



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

Overcoming the Crisis in Europe

Call for Project Proposals for the 2014 Funding Period

Background

The Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) is now accepting project proposals for the fifth funding period of its international research programme “Strengthening Efficiency and Competitiveness in the European Knowledge Economies” (SEEK).

Overcoming the current economic crisis is a key policy challenge for Europe. As a response, the objective of the “Europe 2020” strategy is to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Against this backdrop, an in-depth understanding of the causes and the impact of the current crisis as well as innovative ideas to foster economic recovery and overcome economic divergence in Europe are deeply required. On this basis a strong policy response can be developed to address the economic policy and governance challenges facing Europe’s economy and society.

Topics to be funded

The overarching topic of the fifth SEEK funding period is “Overcoming the Crisis in Europe.” SEEK research projects increase our knowledge of the evolution of the crisis, the preconditions for sustainable and inclusive growth, and of long-term strategies to improve economic and financial stability in Europe. The main objective of the SEEK programme is to generate research results that address the efficiency of existing policies and that support the development and implementation of evidence-based policy measures to overcome the crisis.

Another objective of the SEEK programme is to promote international cooperation between researchers in all economic disciplines.

The programme welcomes research proposals in the field of applied economics that address one of the following topics:

Project topic 1

Innovation, firm creation and new technologies

Research on: policies to foster innovation, firm creation, and new technologies; their impact on productivity and job creation

Research topics might include:

Impact of ICT and broadband infrastructure on innovation and productivity growth; a new system of patent protection in Europe: effects of the Unitary Patent and the Central European Patent Court; early evidence on the impact of key proposals of the first and second Single Market Acts; effects of innovation-friendly tax systems: impact on R&D, incentives to start and finance innovative young and growing firms and other types of corporate investment; European tax strategy in order to foster cross-border economic activity within the EU; innovative and efficient public administration

Project topic 2

Energy and the environment

Research on: energy and environmental policy as a driver of smart economic growth

Research topics might include:

Design of an EU energy and environmental policy that benefits environmental quality and economic growth; analysis and evaluation of climate, energy and environmental policies, their economic impact on firms, sectors, and countries, as well as their effect on innovation and economic growth

Project topic 3

Inclusive labour markets

Research on: labour market policies that help to overcome the high unemployment rate in Europe

Research topics might include:

Econometric assessment of labour market, social, education and family policies with regard to their impact on individual employment chances, income and social inclusion; effects of the Youth Opportunities Initiative; labour market effects of skill-biased technological change; effective human resource management practices in firms; conditions for successful school-to-work transitions and vocational training

Project topic 4

European Fiscal and Banking Union

Research on: governance structures in Europe, in particular with regard to recent and possible future reforms towards a Fiscal and Banking Union in Europe

Research topics might include:

Economic effects of a European fiscal capacity (e.g. European income tax, European system of fiscal equalization, European unemployment insurance), the European Fiscal Compact, crisis resolution mechanisms (EFSF/ESM, OMT); financial sector regulation, European banking supervision, early warning indicators for systematic crises in financial markets, common European bank restructuring mechanism, common European system of deposit insurance, coordination of national fiscal policies and taxation systems; policies to address international tax avoidance and evasion

Eligibility and review criteria

Project teams have to be composed of ZEW researchers and one or more external international researchers. Research proposals must be prepared and submitted by all project partners. For the research fields of ZEW and contact persons, please see www.zew.de/research. Proposals will be ranked by a scientific board of distinguished international scholars. The main criteria in assessing the proposals are: scientific quality, originality of the proposal, contribution to the main topic "Overcoming the Crisis in Europe", and strength of the scientific cooperation, including international exchange of researchers. The final decision will be made by ZEW.

Project funding and duration

For each project, a budget of up to EUR 200,000 may be requested for an up to 18-month project period. The respective share of funding borne by ZEW and the cooperating partner is generally open to negotiation.

Proposal submission

Please submit your proposal to Katharina Kober (seek@zew.de). PDF files are preferred.

Submission guidelines

Available at <http://seek.zew.eu>

Key dates

Deadline for submission: January 31, 2014

Notification of decision: March 2014

Project start: April 1, 2014

Scientific board

Daron Acemoglu (MIT), Bronwyn Hall (University of California, Berkeley), Kai Konrad (MPI Munich), Josh Lerner (Harvard Business School), Steve Machin (University College London), Pierre Mohnen (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht), Fabrizio Zilibotti (University of Zurich), Clemens Fuest (ZEW Mannheim), Georg Licht (ZEW Mannheim).