



## *NATIONAL PROGRAMME PORTRAIT*



Ministerie van Economische Zaken



### **Innovation Vouchers**

#### **Aim of the programme**

To stimulate SMEs to use the knowledge held by knowledge institutes in the development of new products, processes and services. SMEs can use innovation vouchers to commission knowledge institutes to address appropriate research issues. Thus, the scheme encourages the transfer of knowledge from knowledge institutes to SMEs.

#### **Funding conditions**

- Innovation vouchers are available in two sizes: large and small. A small voucher is worth 2,500 euros. A large voucher is worth up to 7,500 euros. To use a large voucher, an SME must make a contribution of at least one third of the total project cost; the government will then contribute up to 5,000 euros.
- Innovation vouchers are available for two types of project: knowledge transfer projects and patent applications.
- Large knowledge transfer vouchers may be bundled: up to ten enterprises may collectively use vouchers awarded to them individually to cover the cost of a major knowledge transfer project.

#### **Requirements**

- Innovation vouchers may be used for projects involving the transfer of knowledge from public knowledge institutes and various private knowledge institutes.
- A knowledge transfer project involves the transfer of knowledge that is new to the receiving SME. The knowledge is used by the enterprise to modernise a product, production process or service
- It is a requirement of the scheme that any project paid for using a voucher must be of benefit to the Dutch economy.
- The enterprise is registered in The Netherlands, is not bankrupt and has not been granted a payment moratorium.
- The enterprise meets the European definition of an SME.
- In the three years prior to submitting the application, the enterprise has not already received more than the permitted amount in subsidies without the approval of the Commission of the European Communities

## Remarks

- No individual enterprise is entitled to receive more than one small voucher for a knowledge transfer project at any time.
- No individual enterprise is entitled to more than one large voucher per year.
- **For EraSME projects with more than one SME from The Netherlands large vouchers are the only option because they can be bundled.**
- The bundling of patent application vouchers is not allowed.

## Contact

SenterNovem, The Netherlands, [www.senternovem.nl/innovatievouchers](http://www.senternovem.nl/innovatievouchers)

Stan Francke, [s.francke@senternovem.nl](mailto:s.francke@senternovem.nl), phone: +31 88 602 52 80

Nils Haarman, [n.haarman@senternovem.nl](mailto:n.haarman@senternovem.nl), phone: +31 88 602 58 43

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