



Funding for SMEs in the EU

The SME Fund is a grant scheme set up to provide SMEs in the European Union access to funding towards protecting their IP.

Protecting your intellectual property (IP) is essential to ensure that your brand, ideas, products and services are not used or copied without permission. IP rights, including patents, trade marks and designs, can form valuable assets for a business, and can be an important consideration for investment in, or valuation of, a business.

The 'Ideas Powered for Business' SME Fund is a European Commission initiative implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EU IPO), through which successful applicants can receive grant funding towards intellectual property costs.

Funding through the scheme, which was launched on 23 January 2023, is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis. The scheme will run until 8 December 2023.

The funding available varies depending on the country in which the SME is based. As an example, successful applicants in Germany will be able to request:

- 90% reimbursement for IP pre-diagnostic services (IP Scan) for all intellectual property rights, through which a business can work with an IP expert to develop an appropriate IP strategy
- 75% reimbursement of trade mark and design fees incurred at the EU IPO and at national and regional IP offices
- 50% reimbursement of trade mark and design fees incurred outside the EU

The application page for the SME Fund can be found [here](#).

This is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. Should you require advice on this or any other topic then please contact hk@hkl-ip.com or your usual HLK advisor.