



FAQ: Impulse programme «Swiss Innovation Power»

1	General questions	1
2	Questions on criteria and project partners.....	2
3	Questions about the process and application submission	2
4	Questions on measure 1	3
5	Questions on measure 2.....	3
6	Questions on external service provider and its role	4

1 General questions

Q: What are the general criteria to participate in the impulse programme?

A: Please see the factsheet that has been published on Innosuisse website ([Factsheet InnoCH](#)), all details concerning the Impulse programme and the related measures M1 and M2 are available in that specific document. Additional questions have been answered in the present Q&A.

Q: As of when can applications be submitted under the impulse programme?

A: As of 7 January 2021.

Q: Are there defined deadlines for submission of innovation projects within the impulse programme?

A: No, project can be submitted anytime throughout the year.

Q: Can existing projects still benefit from the impulse programme?

A: No, only new projects that are submitted after 7 January 2021.

Q: How long will the impulse programme run for?

A: It is highly likely that the impulse programme will run until at least the end of 2021 and probably into 2022. The exact duration will depend on the length of the pandemic, the economic impact and the availability of financial resources.

Q: Is the impulse programme only limited to project regarding Covid19?

A: No.

Q: Is there a thematic focus or limitation of the impulse programme?

A: No. It is open for all science-based innovation projects with implementation partners in any field or sector.

Q: Is there a maximum budget amount or length for an innovation project within the impulse programme?

A: No.

2 Questions on criteria and project partners

Q: What does the criteria of 500 FTE maximum exactly mean?

A: The implementation partner must be a commercial business and must have not more than 500 full-time equivalent (FTE); for implementation partners that are controlled by another company or that control other companies so that consolidated annual accounts must be prepared, the number of full-time equivalents of the entire group is decisive.

Q: Does the criteria of 500 FTE apply for both implementation and research partners?

A: No. It applies only to implementation partners, not to research partners and service providers.

Q: Is there a minimum of employees for the implementation partner (e.g. start-ups with a small number of employees)?

A: No.

Q: If there are several implementation partners participating in an innovation project but one has more than 500 FTE, does this exclude a project from the impulse programme?

A: Yes, all implementation partners have to fulfil the criteria of 500 FTE maximum.

Q: Is it also possible for foreign companies to submit a project application?

A: No, foreign companies cannot take part in the impulse programme. For more options, visit <https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/de/home/go-global.html>.

Q: Can the research partner be more than one research centre?

A: Yes, both several research centres and implementation partners can participate in one innovation project.

Q: Can a public institution or NGO be an implementation partner under measure 1 or 2?

A: No, the impulse program is designed to support commercial businesses with no more than 500 full-time equivalent (FTE).

3 Questions about the process and application submission

Q: How is the review process in comparison with regular innovation projects?

A: It is the same evaluation process but in addition, the criteria for measure M1 or M2 must be fulfilled (see [Factsheet InnoCH](#)).

Q: Where do I submit my innovation project?

A: Online on the Innosuisse application platform: <https://www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home/analytics/innosuisse-submission-platform.html>.

Q: How are the applications in the impulse programme designated in the Analytics online application platform?

A: The details are listed in the factsheet under sections 2 and 3 ([Factsheet InnoCH](#))

Q: What documents are necessary to hand in an application (e.g. research report, business plan, etc.)?

A: The same as for standard innovation projects, please follow the specificities described in the factsheet for measures M1 and M2 ([Factsheet InnoCH](#)).

Q: Does a company need to prove or show that it has been affected by the Covid-19 and how?

A: No, only if the cash contribution should be waived or reduced.

Q: If a project is rejected, is it possible to reapply with the same project without measure?

A: Since the assessment criteria are the same for the impulse programme as for the standard innovation projects the rejected application must be reworked and a new application must be submitted.

4 Questions on measure 1 (M1)

Q: If the implementation partner has not been affected by the pandemic, will it be eligible for measure 1 or only for the regular Innosuisse scheme with the 50% contribution?

A: All implementation partners registered in the Swiss registry of commerce, being a commercial business and having not more than 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) are eligible.

Q: For measure 1, does a company need to prove or show that it has been affected by the Covid-19 and how? Does that also apply to start-ups?

A: No, only if the cash contribution should be waived or reduced.

Q: Can the own contribution be based on 3rd party funds?

A: The own contribution from the implementation partner should be provided as men-hours, material costs or cash contributions in the project. How the implementation partner is financed is not relevant.

Q: Is the cash contributions from the implementation partner just cancelled or still paid out to the research partners by Innosuisse?

A: In case the cash contribution is cancelled or reduced, the funding of the research partner can be increased (in hours and/or material cost). But Innosuisse will not pay out cash to the research partner.

5 Questions on measure 2 (M2)

Q: How is structural change defined for measure 2? How does the applicant need to justify that his or her project deals with structural change?

A: A structural change is a shift or change in the basic ways an industry segment, an entire industry or a market functions or operates. The innovation project should have the potential to deal with the structural change by developing new business models and/or implementing novel innovations that overcome or make use of the structural change.

Q: Does the structural change need to be related to the focus of the company itself or can it for example also be directed to a structural change of a business sector?

A: The structural change should be related to the company and the innovation project by showing that the proposed innovation will consider the structural change as a business opportunity.

Q: Is the cash contributions from the implementation partner just cancelled or still paid out to the research partners by Innosuisse?

A: In case the cash contribution is cancelled or reduced, the funding of the research partner can be increased (as hours or material cost). But Innosuisse will not pay out cash to the research partner.

6 Questions on external service provider and its role

Q: What is the definition of an “external service partner” (e.g. located in Switzerland, commercial / non-commercial)? Are there particular restrictions?

A: An external service partner is a commercial company, normally located in Switzerland, which provides specialized consulting, engineering or research services that are required for the success of the project and that cannot be provided by the implementation or the research partners.

Q: Can the external service provider be a company with more than 500 FTE or does this restriction also apply for the external service provider?

A: No, this restriction only applies to the implementation partner.

Q: Can an external service provider also be another research partner?

A: All research partners that are eligible for Innosuisse funding cannot be an external service provider.

Q: What kind of contribution or services by the external service partner are eligible?

A: All services needed to achieve the goals of the innovation project and which cannot be provided by the research or implementation partners themselves.

Q: How many external service providers can be part of an innovation project under measure 2?

A: Normally just one, but there is no strict limit.

Q: How will the intellectual property be solved between the different partners? Can IP generated by the external service provider be automatically transferred to the implementation partner?

A: The partners have to conclude an agreement on the potential future intellectual property or assets created by them and the third party. The implementation partner must at least have a non-exclusive right to use the intellectual property created by the research partner and the third party free of charge.