



Biomat-IN Innovation voucher

- Guide for applicants -

A. General information

Biomat-IN (Biomaterials Innovation Network) is a new cross-border project stimulating innovation-oriented cooperation of companies, especially SMEs, across national borders (“cross border open innovation”) in the field of biomedical materials within the North Western Europe (NWE) area. Main target is to create cross-border cooperation between SME’s from the different regions involved in the project.

You can find further information on Biomat-IN here: biomatin.eu

This guide gives you a detailed overview regarding the Biomat-IN innovation vouchers and how to apply for them.

Vouchers are provided for innovative new cooperations / projects involving SMEs across the national borders (so-called cross-border cooperation consortia) in the field of biomedical materials. The voucher is aimed at validating the feasibility of an SME-based joint innovation project in an early stage by granting free research / advice from one / several knowledge institutes in the partner regions.

Partner regions as well as institutions offering Biomat-IN cooperation vouchers are:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Lille (F) | Eurasanté |
| ▪ Nantes (F) | Atlanpole Biotherapies |
| ▪ Stuttgart (D) | Bioregio STERN |
| ▪ East Midlands (UK) | Medilink EM |
| ▪ Limburg (NL) | LIOF |

B. Innovation voucher consortia / projects

A technology-oriented SME from one of the partner regions, together with at least one other SME, large company or knowledge institute from another partner region can form a cross-border cooperation consortium to develop / carry-out a joint innovation project.

The lead SME within the cross-border cooperation consortium can apply for an innovation voucher to perform a project feasibility study. Service providers from other locations are applicable only if the requested knowledge is not available within any of the partner regions.

A voucher is a cheque worth € 10,000 (including VAT) which is non-transferable and will not be paid out in cash. It is distributed by the Biomat-IN consortium to the lead SME. The SME



can use this voucher to 'purchase' an innovation service from a knowledge provider in one of the partner regions.

Activities 'purchased' using a voucher could for example include a market study, a patent search, a legal issue or a limited technical feasibility study. The voucher cannot be used to pay for management consultants, basic research, standard tasks (e.g. physical and/or chemical tests) or an SMEs own research and development hours.

The vouchers will cover 100% of the costs, up to € 10,000 of the service provided by the knowledge provider. A project may be larger than the value of the voucher, which means in that case that the voucher will cover only part of the total project costs.

A maximum of one voucher will be granted to the lead SME involved in each project of a cross-border cooperation consortium. The SME that receives and uses the voucher agrees to take part in an evaluation after the service has been delivered.

The validity of the voucher covers the execution of an order by a knowledge provider deemed to be suitable by the applying SME and the granting Biomat-IN project partner. An offer from the knowledge provider has to be received before a voucher is definitely awarded. The order must be placed before the expiration date shown in the voucher.

The provision of the service is subject to the terms and conditions of performance of the service provider; these are set out in a contract. The knowledge provider works solely on the basis of his/her own knowledge and expertise.

C. Procedure for allocation of vouchers

Applications for vouchers have to be submitted through a completed application form, which will be used for a single stage evaluation and selection by the Biomat-IN partners. Proposals must be sent by e-mail to the Biomat-IN lead partner and the Regional contact point (see below for details).

The application form can be downloaded from the project website (biomatin.eu). The application form is submitted by the SME ('recipient'), but should already include the details of the consortia, the knowledge provider and activities for which the voucher will be used.

Evaluation of eligible applications will be based on the selection criteria indicated in the section '*E. Guidelines for applicants*' below. Selection and allocation of vouchers will be done on an ad-hoc basis, taking into account the following aspects:

- Evaluation score, following the selection criteria
- Available budget per region

When awarded a voucher, the notification will contain further information for the execution of the project, such as the final reporting form, as well as invoicing and payment procedures. Decisions by the Biomat-IN consortium are final and not open for discussion.

In case of any doubts and questions about the application procedure for a voucher, please contact the regional Biomat-IN partner (see below for details).



D. Execution of a voucher project

In case the voucher application is approved, successful applicants shall make their best efforts to start the execution as soon as possible after receipt of the notification. Before the start of the project, the knowledge provider and SME ('recipient') will need to sign a short and simple agreement with the regional Biomat-IN partner of the recipient. A template for this agreement will be provided together with the notification.

1. Based on the notification and the agreement between the two parties the SME commissions the knowledge provider with consultancy service.
2. On completion of the consultancy, the knowledge provider sends an invoice to the regional Biomat-IN partner.
3. The SME officially sends confirmation to the regional Biomat-IN partner that the consultancy service has been rendered in full and completed and that payment can be made. Additionally, the knowledge provider and the SME are required to submit a short final report, in which a short description of activities performed, results delivered, possible future cooperation considered and feedback about the voucher is given.
4. Upon receipt of the final report, the regional Biomat-IN partner pays the knowledge provider a maximum of € 10,000.

E. Guidelines for applicants

Voucher applications are to be submitted by SMEs that have already identified the knowledge provider they would like to work with. SMEs that have not yet identified a suitable knowledge provider should contact the regional Biomat-IN partner. Contact details for the regional Biomat-IN partner are given at the end of this document.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria are given below. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact your Regional contact point.

Eligible '**recipients**' of an innovation voucher must be:

- a Small or Medium-sized Enterprise, 'SME', (under EU definitions¹) active in the field of biomedical materials,
- located within one of the participating regions (for exact definitions see *B. Innovation voucher consortia / projects*),
- not in receivership or under liquidation at the time of receiving the voucher.

¹ COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 364/2004 of 25 February 2004 amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 as regards the extension of its scope to include aid for research and development.



Eligible **'knowledge provider'** are universities, hospitals (with R&D activities), public or private research centres or companies, located within the partner regions. Knowledge providers from other regions are eligible only if the requested knowledge is not available within the partner regions.

Eligible activities are defined as follows:

- they should be centred on technology/services related to Biomedical materials
- Vouchers can only be used to perform a feasibility study. Primary focus of the voucher will be to assess the market potential of the project idea. Secondary focus will be early stage technical feasibility.
- it should be possible to reasonably execute these services within the limited timeframe of 3 months after awarding the voucher

Not eligible are:

- activities that could be considered part of ongoing projects between the knowledge provider and SME
- general business consultancy, marketing or any other activities that are not part of the R&D activities of the SME.
- basic research, standard tasks (e.g. physical and/or chemical tests) or own research and development hours of SMEs

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be used in the selection process:

- the involvement of at least one SME and a partner from across at least 2 partner regions
- the extent in which the voucher constitutes a new project, that did not exist within the last 3 years
- possibility of a new product/service emerging from cooperation initiated by the voucher
- possibility of a larger (follow up) project emerging from the voucher project
- quality of high-tech/service element of the voucher
- contribution of the activity to the R&D strategy of the recipient

Terms and conditions

Successful recipients and providers will be expected to:

- Comply with any national state-aid rules
- Agree to complete the project within the specified time frame
- Complete a short report form within 15 days after the end of the project
- Participate in at least one Biomat-IN networking event

Biomat-IN partners assume that in the majority of cases no IPR agreement will be needed since a voucher project would be too small for IPR to be generated. In exceptional cases where IPR is involved, an agreement can be signed between the knowledge provider and the SME.



Regional contact points

- Eurasanté (FR): Nora Ezzaim | nezzaim@eurasante.com
- Atlanpole Biotherapies (FR): Benoît-Jules Youbicier Simo | youbicier-simo@atlanpole.fr
- Bioregio STERN (D): Manfred Kauer | kauer@bioregio-stern.de
- Medilink EM (UK): Costa Philippou | costa@medilinkem.com
- LIOF (NL): Raymond Bevers | rbevers@liof.nl