

Proposed changes	Observation	Impact
<p>RD&amp;I Seal of Excellence</p>	<p>This is where a project applies for EU funding, it is evaluated, it is deemed excellent and worthy, but due to budget limitations does not get funded by the EU. These projects may now be supported by national funds. If these R&amp;D projects are carried out by an SME, under certain conditions these are exempt from notification.</p> <p>It should be noted that national funding under GBER is subject to requirements (such as Undertaking in Difficulty rules, etc) which are not applied to EU funding for projects.</p>	<p>The national funding body undertakes its own evaluation on all company projects, and it is on this basis that funding is provided. In many cases a recipient of a Seal of Excellence will already be in receipt of funding from the Irish national funding body.</p> <p>While Seal of Excellence recipients may be offered EEN supports there is no guarantee of any further funding unless it is deemed appropriate through the national funding bodies client engagement model.</p> <p>Therefore, any State aid changes should make clear that Seal of Excellence status does not confer any guarantee of funding from national funding bodies.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to adapting the criteria for national funding of projects so that they are more aligned to the criteria that apply to EU funding.</p>
<p>MSCA Seal of Excellence</p>	<p>Enterprise Ireland co-fund MSCA Career-Fit programme is funded 60% national / 40% EU funded. Application process is through Enterprise Ireland (in Ireland) and not the EU.</p>	<p>The national funding body manages the programmes, from application to placement. It complies with EU rules and receives support from the EU in the form of access to independent evaluators.</p> <p>The proposed change will impact the MSCA where the applicant is not a State body. Therefore, any State aid changes should make clear that Seal of Excellence status does not confer any guarantee of funding from national funding bodies.</p>

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Co-Funds from Horizon Europe	Ireland avails of the ECSEL programme. The current EU funding rates for ECSEL are 20%/25%/35% (Innovation Actions) and 25%/30%/35% (Research & Innovation Actions) for SME/Industry/Academia.	<p>Co-funded projects will receive minimum funding for Horizon Europe of 30%.</p> <p>In some cases, funding to Irish projects from the EU may increase or decrease slightly.</p> <p>A decrease in EU funding may in some cases put pressure on national funding bodies to increase their co-funding. Any redesign ought to allow flexibility to national bodies in order to enable them to adapt to increasing demands.</p>
InvestEU		Care should be taken to ensure that where projects are funded through InvestEU together with national funding bodies, that criteria imposed on national funding bodies do not result in an imbalance to the detriment of national funding bodies.