What is InnovFin Advisory?

InnovFin Advisory guides its clients on how to structure their research and innovation (R&I) projects in order to improve their access to finance. The service helps them to capitalise on their strong points and adjust elements such as their business model, governance, funding sources and financing structure to improve their access to finance. In the long run, this increases the chances of their projects being implemented.

InnovFin Advisory also provides advice on improving investment conditions through activities which are not project-specific. This includes measures such as developing a business case for new financing mechanisms and preparing studies on increasing the effectiveness of financial instruments in addressing specific R&I needs.

Under Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation programme for 2014-20, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF) launched a new generation of financial instruments and advisory services in 2014 to help innovative firms access finance more easily. Until 2020, “InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators” is offering a range of tailored products which provide financing in support of research and innovation by small, medium-sized and large companies and the promoters of research infrastructure.

How does it fit within the InnovFin Programme?

InnovFin Advisory was set up as a joint EIB-European Commission initiative under Horizon 2020 to assist eligible public and private counterparties in improving the bankability and investment-readiness of large, complex, innovative projects that need substantial long-term investment. It also provides advice to improve the conditions for access to risk finance for R&I and advises on the set-up of thematic investment platforms.
Who can benefit?

Building on the support, networks and expertise of the EIB Group and the European Commission, we operate in and between:

- **Private sector** (large and small corporates, RDI clusters, industry associations, financial market associations, etc.);
- **Public sector** (European Commission, Member States, government agencies, etc.);
- **Public-private and semi-public entities** (research institutes, foundations, NGOs, etc.).

InnovFin Advisory services are provided independently of the EIB’s lending/investment decisions. We will assess all potential financing sources including, but not limited to, EIB funding.

How to apply and who to contact?

To be eligible for InnovFin Advisory a project must:

- require a minimum of EUR 15m in R&I investment;
- meet the policy objectives of Horizon 2020; and
- not yet be mature enough for financing appraisal.

To find out if your project is eligible for support under InnovFin Advisory, please submit your request to the EIB in writing. The request should include a detailed description of the project, including business plan highlights and the expected budget commitment. All requests should be sent to innovfinadvisory@eib.org.

The European Commission provides approval of eligible projects.