ZIM — Germany's Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand)

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Germany

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Technology-open federal R&D; grants for German SMEs, often with research partners. €2.859bn for 18,222 projects (2018–2023); a 2024 ZEW/Prognos evaluation found ~80% of firms started extra R&D; and a 1.9 leverage on R&D; spending.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-13

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (BMWK) — accessed 2026-11-13

ZEW/Prognos 2024 evaluation summary (German) — accessed 2026-11-13

2019 ZIM evaluation final report (fteval repository) — accessed 2026-11-13

EU JRC microeconomic evaluation database entry — accessed 2026-11-13

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