

Innovationskredit Hessen

Development Loans with 70 per cent Release from Liability for innovative Enterprises



Enable
Access
to Funding
for Innovation

WI Bank

Wirtschafts- und Infrastrukturbank Hessen

Development Objective

With Innovationskredit Hessen, WIBank offers low-interest financing for innovative and/or fast-growing small and medium-sized enterprises. The house banks are also relieved from the risk of default as a result of the 70 per cent release from liability.

The objective is to increase the competitiveness of such enterprises, to create and secure jobs and training places and to strengthen innovation activities in Hesse.

What is the particular Advantage of the Program “Innovationskredit Hessen”?

The development program enables innovative and/or fast-growing enterprises to more easily obtain loans via their principal bank (“house bank”). For innovative enterprises, borrowing from commercial banks is often difficult, as their products are mostly new, new markets need to be opened up and collateral customary in banking is as a rule available to a limited extent only. The willingness of the house banks to grant loans is increased as WIBank relieves the house banks of 70 per cent of the credit risk. At the same time, innovative enterprises benefit from favourable terms and conditions.

Who can apply for the Innovationskredit Hessen?

- Small and medium-sized enterprises in accordance with the SME-definition of the EU
- Small and medium-sized, non-listed enterprises with less than 500 employees (Small MidCaps)
- Corporate takeovers or succession arrangements of innovative enterprises
- Members of the professions

What can be promoted?

Eligible for financing are

- tangible and intangible investments
- working capital
- business transfers.

Eligible for promotion are innovative (Hessian) enterprises or innovative projects in Hesse, with ‘innovative’ for instance meaning:

- High share of research, development and innovation (R+D+I) costs, graded by start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Small MidCaps
- Fast-growing enterprises

- The enterprise has been awarded grants, loans or guarantees from innovation support schemes in the past three years.
- The enterprise has registered at least one patent in the past two years or received an innovation award of the EU.
- Co-financing of venture capital

If an enterprise fulfils any of the criteria, the Innovationskredit may be used for general corporate finance purposes.

Other criteria are based on the use of the funds, for instance:

- Investments in innovative products, processes or services
- Financing of costs for research, development and innovation

The innovation criteria have been defined by the European Investment Fund (EIF). A checklist of the criteria is inserted and may be retrieved at: www.wibank.de/innovationskredit.

The measure must have a positive impact on Hesse.

The place of investment must not be abroad.

What are the Terms and Conditions?

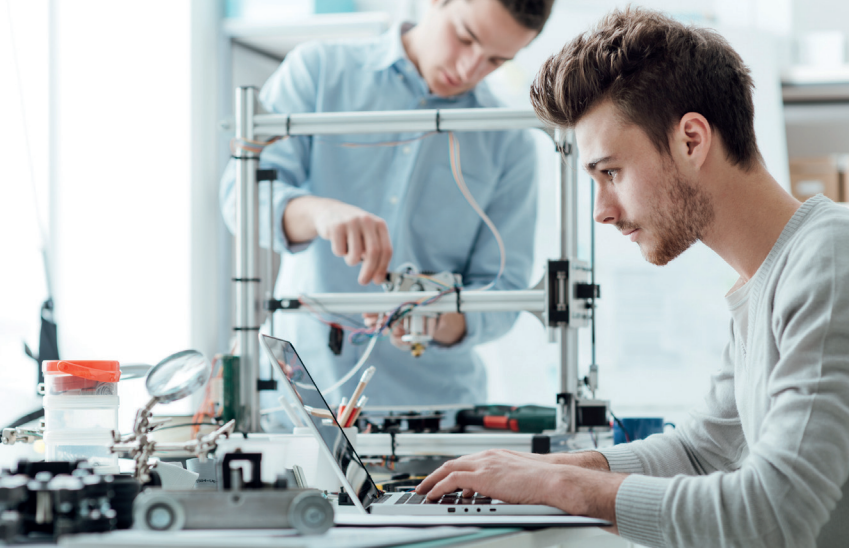
- Up to 100 per cent of expenses eligible for promotion can be financed.
- Loan amount: between EUR 100,000 and EUR 7.5 million
- Interest: Fixed interest rate over the entire term

The indicative interest rates may be found on the Internet at www.wibank.de/innovationskredit.

The final interest rate is agreed upon with the house bank when the loan is approved.

- Term
Term for working capital financing: 3 or 5 years
Term for investment financing: 5, 7 or 10 years
Loans with a term of 3 years are bullet loans
- Redemption: Repayment by equal quarterly instalments (exception: bullet loan)

For loans with a term of five, seven or ten years, a one-year grace period is binding. For loans with a term of ten years, it is also possible to apply for a two-year grace period.



When and how can you apply for the Innovationskredit Hessen?

The application (in German only) is submitted via the house bank on the relevant forms.

In addition, the following evidence needs to be provided:

- SME or Small MidCap status
- At least one innovation criterion needs to be fulfilled

EU State Aid Rules

Loans under this program are granted on the basis of the De-minimis Regulation. The combination with other development programs of WIBank and KfW is possible for the same project, unless the authoritative aid intensities of the EU are exceeded.

For more information on de-minimis-aid, go to the product page on the website of WIBank at “Allgemeine De-minimis-Regel (Kundeninformation)”.

How to obtain funding



Please contact your house bank before starting your project and ask for information and advice. Your bank officer will also provide support for filling in the application forms.



Your house bank will pass on your application for an Innovationskredit Hessen as well as other application documentation to WIBank



After a positive examination of the application by WIBank, your house bank will issue a loan commitment.



Your house bank is your contact for all aspects of the development loan – including disbursement of the loan funds.

Further information is available from:

- **Your principal bank (“house bank”)**
- **Your contact persons at Wirtschafts- und Infrastrukturbank Hessen**
(see below)
- **Your contact persons at the Förderberatung Gründer & Unternehmen:**
Telephone +49 (0) 611 774-7333
Mo-Thu 9:00 – 18:00 h Fr 9:00 – 16:00 h
- **www.wibank.de/innovationskredit**

Info:

The program is supported by the InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility, with the financial backing of the European Union under Horizon 2020 Financial Instruments and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) set up under the Investment Plan for Europe. The purpose of EFSI is to help support financing and implementing productive investments in the European Union and to ensure increased access to financing. The financing is provided from funds of WIBank, for which, inter alia, low-cost refinancing means of the European Investment Bank (EIB) are used. The State of Hesse supports the program by means of a risk partnership with WIBank.

Contact Person for Banks:

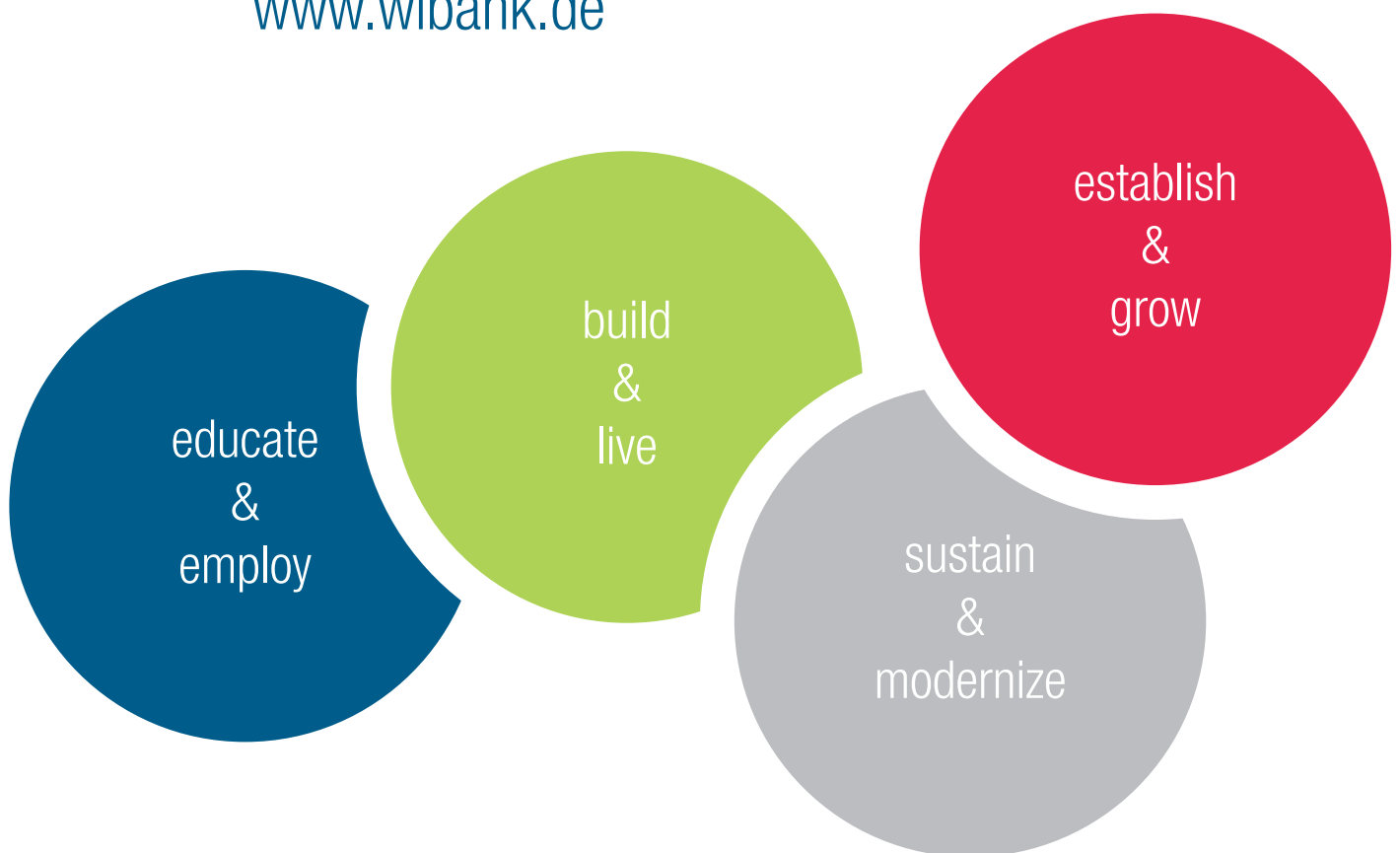
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Wirtschafts- und Infrastrukturbank Hessen –
rechtlich unselbstständige Anstalt in der
Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen Girozentrale

