

# Support for Flemish companies with cross-border Cleantech ambitions

## 1. Structural measures

You can find the structural measures for companies in the subsidy database of the Flemish Government.

You will find all information about subsidies, financing and advice. The newsletter keeps you informed about changes and new measures.

 [www.vlaanderen.be/subsidi databank-voor-ondernemingen](http://www.vlaanderen.be/subsidi databank-voor-ondernemingen) (dutch only)

 [www.vlaanderen.be/publicaties/jouw-bedrijf-heeft-ambitie-en-wil-groeien](http://www.vlaanderen.be/publicaties/jouw-bedrijf-heeft-ambitie-en-wil-groeien) (dutch only)

## Overzicht begeleidingsinitiatieven

Dienstverlening	Instantie	Individueel en in groep	Individueel advies/begeleiding	Groepstraject	Netwerken	Pagina
Digitale scale ups	Sirris & Agoria	x				9
Bryoscale up	Voka	x				9
Accelero	Voka	x				11
PLATO	Voka			x		13
Mentor Me	Netwerk Ondernemen	x				10
Boost Me	Netwerk Ondernemen	x				10
EYnovation: Botcamps voor scale-ups	EY	x				11
EYnovation: Individuele begeleiding	EY		x			12
Road to Growth	Unizo		x			12
Go for Finance	Unizo		x			12
Levend netwerk OndernemersForum	Unizo			x	x	13
Imec-Istart	Imec	x				11

## Overzicht steunmaatregelen

Overheidsstimulans	Instantie	Professionaliseren en transformeren	Aanwerven & opleiden	Investeren	Internationaliseren	Innoveren	Pagina
Kmo-goeisubsidie	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen	x	x		x	x	14,15,24
Kmo-portefeuille	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen	x	x		x	x	14,16,24
Vermindering werkgeversbijdragen	federale en Vlaamse overheid		x			x	15
Vermindering kosten bedrijfsvoorheffing	federale overheid		x				15
Strategische Transformatesteun	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen		x	x		x	16,20
IBO	VDAB		x				16
BAN Vlaanderen	BAN Vlaanderen			x			17
PMV financiering	PMV			x	x	x	17
LRM financiering	LRM			x			17
Crowdfunding				x	x	x	17
Tax Shelter voor scale-ups	Federale overheid			x			18
PMV-Bedrijfsleningen	PMV			x	x	x	18
Startlening	PMV/z			x			18
Cofinanciering	PMV/z			x			18
Winwinlening	PMV/z			x			18
Europese investeringskredieten	EIB, EIF en EFSI			x	x	x	19
Waarborgregeling	PMV/z			x			19
Finmix	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen			x			19
Ecologiepremie +	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen			x			20
Strategische ecologiesteun	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen			x			20
Ontwikkelingsproject	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen					x	23
Onderzoeksproject	Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen					x	23
Innovatieaftrek	Federale overheid					x	24
Investeringsaftrek en belastingkrediet O&O	Federale overheid					x	24
Flanders Investment and Trade	FIT				x		21
BMI	BMI			x	x		21
Enterprise Europe Network	Europese Unie				x		21
Eurostars	EUREKA					x	27
Europees kmo-instrument ikv Horizon 2020	Europese Unie					x	22,27
Interreg	Europese Unie					x	28
Delcredere	Delcredere				x		22
Innovatiepremie	federale overheid					x	25
Vrijstelling doorstorting bedrijfsvoorheffing wetenschappelijk onderzoek	federale overheid					x	25

Research guide "[De speurgids](#)" (*dutch only*) provides an overview of the Flemish subsidies and guides you through the Flemish government budgets for the economic, science and innovation policy.

At the provincial level, it is mainly the Provincial Development Companies (PDCs) that maintain development and innovation. The PDCs provide sufficient and qualitative business infrastructure such as the local supply of incubators, accelerators or science parks.

A company that wants to internationalise within Europe can join the European Interreg support programme.



<https://www.vlaio.be/nl/andere-doelgroepen/flanders-innovation-entrepreneurship>  
(*dutch only*)

**we know we connect we spread**

## 2. Flemish support measures

### 2.1 VLAIO

For SMEs, the SME growth subsidy exists to support the internationalisation of SMEs.

 [www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/kmo-groeisubsidie](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/kmo-groeisubsidie) (dutch only)

The SME growth subsidy promotes the competitiveness of Flemish SMEs by supporting their growth trajectory. In practice, a company is financially supported to finance the wage cost of a strategic profile during its first year of employment, or to finance the cost of advice by one or more service providers.

The SME portfolio can also help with internationalisation. It offers financial support for efficient business processes. Training, advice (e.g. drawing up a communication plan) are part of this.

Small enterprises can count on 30% support, a medium-sized enterprise 20%. The maximum aid ceiling is 7500 Euro of aid per year:

 [www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/kmo-portefeuille](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/kmo-portefeuille) (dutch only)

Other support instruments for innovation are thematic ICON projects, as well as development and research projects:

 [www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidi databank/icon-subsidies-voor-cooperatief-vraaggedreven-onderzoek](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidi databank/icon-subsidies-voor-cooperatief-vraaggedreven-onderzoek) (dutch only)

 [www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject) (dutch only)

 [www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject) (dutch only)

Companies with growth and international ambitions and a high innovation awareness can join one of the Flemish spearhead clusters (SHC).

The cluster organisation acts as facilitator of the network and provides content support for access to certain Flemish and European support through the development of an international project.

SHCs focus on partnerships between Flemish companies. Collaboration with knowledge centres or other companies is a requirement. This cooperation is intended to realise the individual business objective and to contribute to an increase in the competitiveness of Flemish companies.

## 2.2 The Flemish spearhead clusters:

- [Flux50](#) - Energy and energy efficiency
- [Catalisti](#) - Sustainable chemistry and plastics
- [FlandersFood](#) - Agro & Food
- [VIL](#) - Mobility and transport
- [Blue cluster](#) - Multi-domain
- [SIM](#) - Innovative Materials

VFor (groups of) companies there are projects for 'Collective Research & Development and Collective Knowledge Dissemination and Transfer' (COOCK projects). These aim to valorise the research results of knowledge centres, and focus on the accelerated introduction of technology and/or knowledge to business cases. Small and large companies that are looking for information about and/or want to participate in generic cases can apply. Specific cases from their own business operations can also be proposed for development into innovative services or products.

## 2.3 Flanders Investment & Trade, FIT

In Flanders, [Flanders Investment & Trade](#) is the point of contact for international investment.

FIT offers support measures to companies with international ambitions:

- prospecting trips\*,
- participation in a foreign trade fair or a niche event,
- developing and translating commercial business communication,
- Setting up a prospecting office\* or a customised project.



[www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com/export/subsidies](http://www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com/export/subsidies) (dutch only)

\*outside the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

### 2.3.1 Subsidy for equipment goods

*FIT wants to strengthen the competitive position of Flemish SMEs by giving developing countries a discount on equipment goods such as machines with a high unit value for use in manufacturing process, in production trade or other capital goods:*



[www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com/export/subsidie-voor-uitrustingsgoederen](http://www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com/export/subsidie-voor-uitrustingsgoederen) (dutch only)

### Additional support measures in response to COVID-19

In order to guide companies through the corona crisis, and to stimulate exports and foreign investment, FIT expands the support measures. Additional aid measures are foreseen:

1. The **'Reboot your export'** package allows Flemish companies to participate in FIT group stands at international (trade) fairs and/or niche events at a lower cost and improved payment conditions.
2. The **Corona-Steun package** Internationalisation gives a boost to up to 1,000 experienced Flemish exporters to boost their export activities in 2020 and 2021.
  - Available: from Q4 2020
  - Subsidy: 5.000€ per company
3. The **Corona Starter Package** supports internationalisation, up to 300 new Flemish exporters to start up export activities in 2020 and 2021.
  - Available: from Q4 2020
  - Subsidy: 7.000€ per company

## 2.4 Cleantech Flanders

[Cleantech Flanders](#) promotes and stimulates the implementation of clean technologies (cleantech) that accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. Supported by VITO, and in cooperation with companies, research centres, government bodies and civil society, Cleantech Flanders acts as a catalyst for innovation and the implementation of cleantech in society. Active in the most important cleantech domains such as renewable energy and energy efficiency, circular economy, bio-economy, mobility and transport, water, soil and air, CF informs about the latest trends and evolutions in cleantech, connects the different actors in the cleantech ecosystem, and supports companies in marketing their cleantech solutions at home and abroad. Partners of Cleantech Flanders are given not only an inspiring window on the international cleantech markets, but also the opportunity to promote their own cleantech services.

To illustrate the specific cleantech domain Circular Economy (CE), [here](#) are 8 examples of how sustainable and circular entrepreneurs have made use of the support. The transition to a circular economy is supported by VLAIO through various subsidy instruments.

The transition to a circular economy is supported by VLAIO through various subsidy instruments. For example, annual open calls in cooperation with Circular Flanders.

## 3. European support measures

[Here](#) you will find an overview of European support measures:

### 3.1 Innovation, research and development

Flanders, the agency VLAIO, makes subsidies available for international cooperation on innovation, research and development (R&D&I). Funding of the Flemish partners is possible via a call in one of the following support programmes:

#### 3.1.1 European SME instrument

For SMEs, the European SME instrument Horizon2020 (H2020) is relevant. This support programme (formerly 'SME instrument') focuses on SMEs with growth potential that are strongly committed to innovation and want to market internationally. Their innovation is disruptive: it lies at the heart of a new market or confuses the existing market. SMEs that develop innovative technologies are financially supported to commercialise their technology. Advice and coaching are also offered:



[www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidies-voor-ooi-eeen-internationaal-consortium](http://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidies-voor-ooi-eeen-internationaal-consortium) (*dutch only*)



<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/sme-instrument/eic-accelerator-funding-opportunities>

#### 3.1.2 European Enterprise Network

'EEN', Europe Enterprise Network, brings the supply and demand for technology among companies to international attention.

EEN offers the possibility to be present in this market by means of profile and thus to continuously monitor supply and demand, and to detect resulting opportunities.



<https://een.ec.europa.eu/tools/services/>

## 4. Cooperation in Flanders and beyond

There are 2 possibilities for support through cooperation:

- Through collaboration with the strategic research centres (Strategic Research Centres, i.e. VITO, IMEC, VIB,...). The support is requested from VLAIO or Europe. The Strategic Research Centre calls on its extensive international network.
- Directly at VLAIO, after which it may appear that cooperation with one or more Strategic Research Centres is appropriate.

### 4.1 VITO

VITO offers its expertise at all stages of the development of a company:

- development of prototypes
- partner matching
- search for capital contribution

VITO supports SMEs in their innovation needs in various domains. The SME team brings you into contact with VITO experts and guides you in the area of subsidy opportunities. Through cooperation, economies of scale and increasing expertise, VITO wants to make smarter use of existing sustainable solutions and develop new technologies together with you. We want to make these technologies technically and economically feasible and profitable.

 <https://vito.be/en/collaborate>

As an external service provider, VITO can collaborate with companies, possibly with the SME growth subsidy. VITO and other Strategic Research Centres can also collaborate with an SME via the SME portfolio.

SMEs can receive support from Europe via the European network of Strategic Research centres. This is an extensive network through projects of H2020 and EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology).

 <https://vito.be/en/collaborate/vito-sme>

## 4.2 Imec

[Imec](#) is a research centre for nanoelectronics and digital technology, that supports the Flemish business community in different ways:

- develop innovative services and products together with imec in which Imec technology makes the difference.
- Imec shares knowledge about technological evolutions.

## 4.3 Flanders Make

On the basis of high-tech research, [Flanders Make](#) (FM) offers active support to companies in the manufacturing industry for the development and optimisation of their products and production processes. FM brings companies together to work on solutions for shared technological challenges. FM also defines and participates in research projects, both in Belgium and abroad, and supports companies in the development of technological solutions and the optimisation of products and production processes. Finally, FM offers high-tech testing infrastructure to test and validate production processes and (components of) vehicles or machines.

## 4.4 SIRRIS

[SIRRIS-Flanders](#) is the collective centre of and for the technological industry. To Belgian companies we offer:

- Years of experience and broad expertise in a wide range of sectors,
- a high-tech testing infrastructure spread across the country
- and an extensive partner network.