



Vinnovate Call 2026 – Regional Instrument Description : Wales

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	SMART Innovation Funding
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: ☒ YES ☐ NO - If yes, : Dedicated/reserved for Vinnovate Call 2026: ☐ YES ☒ NO ERDF: ☐ YES ☒ NO
Website	Access support and funding Business Wales
Geographical Coverage (NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level) <i>Name the region/provinces potentially covered by the instrument.</i>	Wales
Grant amount <u>potentially</u> activable for Vinnovate Call 2026	€500,000 With flexibility depending on number and quality of applications received



<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> <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>	
Indicative target regarding the number of projects expected to be funded/selected, per region <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>	
Short description and Scope of the instrument - Technologies and/or applications areas and/or policies objectives targeted? <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>	SMART Innovation Funding is a unique Welsh Government Scheme with the single aim of helping Welsh organisations achieve “Innovation Excellence”. What is Innovation? To us, innovation means creating and applying new or improved technologies, systems or processes that improve your organisation or opens new markets. This could include using knowledge and expertise to develop solutions that solve problems, improve efficiency or deliver value. SMART Innovation Funding SMART Innovation Funding is a discretionary grant funded programme across Wales delivering flexible RD&I support to help your organisation to become more competitive, increase sales and enter new markets.



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



	Max. number of partners located in the region per consortium ? ☐ YES ☒ NO - If yes, indicate how many partners max.: here 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 ? ☐ YES ☒ NO - If yes, specify those rules : here
Can actors outside of the region be financially supported by the instrument?	☐ YES ☒ NO
Conditions for 'international' partners – Type <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>	N/A
Funding rates <i>If different funding rates according to different types of funded partners, please indicate.</i>	Dependent on organisation and type of project. An example for businesses: - o Typical value of funding £100k - o Intervention (funding) rate in line with UK Subsidy rules (typically approx. 50%)



TRLs covered <i>Indicate the extent to which the following TRLs are covered or not: TRL6 (yes/no), TRL7 (yes/no) and TRL8 (yes/no).</i>	(TRL 5: ☒ YES ☐ NO)¹ TRL 6: ☒ YES ☐ NO TRL 7: ☒ YES ☐ NO TRL 8: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Max./Min. project duration (beyond the Vinnovate Call rule of max. 30 Months project duration), if any <i>Indicate the maximum (and minimum if any) project duration (in months),</i>	No minimum or maximum duration
Max./Min. amount of costs/grants per project, if any <i>Indicate the maximum (and minimum if any) total project costs and/or grant amount.</i>	Minimum project cost: No Maximum project cost: No Maximum grant amount: No Minimum grant amount: No
Covered transitions (potentially!) <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>	Smarter industry: ☒ YES ☐ NO More sustainable industry: ☒ YES ☐ NO More autonomous/less dependent industry:

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.



<i>and/or 2) a more sustainable and/or 3) a more autonomous/less dependent industry.</i>	☒ YES ☐ NO
Covered VI Pilots (potentially) <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>	Bio-Economy: ☒ YES ☐ NO ESM: ☒ YES ☐ NO 3DP: ☒ YES ☐ NO ADMA Ener: ☒ YES ☐ NO Smart Health: ☒ YES ☐ NO Hydrogen: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Covered activities <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>	Personnel costs (demonstration/R&D): ☒ YES ☐ NO Personnel costs (coordination): ☒ YES ☐ NO Subcontracting costs: ☒ YES ☐ NO Purchase costs – travel: ☒ YES ☐ NO Purchase costs – equipment: ☒ YES ☐ NO Purchase costs – other goods, works and services: ☒ YES ☐ NO Indirect costs/overheads: ☒ YES ☐ NO - If possible, please indicate here the % applied for indirect costs:



	Overheads are calculated at 55% of gross salary costs
	Specific comments, if any:
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>	☐ YES ☒ NO - If yes, indicate when the call will open: here Or - If yes, indicate when the call will close: here
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>	Contact us - Innovation Support - WGBAS
Contact person for 'regional instrument' questions <i>Who can be contacted by regional applicants in case of 'regional-instrument' specific questions?</i>	Contact us - Innovation Support - WGBAS
'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?	☒ YES, two organisations can apply jointly. ☐ NO, each needs to submit a distinct proposal. ☐ NO, max. one organisation from the region is eligible per project.



Multiple applications Can one organisation from the region submit distinct proposals?	☐ YES, one organisation can be part of distinct consortia, and therefore submit several proposals ☒ NO, max. one proposal per organisation from the region* *Universities are welcome to submit multiple applications to the Vinnovate programme. To ensure proposals reflect institutional priorities and to maintain a balanced competitive process, we request that each institution limits submissions to one application per academic school, following internal prioritisation.
Interregional dimension-coverage in 'regional proposal' <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>	☒ YES ☐ NO
For Vinnovate Call 2025 participating regions only – Are beneficiaries selected for funding in the framework of the Vinnovate Call 2025 eligible for the Call 2026 ?	☒ YES ☐ NO