

Fact Sheet Hightech Incubator Braunschweig

Purpose of Funding and Target Group

The funding targets **newly established companies in the high-tech sector** with the aim of supporting them in their early development phase and preparing them for investor financing.

Eligible Startups Must Meet the Following Criteria:

1. Qualify as a **"young company"** according to Article 22(2) of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)
 2. Founded at the time of application and **no older than 5 years** (based on commercial register entry)
 3. Structured as a **UG** or a **GmbH**
 4. Have a **registered office or business premises in Lower Saxony** at the time of disbursement
 5. Fall within one of the following innovation fields under the **RIS3/STEP strategy**:
 - Mobility
 - Digital Economy
 - Production Technology
 - Digital and Technology-Intensive Innovations (Key Topics: Metrology, Quantum Technologies)
 - Environmentally Friendly and Resource-Efficient Innovations
 6. Have **at least €50,000 available under the De Minimis Regulation**
 7. Provide an **own contribution of at least 10%** of the requested funding amount
 8. For STEP funding: The company's focus must align with one of the **RIS3 innovation fields**, and the product must have a **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** of at least 4 (i.e., a successfully tested prototype in a laboratory setting)
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Excluded from Funding:

- Companies that have **not complied with a recovery order**
 - Companies in **financial difficulty**, as defined by GBER
 - Projects **already funded by other ERDF or EU funds**
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Funding Eligibility is Evaluated Based on:

- Feasibility of the project
 - Innovation potential of the business idea
 - Coherent business model
 - Qualified founding team
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HTI Application Process:

- Phase 1 involves completing the online application form, followed by an eligibility check conducted by the High-Tech Incubator team.
 - Phase 2 requires submitting a pitch deck, pitch video, and business plan, which will be evaluated by external experts and a jury
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NBank Application Requirements:

1. Business plan or detailed project outline
 2. Expense and financing plan
 3. Description of the founding team
 4. Proof of selection for support by an HTI (provided by HTI)
 5. Statement from the supporting HTI regarding feasibility, innovation potential, and credibility of the business model (provided by HTI)
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Funding Amount**In the RIS3 Context:**

- Funding amount: **minimum €50,000 to maximum €180,000**
- Funds are disbursed upon reaching defined milestones (minimum two, maximum four)
- Eligible costs:
 - Personnel expenses
 - Expenses for external contractors
 - Project-specific material expenses (e.g., expert reports, licensing and patenting costs, rent and leasing)

In the STEP Context:

- Funding amount: **minimum €50,000 to maximum €300,000**
 - Eligible costs:
 - Direct expenses for project personnel
 - Direct expenses for external contractors
 - 40% flat rate for other eligible expenses based on direct personnel costs
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Duration and Scope of Funding:

- **Maximum duration** of 18 months
- Funding can be granted **only once per business foundation**
- Based on the **cost reimbursement principle**