EXIST-Gründungsstipendium — Germany's Federal Stipend Turning University Research Teams into Start-ups

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Germany

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Germany's one-year stipend for university founding teams has funded 3,116 projects with about €341m since 2007. It reports an 86% founding rate and ~80% five-year survival. A regression-discontinuity analysis found funding at least doubles the likelihood of incorporation.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-22

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (BMWK) / Projektträger Jülich — accessed 2026-11-22

Projektträger Jülich: Das EXIST-Gründungsstipendium in Zahlen, Monitoringbericht Nr. 4 (2024) — accessed 2026-11-22

BMWK Schlaglichter der Wirtschaftspolitik 03/2025: EXIST — accessed 2026-11-22

Fraunhofer ISI: EXIST-Gründerstipendium, Gründungsquote und Entwicklung der jungen Unternehmen (2017) — accessed 2026-11-22

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