

The Financial Guide within the EU-project PRESOURCE is a jointly developed transnational tool to promote financing schemes that support eco-innovation and resource efficiency. The tool aims to encourage more long-term thinking in politics, business and finance. Based on over 100 interviews with experts from both public and private sectors as well as other innovative financial stakeholders, it provides a comprehensive overview of relevant financing actors and existing instruments among the six PRESOURCE partner countries, namely Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Poland.

PRESOURCE is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF and aims at increasing resource efficiency, especially in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Central European countries by identifying innovative opportunities for improving and financing investment in resource efficiency.

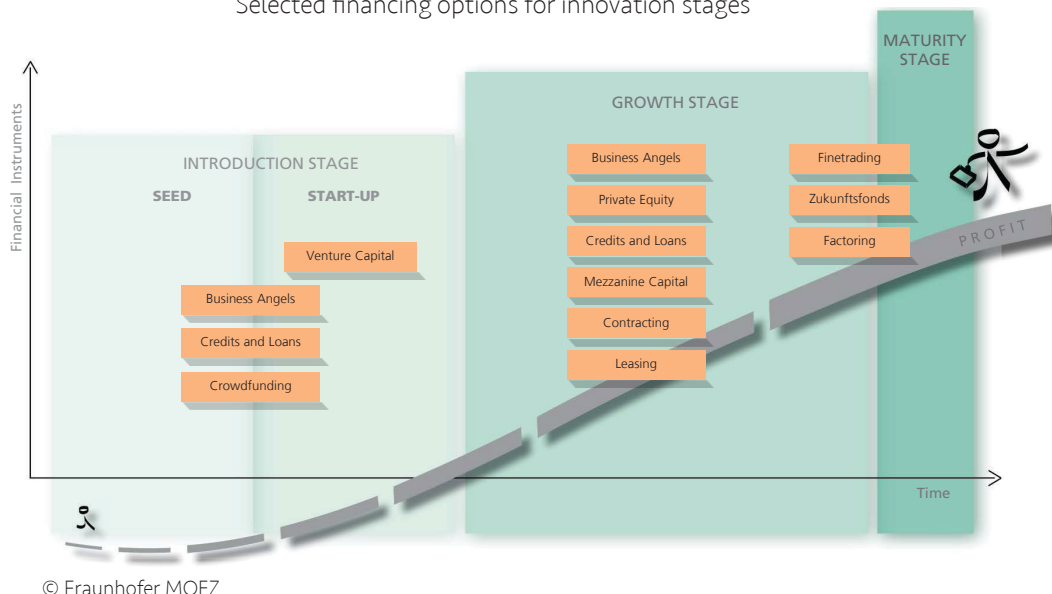
Resource efficiency is understood as “reducing the use and the costs of energy, material and water in the production process and product life cycle”. Even though the topic has become highly relevant in politics and business, financial instruments for resource efficiency projects are still rare, underdeveloped or not yet existent in these countries. In the context of the Financial Guide the focus on resource efficiency was broadened to eco-innovation as a whole. According to the European Commission eco-innovation is

defined as “any form of innovation aiming at significant and demonstrable progress towards the goal of sustainable development [...] either by reducing the environmental impact or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of resources”.

SMEs are often not aware of their resource consumption and the associated costs, real costs of non-product outputs and the related (cost) reduction potential. Furthermore, in many cases they are not sufficiently informed of possible means of improving resource efficiency. In addition, they face serious challenges in financing the necessary investments due to a lack of information about the variety of suitable financing instruments and relevant investment criteria. Hence, one of the major impulses for the Financial Guide was to help overcome these existing barriers and to introduce a set of economic incentives that stimulate SMEs to systematically measure and improve their resource efficiency/eco-innovation.

The Financial Guide is expected to improve knowledge and mechanisms for risk sharing and for financing eco-innovations in SMEs within existing framework conditions. This shall increase investments in eco-innovations by introducing new innovative financing schemes such as revolving funds, crowd investing or contracting schemes that finally enable SMEs to better finance their resource efficiency/eco-innovation projects.

Selected financing options for innovation stages



For the full version of the Financial Guide and for further information please visit our Competence Platform

www.resourceefficiencyatlas.eu

www.presource.eu