



Wallonie
recherche
SPW

Public Funding for R&D Activities in Wallonia

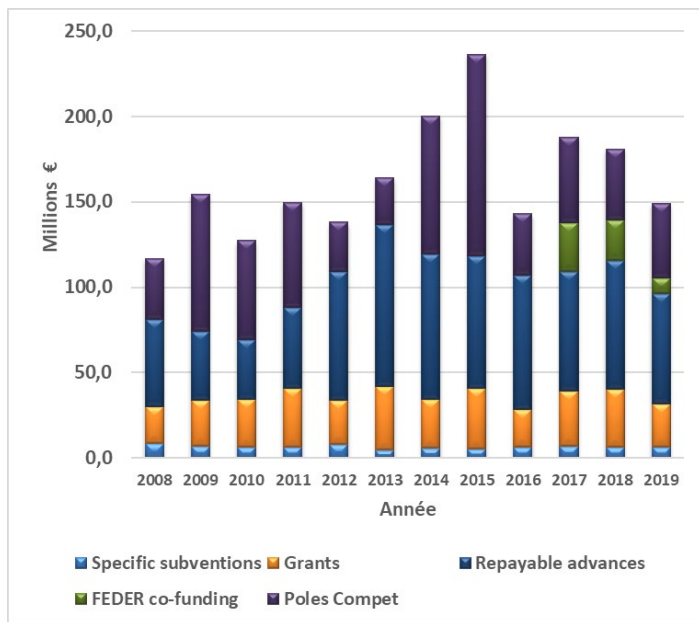
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Wallonia support for R&D

For over 12 years the Walloon government has been strongly committed to encouraging the redeployment of industry, focussing on **innovation** and high technology
→ Walloon decree defines a frame for the public funding of R&D activities



In 2019, Wallonia injected **150 million €** in financial support to R&D activities (mostly for R&D in private companies) :

- 25 million € in grants for research activities
- 9 million € in grants for projects co-funded by EU-FEDER fund (EU Fund for regional development)
- 65 million € in repayable advances for development activities
- 44 million € for collaborative R&D projects within the 6 « poles of competitiveness »

Definitions : 2 types of R&D activities



Industrial research

- Acquisition of new knowledge
- Creation of new products / processes / services
- Creation of complex components (incl. prototypes in lab environment)
- Validation of generic technologies / new concepts (incl. pilot trials)

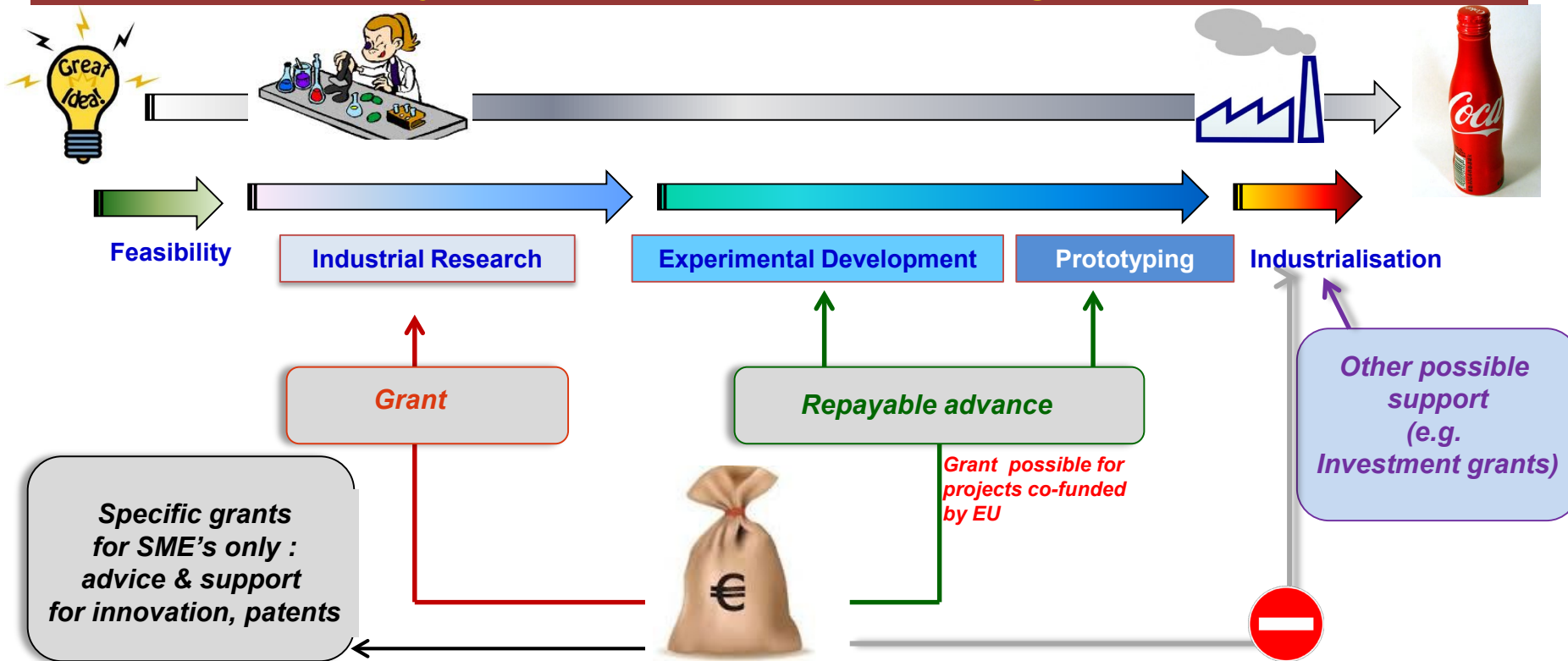
Requires additional development steps before entering the market

Experimental development

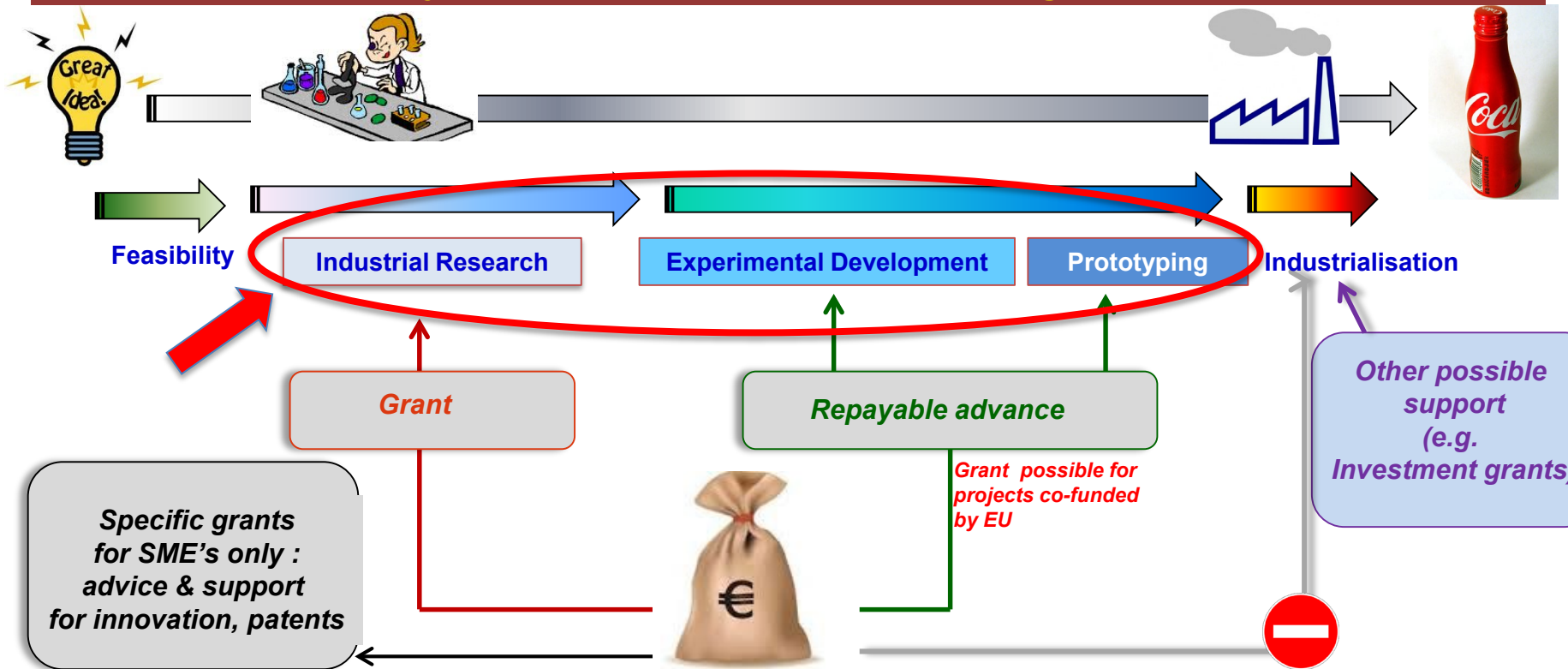
- Acquiring, using, associating, existing knowledges to produce innovative or improved products / processes / services.
- Includes assembly of prototypes or production trials (in real, industrial environment)
- Not included : routine modifications of products or processes, even if leading to improvements

Soon on the market (6-12 months)

R&D projects : Financial support vs. stage of research



R&D projects : Financial support vs. stage of research



Support to R&D projects – Summary

- **Who**
 - Company of any size (S,M or L) with activities in Wallonia
- **For what**
 - Any sector (mechanical, electronics, health, food...)
 - Research and/or Development
- **When**
 - Year round applications – no call for projects
- **Timescale for response**
 - From application : 2-4 months to obtain the decision (project analysis → decision by Minister)
 - ± six month time-frame for awarding of money advance
- **Duration**
 - 8 to 36-month projects
- **How much**
 - Pre-set rates (depending on size of the company and qualification of research or development)
 - No limit in overall amount (from 50,000 € to 10 millions €)

Application forms : <https://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/fr/go/ri.html>

<https://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/fr/go/de.html>

(in French but can be filled in English)

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Support to R&D projects – Evaluation Criteria

- **Innovation**
 - The project must be truly innovative, both at company level and throughout the profession
- **Industrialisation of the results**
 - Forecast for industrialisation in Wallonia (investments ?)
 - Increase of business & profit (new markets, market shares)
 - Jobs creation in Wallonia (both during research phase and particularly during industrialisation phase)
- **Quality, technical feasibility, relevancy of the project**
 - From a scientific and business perspective
- **Environment – Sustainability**
 - The project must be at least neutral to the environment (no negative effect) and ideally should have a positive impact on sustainability
- **Financial status of the company**
 - Sufficient financial means (capital, sales / profit) to cover the part of the project expenses to be paid by the company

Definition : company size

	Number of employees	turnover	balance sheet
small	< 50	≤ 10 M€	≤ 10 M€
medium	50 - 250	≤ 50 M€	≤ 43 M€
large	> 250	> 50 M€	> 43 M€

+ Independence of the company

(e.g. to assess the level of funding, if a small company. is a 100% subsidiary of a large one, it will be considered as a large company)

Any company, whatever its size (S, M or L), is eligible for R&D financial support by the Region, provided it has activities based in Wallonia.

Rates of funding for R&D projects



In % of eligible expenses

	industrial research		experimental development	
	independently	partnership	independently	partnership
Small	70	80	55	70
Medium	60	70	45	60
Large	50	60	35	50

Grant

Repayable advance

A true partnership ?

Partners or sub-contractors ?

- 2 (or more) **private companies** (excluding universities and research centres)
- **Non-linked companies** (through shareholders, CEO...)
- **Sharing :**
 - **During** the research phase :
 - R&D activities (all the partners must bring **innovation**), risks, budget
 - Signature of a consortium agreement
 - **After** the research phase :
 - IP and **industrialisation of the results**
- **Max 70 % of total budget** for the biggest partner

True Partnership ?

Local partnership

(all partners in Wallonia)

- At least one SME

International partnership

- Partner(s) **anywhere in the world**
- A part of the project must take place in EU, but outside Belgium
- At least **50 % of total R&D budget spent in Wallonia**
- Funding awarded only to the Walloon partner(s)

Repayable advance

1. During the project

- Upfront payment: 25 %
- Expense report and reimbursement of the expenses every 6 months

2. End of the project

- Final technical & financial reports and final reimbursement of the expenses
- Declaration of industrialisation of the results

Industrialisation	No industrialisation
Progressive annual reimbursements (during 3 to 15 years)	No reimbursement
30 % : predefined annual reimbursements 70 % : depending on product turnover	Results and PI transferred to Region
Total reimbursement : Between 30 % and 200 % of actual advance	

Support to R&D projects : eligible expenses

Salaries

Overall cost (salary + social security) of employees on the company payroll, directly and actively involved in the research project

Operating

Raw materials, consumables, small equipment, tools, components for prototypes, maintenance of equipment, missions abroad.

Overheads

Fixed : 12 % of Salaries + Operating (1 + 2 above)

Equipment

Depreciation of the equipment used in the R&D project
Leasing of equipment

Subcontracting

HR : technical consultancy, free-lance scientists, management : CTO/CEO...
Technical : specific analysis, engineering studies, certification...

Poles of Competitivity projects – « Marshall Plan »

- **Call for R&D projects**
 - **3 calls per year organised by the Poles of Competitivity**
 - **Partnership mandatory**
 - Minimum 2 + 2 : 2 private companies (at least one with <250 employees) + 2 university units or research centres - possibility of international partnership)
 - **Evaluation in several steps** (quite long : ± 6 months)
 - By selection committees (pole-specific) + Civil Service + International Jury (common to all poles)
 - **Final project selection by the Walloon Government**
 - **Financial bonus**
 - Increased rates : + 10-15 % vs. funding of « classical » R&D projects
 - Possibility of grants for experimental development activities
 - Direct funding of universities and research centres

Poles of Competitivity – « Marshall Plan »



in % of eligible expenses

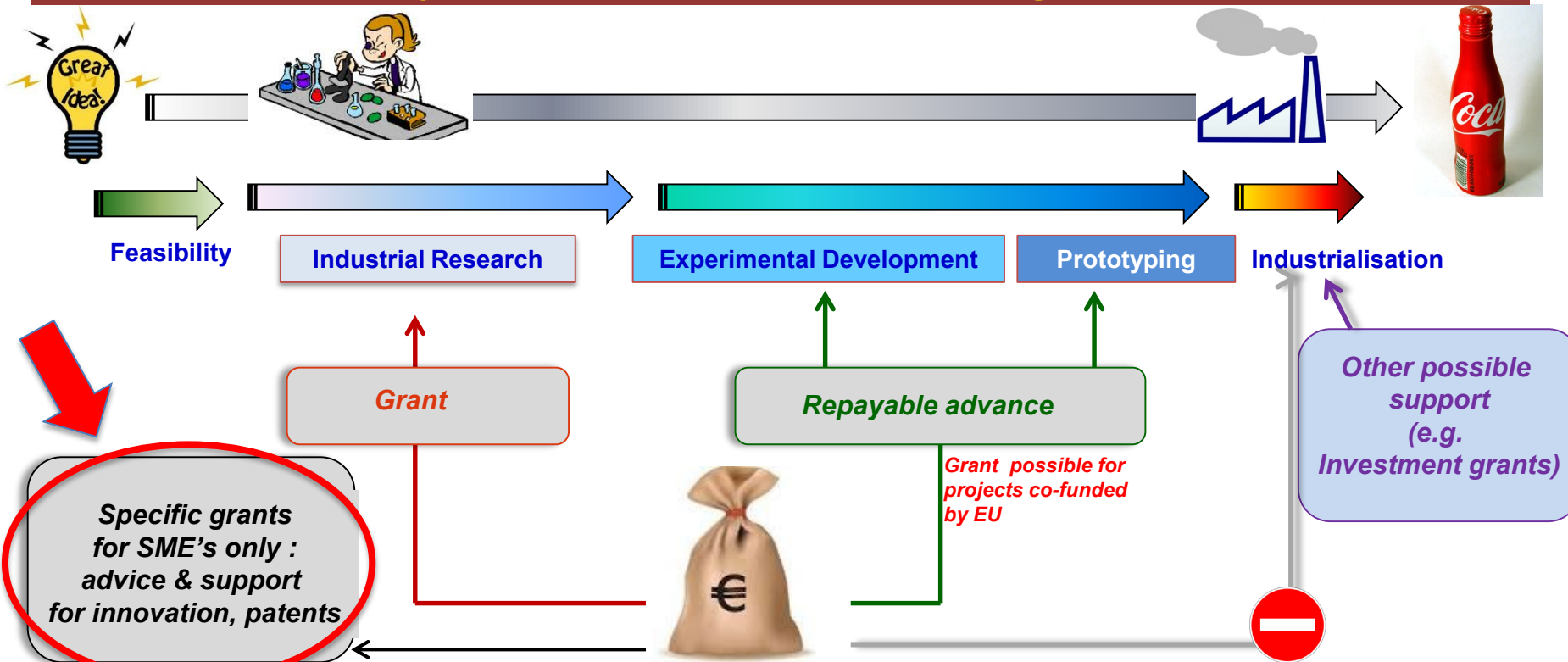
	industrial research	experimental development
small	80	60 (or RA 70)
medium	75	50 (or RA 60)
large	65	40 (or RA 50)
research centres	85	85
universities	100	100

Grant

Grant or Repayable
Advance

research centres & universities funded directly by
Walloon Region and not as sub-contractor

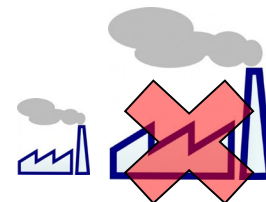
R&D projects : Financial support vs. stage of research



Advice & support for innovation



- **Provision of support** (technical/ marketing study) leading to the development of a new commercial product or service or to its positioning on the market.
- **Provision of advice** to acquire new technology.



Only for SME



Yearlong



Max 3 months



Duration : the time of the study
(to be performed by university, research centres
ou subcontractor)



Grant : 75 %

Cost : market price (quotation required)

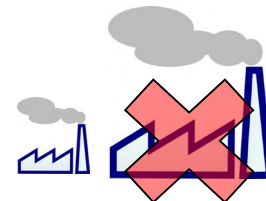
Max : 200.000 € in 3 years

Intellectual property - Patent



To protect an innovation by filing a patent

- PATDE : first filing of a patent application
- PATEX : geographical extension of the patent
- PATOP : costs linked to an opposition to the filed patent



Only for SME



Yearlong



Max 3 months



Duration : the time required for the service
(by the patent agent)

Grant : 35 to 50 %

Expenses = cost of the patent agent work : writing,
translation...+ cost of filing and others official procedures

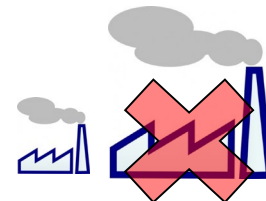
But never the annual payments to maintain the patent



« Responsible » of a Research Project - RPR



Hiring a person responsible for managing an R&D **project** leading to a **technological innovation** (with perspectives of industrialisation)



Only for SME



Yearlong



Max 3 months



6 to 24 months



Research : grant 70 % (Small) – 60 % (Medium)
Development : grant 45 % (Small) – 35 % (Medium)
Expenses = salary of the person + missions abroad + seminars + specialized documentation

Contacts

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