

STIPP Expert Committee (EC)

September 17th, 2024

Role

- The Expert Committee assesses applications for the STIPP SME Grant Scheme on the basis of a number of established criteria. These will or may include, for example: degree of innovativeness, degree of focus on the societal challenges of the programme, degree of cross-border cooperation, potential degree of economic impact, quality of the project partnership and quality of the application.
- The Expert Committee is an advisory board for the Board of Directors (BoD). Meeting together, the Expert Committee reaches consensus for each application. The Expert Committee will give a substantiated motivation per project, based on their assessment. This motivation will focus on the individual selection criteria and will give a general motivation per project. The assessment by the Expert Committee concludes with a classification per project with three possible outcomes: No go, Go or Go with Remarks.
- The Expert Committee is composed of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 external members located throughout the whole MR area and with a good representation of various areas of expertise (one per main innovation region¹ per theme).
- The Expert Committee is composed of representatives with a mix of relevant functional competencies (e.g. societal challenges including digitization, financial, innovation) and life cycles of companies, looking for representatives who are additionally active in or have experience in innovation processes.
- For every call, 12 members (representing the 4 innovation regions and 3 challenges) will be selected to take place in the assessment. In case of a thematic call, at least an equal number of members per innovation region will be selected.
- The Expert Committee meets two to three times throughout the year. Within one call between 10 – 25 projects will be assessed.
- A jury member will receive a reimbursement for their assessment per call.

Composition per assessment

- 12 independent representatives with a mix of relevant functional competencies and company life cycles expertise. Both academics (knowledge institutions) and entrepreneurs will be included to cover both the technological innovation and economic feasibility within the assessments.
- The right balance of representatives from 'societal challenges' and innovation region, meaning
 - Four representatives for each of the 'societal challenges': Industrial Transition, Healthier citizens and Green Transformation, representing at the same time
 - Three representatives from each of the four main innovation regions Flanders, North-Rhine Westphalia, South-Netherlands and Wallonia.
- A right balance of experience in the different business life phases (Start-up – highly developed SME) will be considered in the selection of representatives
- Technical Secretary from the STIPP BIDS Project Team (consisting of 2 persons)

¹ The innovation regions are Limburg (Netherlands), Flanders, Wallonia, Germany

A non-exhaustive list of examples regarding the societal challenges:

- Industrial Transition: technological innovations, environmental concerns and shifting market demands are pushing the industrial transition at fast pace. These transitions present both challenges and opportunities, requiring stakeholders to adapt, innovate and collaborate to ensure competitiveness in the future. Innovations can for example be based on integration of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to optimize manufacturing processes through real-time data and automation or they can be based on the use of virtual prototyping. Other types of innovations are in the area of development of innovative coatings or development of vacuum and laser applications.
- Green transformation: There are several challenges to make a transition towards a green society and economy. For instance, increasing the share of clean energy by implementing new methods such as hydrogen. Reducing emissions by implementing new methods (e.g. cross-sectoral) and reusing (organic) materials into new materials or products adding more value to waste streams.
- Healthier citizens: The health sector knows several challenges. From increased life expectancy with more care at individuals' home, increased costs, to a high pressure on the health labour market. Innovations within this sector can help with these challenges. New solutions can help in sustaining or improving health; speed up diagnostics or reduce labour to deliver care to patients. For example, using virtual reality in psychological aid; personalised medical devices; apps offering personalised interventions based on DNA and using artificial intelligence in diagnostics to reduce labour and more accurate results.