where LT fits into their defined smart specialisation.

National/regional funding:

The German National Government provides funding advice on its (very practical) website:

<http://www.foerderinfo.bund.de/en/index.php>

Regional funding is available and most often, financed through ERDF (ESIF).

EUREKA: Yes

Germany has 2 programmes that provide funding for EUREKA. One governed by ZIM – Central innovation programme for SMEs with funding of SMEs (up to 499 employees!) of 25-50%, up to 380,000 EUR of costs eligible for funding; and Research institutes and Universities at 100% up to 190,000 EUR of costs eligible for funding. And the programmes administered by the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) that fund SMEs with up to 50%, Large Enterprises up to 35%, Universities at 100% and research organisation up to 100%.

Eurostars: Yes

SMEs 50%; Public University/Institutions like Fraunhofer Forschungsgesellschaft 50 to 100%, research organization 50-65%. If a German SME is involved in the project and contributes significantly to the project aim the funding will be 100%/65% respectively. Large enterprises may participate but without funding.

5.12 GREECE

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/greece>

ESIF:

ESIF opportunities are available at regional level, e.g. North Aegean where it may fit into verticals like Tourism. LT is considered an important topic.

EUREKA: Yes

The Greek EUREKA Office launches EUREKA calls every 2 years. While there might be some funds available, no % or amount is indicated.

Eurostars: No**5.13 HUNGARY**

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/hungary-0>

ESIF:

Infocommunication technologies and services are described as a horizontal priority nationally. Into this framework, LT projects could fit. Furthermore, in priority axes such as increasing competitiveness of SMEs, or RTD&I, LT projects may well fit.

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs up to 75% (80% if very small); LE up to 50%; Universities/Research institutions: up to 100% (only if a Hungarian industrial partner is in the project).

Eurostars: Yes

SME 80% (industrial research)/60% (experimental development); LE 65%/40%; Public research institute/university: 100% but only if a Hungarian SME/LE is in the consortium.

Total annual budget available EUR 750.000.

5.14 IRELAND

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/ireland-0>

ESIF:

Language Technologies are definitely encompassed by the Smart Specialisation strategy - specifically in the Priority Area C: *Digital Platforms, Content and Applications*.

National/regional funding:

Enterprise Ireland provides funding for Ireland-based companies with open themes.

EUREKA: Yes

SME up to 50%, LE up to 40%, max. costs EUR 450.000; for micro-enterprises, a max. limit of EUR 75.000 applies. Universities/Research institutes: 100%, max. costs EUR 250.000 but only if an Irish industrial partner is in the project.

Eurostars: Yes

SME up to 50%, LE up to 40%, max. grant EUR 450.000; for micro-enterprises, a max. limit of EUR 75.000 applies. Universities/Research institutes: 100%, max. grant EUR 250.000 but only if an Irish industrial partner is in the project.

5.15 ITALY

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/italy-0>

ESIF:

While ESIF is complex in Italy (having national, regional and thematic operational programmes), some regions like the Autonomous Region of Bozen foster research into languages and multilingualism.

National/Regional Funding:

The programme *Enterprise & Competitiveness 2014-2020* might have some windows of opportunities for LT, in particular in lesser developed regions of Italy. Support for Start-ups, e.g. in Emilia-Romagna or innovative SMEs, in Friuli-Venezia Giulia could be other opportunities.

EUREKA: Yes

In general, there are loans and grants available but there is a range of criteria that must be met by applicants. These criteria relate to the types of organisations, their financial status and other relevant aspects. *De facto*, it is not (easily) possible to obtain funds.

Eurostars: No

5.16 LATVIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/latvia-0>

ESIF:

In this country Language Technology is a priority and the next call for proposals will be in January 2017. Most of national projects are financed by ESIF (ERDF), hence national funding is not extra mentioned.

EUREKA: Yes

Funding is available up to EUR 60.000 per year per partner. The % depends on the type of company and type of project: Fundamental research, industrial research, experimental development or feasibility study.

Eurostars: Yes

Funding is available up to EUR 70.000 per year per partner. Percentage depends on EU state-aid rules.

5.17 LITHUANIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/lithuania-0>

ESIF:

Language technologies are encoded into Lithuania's RIS3 priority "Advanced electronic contents, content development technologies and information interoperability" that encourages the development of semantic technologies. Most of national projects are financed by ESIF, hence national funding is not extra mentioned.

EUREKA: Yes

Two agencies provide funds: Ministry of Economics: SME max. 50/65%, LE max. 40/65% (technological development/scientific research); micro-enterprise max. 60%, all up to max. ca. 868.860 EUR per project.

MITA Agency: up to 100% but funding is dependent on their annual project planning and the validity of the expenses.

Eurostars: Yes

SME up to 70%, funding limits depend on the type of research: Up to 75% for applied research, Up to 50% for pre-competitive development; LE up to 50%, funding limits depend on the type of research: Up to 50% for applied research, up to 25% for pre-competitive development. Universities/Research Institutions up to 100%.

5.18 LUXEMBOURG

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/luxembourg-1>

National funding:

LUXINNOVATION supports in particular SMEs with innovative project ideas.

The National Research Fund (FNR) support research-to-market activities from universities and research institutes.

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs 70% and LE 60% are funded.

Eurostars: Yes

SMEs are funded at 60%, LE at 40%; Universities and public Research Institutes are funded 100% but up to max. EUR 300.000.

5.19 MALTA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/malta>

National funding:

The Research & Development 2014-2020 programme of Malta Enterprise supports innovative products and solutions. It also funds EUREKA and Eurostars projects.

ESIF:

Currently no opportunities.

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs up to 50-80%; LE up to: 40-65%; Cash grant up to EUR 250.000, with other eligible expenses as tax credits.

Eurostars: Yes

Industrial research: SE up to 80%; ME up to 75%; LE up to 65%; Experimental Development: SE up to 60%. ME up to 50%; LE up to 40%; cash grant up to 250.000, with other eligible expenses as tax credits.

5.20 NETHERLANDS

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/netherlands-0>

National Funding:

Potential opportunity for scientific research in relation to Big Data.

ESIF:

S3 priorities stimulate cross-over technologies. Among their priorities are also Open Data which might be a window of opportunity to use public data as language resources.

EUREKA: Yes

Only loans.

SMEs max. 25%; LE max. 25%; max. up to EUR 5,000.000.

Industrial (applied) research activities and development projects only, commercialisation after 2 years expected.

Eurostars: Yes

SME max 45%; LE max 35%; University max 50%; Research Organization max 50%. EUR up to max 500.000 for all Dutch partners together.

5.21 POLAND

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/poland-0>

ESIF:

S3 priorities open some windows of opportunities, e.g. in the areas of ICT eCommerce, and SME on-line Lower Silesia). Other regions are open to suggestions e.g. Kujawsko-Pomorskie that recommended to cooperate with certain regional partners that could be interested in language technologies.

National funding:

The Digital Poland Projects opens a window of opportunity: LT resources can be a focus in the project, but only as a part of the bigger whole. LT tools and systems can appear in the proposal as an element of the infrastructure for improved access to the digital resources.

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs up to 80 %; for medium enterprises the percentage of the eligibility cost is 75%. For development research it is 60% for small companies and 50% for medium enterprises.

LE up to 65%; Large companies are eligible for funding only with a SME. For development research the percentage of eligibility cost funded is 40%. Universities and research organisation up to 100%; eligible for funding only with a SME.

Eurostars: Yes

Small Enterprises up to 60%; Medium Enterprises up to 50%; LE, Universities and Research organization are funded if subcontracted by a participant company.

5.22 PORTUGAL

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/portugal-0>

National Funding:

Portugal has some potentially interesting programmes (e.g. Digging into the data challenge or Building Global Innovators) but none is obvious for the purpose of LT.

ESIF:

In its S3 priorities, Portugal has horizontal lines like ICT where LT might fit, or vertical domains like health and health tourism. Most regional programmes are based on ESIF (ERDF) funding.

EUREKA: Yes

R&D Projects: SME 45-80% LE 25-65%; Universities and Research Institutions average rate 75% but only if in consortia with companies.

Demonstration projects: SME 45-80% LE 25-65%; Universities and Research Institutions average rate 75% but only if in consortia with companies.

Eurostars: Yes

SME 45-80%; LE 25-65%; Universities, research institutions: up to 100%.

The maximum amount of support per project is 200.000 €.

5.23 ROMANIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/romania-0>

National Funding:

The programme for stimulating innovation of ANCSI is geared at companies including start-ups and spin-offs in collaboration with Universities and Research Institutes. Everyone can apply all year around until 2020. Duration average: 24 months: EUR 100.000 to 200.000 per project.

ESIF:

Horizontal S3 priorities like Future Internet, or cultural and creative industries might open a window of opportunity to LT.

EUREKA: Yes

SME and LE up to EUR 112.000/year, % depending on competition rules; Universities and Research Institutions up to 100%, max. EUR 112.000/year. It is recommended that the latter apply together with a Romanian company/SME.

Eurostars: Yes

SE: up to 70%, EUR 155.000/year; ME up to 60%, EUR 155.000/year, LE up to 50%, EUR 155.000/year. Research Institutes and Universities up to 100%, EUR 155.000/year. The Romanian EUREKA Office recommends universities to apply together with a Romanian SME/company.

5.24 SLOVAKIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/slovakia>

ESIF:

Slovakia has ERDF based innovation programmes that provide opportunities for innovative projects.

National Funding:

The National Holding Fund provides support to SMEs with a bottom-up approach regarding topics.

Bilateral programmes between SK and AT and CZ provide cross-border opportunities.

EUREKA: No

Eurostars: Yes

SME, LE, University, Research Institutes all 50%, up to max. EUR 150.000.

5.25 SLOVENIA

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/slovenia-0>

National Funding:

The Slovenian Research Agency support bilateral project between Slovenia and Austria with a continuous submission scheme.

ESIF:

Slovenia identified nine S3 priority areas in R&D where there might be a window if opportunities for LT. Calls will be issued to submit proposals.

EUREKA: Yes

SMEs, LEs 50%, max cost EUR 100.000; University and Research Organization only if subcontracted, then 50% of project costs.

Eurostars: Yes

SME 50%, LE 40%; (Private) Research Organisations up to 40-50%; no grants for public universities and research centers.

5.26 SPAIN

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/spain-0>

ESIF:

There are windows of opportunities in some regions, e.g. Andalusia, Cantabria, Catalunya, to mention just a few.

National/Regional Funding:

The “Plan de Impulso” for Language Technologies with approx. 90 MEUR, is the main vehicle for future LT projects in Spain.

Axis 0: Governing

Axis 1: Linguistic Infrastructures development

Axis 2: LT industry boost

Axis 3: Public Administrator as an enabler of Language industry

Axis 4: Natural Language Processing Technologies - Lighthouse projects

Other R&D&I programmes are available, also at regional level, but not specifically for LT.

EUREKA: Yes

Grants, loans or a mix.

Percentage and amount dependent on type of project: R&D or Innovation project. Universities and research institutions can be funded only when subcontracted by a participating company.

Eurostars: Yes

SME up to 60%, LE up to 40%, Specific tasks could reach 80%/65% respectively if they are applied research. University and Research Organisation funded if subcontracted by a participant company.

5.27 SWEDEN

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/sweden-0>

National funding:

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research support a programme in Big Data and Computational Science: The aim of this programme is to fund, amongst others, projects in *automatic language translation*.

Vinnova has also programmes for innovation in different domains.

ESIF:

Sweden has horizontal programmes (“Growth”, SMEs) and regional ones with potentially relevant S3 priorities, such as ICT or eHealth.

EUREKA: Yes

SME max. 50%, LE max. 30%, University max. 100%; Research Organisations max. 100%.

The total funding from VINNOVA to the Swedish partners in a project is maximum 50% of the sum of their contributions to the project.

Eurostars: Yes

SME up to 50%, LE up to 30%; Research Institutes up to 70%.

Maximum joint funding to all Swedish partners in a project is SEK 5,000.000 (ca. EUR 530.000) if a Swedish SME participates and SEK 2,000.000 (ca. EUR 212.000) if no Swedish SME participates.

5.28 UK – UNITED KINGDOM

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/uk>

ESIF:

The Scottish ERDF provides funding for companies for innovative projects.

In the past, Wales also funded projects in the area of LT, Welsh-EN.

National Funding:

There are national funding schemes, in particular for SMEs that might provide some window of opportunities.

Regional Funding:

The Highlands and Islands Enterprises (Scotland) provide funding for innovative SMEs in a continuous submission scheme.

EUREKA: No**Eurostars: Yes**

Only R&D performing SMEs, up to 60%, max. EUR 360.000.

6. STEPS TOWARDS NATIONAL/REGIONAL FUNDING – VADEMECUM

This Vademecum will help you taking advantage of the funding schemes available, no matter if you are an experienced funding person or a newcomer. The eight steps show the main paths towards success. First, three simple questions (that are not as simple in the end) have to be answered: WHAT, WHERE, WHO. These are followed by the HOW that is subdivided into 5 steps: INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, IDENTIFICATION, ACTION, MARKETING.

Here we go:

6.1 WHAT



You must have a clear idea what you want to do, in short: for what activity do you want money? Depending on this answer, different types of programmes are available. Here some examples:

LT tools or applications development → any market-near development programme (e.g. experimental development) might fit, or, if research is involved, any R&I programme.

LR creations → any vertical programme (eHealth, tourism etc.) might be useful, depending on the LR theme.

Multilingual solutions → these could fall into programmes for the improvement of SMEs (eCommerce, internationalisation), or any market-near programme (see above).

6.2 WHERE



For national and regional funding programmes, the location plays a crucial role. Most programmes are limited to legal entities that have their business seat in their territory. Some have additional conditions, e.g. that the results must benefit the region or fall under the smart specialisation⁴ of the region. Therefore, all information of funding sources are listed by country, and, where applicable, per region inside this country.

In countries where there are only regional agencies (e.g. Belgium), the location is even more crucial. But there are schemes to cooperate with partners outside the region e.g. again Belgium, but also other countries where there are bilateral programmes (e.g. SK, SI), and of course, EUREKA and Eurostars.

6.3 WHO



First, you need to know your **status**, or better said, the status of your company or organisation:

Company: Are you a SME – Small or Medium sized company? Are you a micro-enterprise? Are you a large enterprise?

STATUS:

These definitions follow the EU rules (Source: ec.europa.eu/growth/sme)

⁴ For explanation on “smart specialisation” see: <http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/how-does-esif-work>

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

But there are always exceptions, like funding for SMEs by ZIM in Germany, that limits the head count with 499. Or France that makes a difference between large enterprises with less or more than 2000 employees. Some countries also have different funding percentages, depending if you are a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise.

If you established that you are, let's say, a SME, you might want to establish if you are R&D performing, i.e. if some of your turnover is used for research and/or development activities. Some countries make funding depending on that (UK), or provide higher funding for R&D performing SMEs, like Eurostars in CZ, DK, or FI.

ALONE OR PARTNERSHIP?

The next question to ask oneself is: Do I plan to perform the work alone, or in **partnership**? If the latter, will the partner(s) be in the same region, or outside, or even outside the country?

National and regional programmes have different rules: In most of them you can act alone, with partner(s) from the region or with a subcontractor (that can be a company or a research institute or a university). Some allow a partner to be outside the region (e.g. Flanders). For EUREKA and Eurostars, you need at least one partner in another Member State (of the EUREKA programme, not necessarily the EU).

6.4 HOW

The "how" is in every process the most tricky element. It is important to get it right to have a realistic chance to grasp the opportunities offered by national and regional funding schemes. Therefore, the "HOW" is sub-divided into 5 interrelated steps:

Access to **Information** – establish a relationship with your national/regional funding agency through **Communication** – **Identification** of best possible funding scheme – **Action** in submitting a proposal – **Marketing** of the result as a Success Story for your Company, your partners but also the Funding Agency.

6.4.1 INFORMATION



Information on national and regional funding programmes are compiled at the LT-Observe web pages:

<http://www.lt-innovate.org/lt-observe/public-policy-observatory/national-funding-opportunities>

The map on the page links to the respective country:



FIGURE 6 SCREEN SHOT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PER COUNTRY

In clicking on the country, you get the country information and, where appropriate and available, regional information.

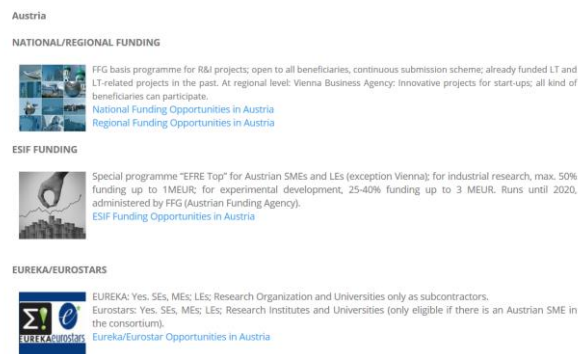


FIGURE 7 SAMPLE COUNTRY PAGE

The three funding segments "National/Regional funding", "ESIF" and "EUREKA/Eurostars" refer to *interactive pdf pages* that contain all useful information, including contact names, addresses, e-mails and telephone number.

The information provided allows for an ex ante assessment if and which funding resources are available. The compilation of this information in one single space saves time that one would need to find out about it via search engines.

Information is provided in English, but links to information in local languages are included.

Furthermore, contact data like names, e-mails and telephone numbers are given. This allows to get quickly in contact with the person(s) in charge, to obtain accurate and updated information.

6.4.2 COMMUNICATION



A good relationship to local, regional or national funding agencies is a great help: for you, but also for them. They like to know their constituencies, they like to have success stories. Experience shows that good relationships sooner or later yield results: You get regular information, you may be invited to info-days or (more and more often)

webinars, and you get to know what makes them tick. And eventually, it will be your project idea that makes them tick.

Public funding can of course be tried without these preliminaries, but the risk is that you submit a project that corresponds to *your* understanding what "they" want to finance – but this is not necessarily *their* understanding. To avoid disappointment and waste of time, it is therefore recommended to contact them always BEFORE investing time in writing a proposal.

6.4.3 IDENTIFICATION



As a result of the COMMUNICATION exercise, you will be able to identify the right programme for your project idea. Or, ideally, you identify it together with the agency in question. They may also give hints as to important elements that must be included, or to upcoming opportunities.

6.4.4 ACTION



Once the funding programme is identified, it is action time or better said: Proposal writing time. Usually, this is less time-consuming than EU projects (e.g. Horizon 2020) but still it is an effort and a time investment. Therefore, all guidelines for the programme should be read and all information provided so that a fair judgement of the project is possible. In many cases, there are continuous submission schemes, and decisions are taken at several cut-off dates per year. Hence, the process is most often quicker than at EU level.

6.4.5 MARKETING



If you were successful and obtained some funding, you may want to promote it. Why? Because it shows that your idea is worthwhile funding; because it shows that the way you approached it created trust that you can perform; because obtaining financing helps you enlarge your product or service portfolio. The (business or scientific) world should know about it! Put it on your website, and when first results are there, promote them. LT-Observe would be happy to promote such success stories on their [LangPolNews](#) and [LangTechNews](#)!

To summarize the 8 steps:

- 1** Be clear about **WHAT** you want to do
- 2** Establish **WHERE** the seat of your legal entity is located
- 3** Make up your mind about **WHO** shall perform the project
- 4** Access funding information to find out if and what funding is available in your country
- 5** Establish good contacts with local/regional/national funding agencies
- 6** Identify the best suited funding programme
- 7** Write the proposal
- 8** Market your success (in terms of receiving funding and results!)

7. COPYRIGHT POLICY & DISCLAIMER



This Guidelines are the result of the LT-Observatory project. This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No. 644583.

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Information compiled by:

Editor: [Margaretha Mazura](#), EMF

[EMF – the Forum of e-excellence](#)

[Zabala](#)

[LT-Innovate](#)

[CLARIN-ERIC](#)

[University of Vienna – Centre for translation studies](#)