

Information:

SME Fund for protecting intellectual property

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*This year, the European Commission and the EUIPO are once again supporting small and medium-sized enterprises that want to develop their intellectual property strategies and protect their rights.*

**What kind of grant program is it?**

"Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund" - The SME Fund provides a grant to support the intellectual property rights, initiated by the EU, of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

The SME Fund is a reimbursement program in which vouchers are given out to partially reimburse the fees for the selected activities. Two types of vouchers are available for Germany:

* Voucher 1 for a maximum of 1,500 euros in the area of trademarks and designs.
* Voucher 2 for max. 700 euros for patent fees

**What is supported?**

Currently, among other things, trademark and design applications are supported with up to 75% (up to a maximum amount of 1,500.00 euros in total). The grant program applies to applications for European Union trademarks as well as to national and international applications.

In concrete terms, this means:

For trademarks and designs on national and EU level 75% of the application fees as well as additional class fees will be refunded*.*

For trademarks and designs on international level, 50% of the basic fees are refunded (except for the processing fee of the office of origin).

**When do the requests have to be filed?**

The term of the Fund is from 10/01/2022 to 12/16/2022. Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Who can claim the grant program?**

The SME Fund is aimed directly at small and medium-sized enterprises based in the 27 EU member states.

In principle, anyone who can answer "YES" to the following questions can participate in the funding program:

* Is the applicant a small or medium-sized enterprise based in the European Union *(verification tool, see here* [*https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/SME-Wizard/smeq.do;SME\_SESSION\_ID=6trBHp5WU5HTfrgx6JugSxiVqtCJRXXx1x-8kmrc20piUI\_Nu2VZ!-820782026?execution=e1s1*](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/SME-Wizard/smeq.do;SME_SESSION_ID=6trBHp5WU5HTfrgx6JugSxiVqtCJRXXx1x-8kmrc20piUI_Nu2VZ!-820782026?execution=e1s1)*).*
* The applicant must be aware that it cannot apply for these services if it has already received EU grants for the same services (even partially)
* The applicant does not meet any of the exclusion criteria in <https://euipo.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document_library/contentPdfs/about_euipo/Grants/GR_001_22/Exclusion_situations_en.pdf>.

**How can I apply for the grant?**

1. The applicant must register for an SME Funds account at <https://euipo.europa.eu/sme-fund/de/user/login> and fill in and submit the application form therein *(this requires the VAT certificate and the bank statement)*.

2. After approximately 15 working days, the applicant will receive a grant decision (if the request is approved) and vouchers. The voucher must be activated within the following 4 months.

3. The applicant must request intellectual property activities from the EUIPO within the 4 months, e.g. a trademark/design application. After application, the trademark can be filed for registration. National, EU and international trademarks are possible. The costs for this must first be paid by the applicant.

4. After payment of the costs by the applicant and filing of the application, the reimbursement application must be submitted. This activates the voucher *(Attention: 4 month period must be observed)*. The refund will then be made by EUIPO within 1 month.

**Further information about the fund:**

<https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/online-services/sme-fund>

FAQ: <https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/help-sme-fund-2022>

**How much can be saved?**

For an EU trademark application, the fee for 3 classes is 1050.00 euros. The saving is 75% and therefore 787,50 Euro.

For international trademarks, the basic fee is 653.00 CHE or 903.00 CHE (for colored trademarks). 50% will be reimbursed, so you can save 326.50 CHE or 451.50 CHE.

Note: Please note that the information has been compiled from the documentation, FAQs and information provided by EUIPO. Due to existing differences between some information, we cannot guarantee its 100% correctness.