



Call for Project Proposals

Strengthening Efficiency and Competitiveness in the European Knowledge Economies (SEEK)

The Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) welcomes the submission of project proposals for its new research program “Strengthening Efficiency and Competitiveness in the European Knowledge Economies (SEEK)”. The program seeks to bolster international cooperation between researchers of all economic disciplines.

Background

The planned EU 2020 strategy emphasizes that growth should be smart, sustainable, and inclusive. Smart growth means developing economies based on knowledge and innovations. These priorities pose significant challenges for politicians and academia. SEEK program aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of policy rationales, the design of appropriate policy instruments as well as their effectiveness and efficiency.

Topics to be Funded

The key aim of the program is to achieve an improved understanding how policy measures should be best conceived to promote innovation, human capital formation, IT adoption, and the responsible stewardship of natural resources, with the ultimate goal of supporting European productivity and competitiveness. The program welcomes proposals for innovative and applied economic research on the following topics:

Generation of Knowledge and Innovations

Research on issues such as: Formal and informal processes of human capital formation; investments in intangible capital including R&D&I and information technologies (incentives, complementarities, institutions); organisation of R&D&I; efficiency of knowledge markets; determinants of the direction of technological change (e.g. environmental innovations); economic policy requirements and decision processes: budgetary decisions, voters’ preferences on future investments; financing of human capital formation; and R&D&I in the public and private sector.

Diffusion and Adoption of Knowledge and Innovations

Research on issues such as: Efficient mechanisms for the adoption of new technologies and innovations; incentives for the diffusion of new technologies and their impacts (ICT, energy & green technologies); education, learning processes, knowledge diffusion, and network externalities; innovation financing and adoption; formation of expectations on new markets and products.



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Eligibility and Review Criteria

Project Funding and Duration

Proposal Submission

Timetable

Scientific Board (tbc)

The Use of Knowledge by Entrepreneurs and Industries

Research on issues such as: Knowledge as a production factor and complementary investments; efficient use of internal and external resources; IT-based knowledge management; governance mechanisms for efficient knowledge use; firm-level organisational change; knowledge-based industries; and intersectoral knowledge flows.

Consequences of a Knowledge-Based Economy

Research on issues such as: Innovations, technology shocks and their implications for economic growth; income and wealth distribution; changes in task and skill requirements; employment consequences of innovation, skill-biased technological change, and internationalisation processes; impact of financial innovation on the real economy; effects of new technologies on social interactions.

Challenges of a Knowledge-Based Economy for Economic Policy

Research on issues such as: Strengthening R&D&I and intellectual property rights; tax incentives for intangible capital investments; strategies to meet skill requirements; regulation, innovation, and financial-sector stability; strategies to improve knowledge-production efficiency in the public sector; R&D&I policies in Europe's multi-tiered government system.

Projects must be carried out in close cooperation between ZEW researchers and international project partner(s). Proposals will be ranked by a scientific board made up of distinguished international scholars. The main criteria in assessing the proposals will be scientific quality; the originality of the proposal; and the strength of the scientific cooperation, including the international exchange of researchers. The final decision will be made by ZEW.

For each project, the budget requested may be up to 200,000 euros for a duration of 12 to 18 months. The share of funding borne respectively by ZEW and the cooperating partner is generally open to negotiation.

Please submit your complete proposals to Nicole Görtzgen (seek@zew.eu). PDFs are preferred. For the submission guidelines, please see: <http://seek.zew.eu>

Submission Deadline: 31 July 2010

Proposals Reviewed Until: 15 September 2010

Decision Notification: 22 September 2010

Project Start: Preferably 1 October 2010

Daron Acemoglu (MIT), Bronwyn Hall (University of California at Berkeley & Maastricht University), Kai Konrad (MPI München), Josh Lerner (Harvard Business School), Steve Machin (University College London), Pierre Mohnen (UNU-MERIT & Maastricht University), Wolfgang Franz (ZEW), Georg Licht (ZEW)