

# Fund for SMEs: Ideas Powered for Business

## 7 questions and answers to find out more

The EUIPO and the European Commission, within the framework for supporting SMEs, are launching for the second consecutive year the initiative Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund 2022.

This year, the programme's coverage is national, regional (Benelux), EU-wide (EUIPO) and it also includes the IP Offices of the Member States.

### What are the main changes with respect to the 2021 subsidies?

- They are in the form of vouchers.
- A voucher has been created for patents (up to 750 euros).
- The reimbursement percentage is higher (from 50 to 75% for trademarks and designs in EU countries).
- The term for using the vouchers has increased (4 months + possible 2-month extension).
- Trademarks and designs outside the EU are included.
- Reimbursement extended to more fees (filing, additional classes, examination, etc.).
- There are no separate stages for applications. The call for applications will be open from 10 January until 16 December 2022.

### Who is eligible for this financial aid?

Applicants must be small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs):

Enterprise Category	Headcount: annual work unit (AWU)	Annual turnover	Annual balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	< 50 million	< 43 million
Small	< 50	< 10 million	< 10 million
Micro	< 10	< 2 million	< 2 million

Potential beneficiaries must submit a **self-declaration that they are not receiving any funding from any other EU programme** in respect of the same activities.

### Can my IP agent help me apply for this financial aid?

Yes. Applicants may permit an external representative (third party) to submit the application on their behalf.

## For which services can I obtain funding?

### VOUCHER 1

- IP SCAN pre-diagnostic service.
- Trademark and design protection in the EU (at national, regional and EU level).
- Trademark and design protection outside the EU under the international trademark system (Madrid System) or the international design system (Hague System).

### VOUCHER 2

- Patent fees for protection of national patents.

## How much of this funding can I receive?

The maximum that each SME can obtain is 2,250€, within the following limits:

### TRADEMARKS AND DESIGNS (UP TO 1,500 €):

- Trademarks and designs in the European Union: up to 75%.
  - Including fees for filing, classes, examination, registration, publication and deferment of publication, as appropriate.
- Applications filed under Madrid or Hague System: up to 50%.
  - Fees included for applications (including basic fees, designation fees and subsequent designation fees) under the:
    - International trademark system (Madrid System).
    - International design system (Hague System).

### PATENTS (UP TO 750 €):

- Fees for Spanish patents: up to 50%.
 

The fees eligible for reimbursement are those charged by the IP Offices of the Member States for the registration of national patents, including filing fees, search fees, examination fees and publication fees.

Each SME may apply for, at most, one voucher 1 and one voucher 2.

## What is the term for applications?

The call for applications will be open from 10 January until 16 December 2022.

It is important to bear in mind that applications are dealt with on a first come, first served basis.

## How do I apply for the voucher?

The vouchers are not retroactive. Therefore, the cost of action carried out before obtaining the voucher cannot be reimbursed.

### THE STEPS TO TAKE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 Application is submitted for voucher 1, voucher 2 or both.
- 2 The Office examines the application and issues notification of approval of the subsidy.
 

If the funding is granted: an application is then filed to register a trademark/design/patent. It is necessary to carry out at least one such action within 4 months of notification of approval (with a possible 2-month extension).
- 3 If this requirement is met, the total period for applying the subsidy may not exceed six months in the case of voucher 1 and twelve months in the case of voucher 2.
- 4 Reimbursement is requested for the amount of the voucher obtained.

## Useful links for more information

[EUIPO website](#)

[Call for Proposals](#)

[Online form to apply for subsidy](#)

[Model grant decision VOUCHER 1](#)

[Model grant decision VOUCHER 2](#)

[General conditions](#)

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact [Paloma Querol](#).