



Vinnovate Call 2026 – Regional Instrument Description : Lower Saxony

Beyond the information provided in the present document, applicants are **required to consult the dedicated [regional documents/webpages](#), and to contact regional representatives** in case of doubts.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Name Funding Instrument	Innovationsförderprogramm für Forschung und Entwicklung in Unternehmen - Program for Research and Development in SMEs
Source of Funding <i>Indicate the extent to which the instrument is based on ERDF or Regional or National resources. Indicate the extent to which the instrument is activable (by regional actors) only in the context of Vinnovate or not (in that case the instrument can also be activated locally, outside of the Vinnovate Call 2026 framework)</i>	Own regional/national funds: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO - If yes, : Dedicated/reserved for Vinnovate Call 2026: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ERDF: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Website	NBank - Innovationsförderprogramm für Forschung und Entwicklung in Unternehmen (IFP)
Geographical Coverage (NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level) <i>Name the region/provinces potentially covered by the instrument.</i>	Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony)
Grant amount <u>potentially</u> activable for Vinnovate Call 2026	Not fixed but open for Vinnovate projects.



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<p><i>N.B.1: This amount represents the amount available for the Vinnovate Call 2026 <u>in total</u>, i.e. for all possible projects/actors from the region.</i></p> <p><i>N.B.2.: The amount mentioned is not a commitment from the region to actually use that entire amount in the context of the Call 2026. It is only an indication regarding the amount potentially activable.</i></p>	
<p>Indicative target regarding the number of projects expected to be funded/selected, per region</p> <p><i>If possible, please indicate here the targeted number (or range) of projects the regions is expected to select for funding. This is an indication only, to guide strategic decisions of actors. Internal comment: if you are not in a position to provide such range, please leave blank.</i></p>	
<p>Short description and Scope of the instrument - Technologies and/or applications areas and/or policies objectives targeted?</p> <p><i>Indicate the extent to which the instrument has a thematic focus or not (incl. any specific policy objectives to be pursued). In less than 100 words. E.g. indicate whether projects need to be aligned with e.g. the S3 priorities from the region.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants for industrial research and experimental development projects from SMEs in which a high proportion of development is carried out by own personnel in order to develop new or significantly improved, marketable products, production processes or services • Classical instrument for cooperational projects between SMEs and research institutes/universities, • Non-repayable grant of up to 500,000 Euros for companies • Each participating SME has to have a headquarters or place of business in Lower Saxony • All partners have to submit one proposal but individual financing and work plans project duration max. 36 month (3 years)



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<p>Conditions for funded applicants – Type</p> <p><i>Mention the type of eligible (for funding) applicants.</i></p>	<p>SMEs: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Large Companies:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES;</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, but only when cooperating with an SME located in the region;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Universities:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES;</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, but only when cooperating with an SME located in the region;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Research/Technology/Facility centres:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES;</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, but only when cooperating with an SME located in the region;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Others / other comments:</p>
<p>Specific consortium-related conditions applying (eventually) at regional level, beyond Vinnovate Call 2026 main conditions</p>	<p>Min. number of partners located in the region per consortium? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>- If “yes”, indicate how many partners min. required: here</p>



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	<p>Max. number of partners located in the region per consortium? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>- <i>If yes, indicate how many partners max.: here</i></p> <p>Additional budget-related rules in terms of min./max. proportion of budget per partner or min./max. proportion of budget from the actors of the region in the total international project budget ? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>- <i>If yes, specify those rules : here</i></p>
<p>Can actors outside of the region be financially supported by the instrument?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Conditions for 'international' partners – Type</p> <p><i>Please indicate any specific conditions associated to the partners (outside of the region) which can be part of the project (not financially supported/not eligible for funding in most of the case, unless answered 'YES' to the previous question.</i></p>	
<p>Funding rates</p> <p><i>If different funding rates according to different types of funded partners, please indicate.</i></p>	<p>45% for Small Enterprises (SE)</p> <p>35% for Medium sized Enterprises (ME)</p> <p>25% for Non-SME, but only when cooperating with an SME located in the region</p>



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<p>TRLs covered</p> <p><i>Indicate the extent to which the following TRLs are covered or not: TRL6 (yes/no), TRL7 (yes/no) and TRL8 (yes/no).</i></p>	<p>(TRL 5: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO)¹</p> <p>TRL 6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>TRL 7: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>TRL 8: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Max./Min. project duration (beyond the Vinnovate Call rule of max. 30 Months project duration), if any</p> <p><i>Indicate the maximum (and minimum if any) project duration (in months),</i></p>	<p>36 months, but maximum project duration until September 30, 2029</p>
<p>Max./Min. amount of costs/grants per project, if any</p> <p><i>Indicate the maximum (and minimum if any) total project costs and/or grant amount.</i></p>	<p>Minimum project cost:</p> <p>Maximum project cost:</p> <p>Maximum grant amount: Max. 500.000,00 € grant amount for SME</p> <p>Minimum grant amount: Min. 50.000,00 € grant amount for SME</p>
<p>Covered transitions (potentially!)</p> <p><i>In view of reflecting/mirroring the eligibility criteria of Vinnovate call 2026, indicate the extent to which the instrument could potentially be activated to support solutions to one or several of the targeted transitions: 1) a smarter</i></p>	<p>Smarter industry: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>More sustainable industry: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>More autonomous/less dependent industry:</p>

¹ While this is not the core target, activities at TRL5 can be potentially eligible for funding in a Vinnovate project if a substantial part of the project activities (more that 50% of the project costs) are associated to activities at higher (TRL6 and beyond) TRL levels.



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<p><i>and/or 2) a more sustainable and/or 3) a more autonomous/less dependent industry.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Covered VI Pilots (potentially)</p> <p><i>In view of reflecting/mirroring the eligibility criteria of Vinnovate Call 2026, indicate the extent to which the instrument could potentially be activated to support solutions/projects in the following fields (i.e. the scope of the VI pilots): 1) Bio-Economy; 2) Efficient Sustainable Manufacturing; 3) High-Performance Production through 3D Printing; 4) Advanced Manufacturing for Energy-related Applications in Harsh Environments; 5) Smart Health; 6) Hydrogen.</i></p>	<p>Bio-Economy: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>ESM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>3DP: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>ADMA Ener: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Smart Health: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Hydrogen: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Covered activities</p> <p><i>In view of reflecting/mirroring the eligibility criteria of Vinnovate call 2026, indicate the extent to which the following activities are eligible for funding: 1) Personnel costs (demonstration/R&D), 2) Personnel costs (coordination), 3) Subcontracting costs, 4) Purchase costs – Travel, 5) Purchase costs – Equipment.</i></p>	<p>Personnel costs (demonstration/R&D): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Personnel costs (coordination): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Subcontracting costs: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Purchase costs – travel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Purchase costs – equipment: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Purchase costs – other goods, works and services: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>Indirect costs/overheads: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>- If possible, please indicate here the % applied for indirect costs:</p>



	Specific comments, if any: for equipment lasting longer than project duration, only proportional depreciation would apply
Other specific restrictions/conditions?	
Regional Application	
Timeline for ‘regional’ proposals <i>Beyond the ‘standard’ Vinnovate Call 2026 timeline, is there any possible additional restriction/timing to be taken into account?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO - <i>If yes, indicate when the call will open: here</i> Or - <i>If yes, indicate when the call will close: here</i>
Description of requirements for ‘regional proposals’ <i>Where can possible applicants find information about the information expected to be provided at ‘regional proposal’ stage?</i>	Indicate website here
Contact person for ‘regional instrument’ questions <i>Who can be contacted by regional applicants in case of ‘regional-instrument’ specific questions?</i>	
‘Internal cooperation’ vs single application Can two (or more) organisations located in the region apply together in a cooperation project? I.e. a situation where the two organisations located in the region would apply jointly, together with organisation(s) from outside the region and country, which would in their case apply in their own region?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, two organisations can apply jointly. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO, each needs to submit a distinct proposal. <input type="checkbox"/> NO, max. one organisation from the region is eligible per project.



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<p>Multiple applications</p> <p>Can one organisation from the region submit distinct proposals?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES, one organisation can be part of distinct consortia, and therefore submit several proposals</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO, max. one proposal per organisation from the region</p>
<p>Interregional dimension-coverage in 'regional proposal'</p> <p><i>When submitting the information requested at regional level (i.e. 'regional proposal') regional applicants will be asked to describe the entire 'interregional' project, including general description of activities from the partners from outside of the region. In addition, specific requirements will focus on the activities of the 'regional actors' exclusively.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>For Vnnovate Call 2025 participating regions only – Are beneficiaries selected for funding in the framework of the Vnnovate Call 2025 eligible for the Call 2026?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>If there is a state interest, several projects can be carried out simultaneously.</p>