EXIST-Women

What is EXIST-Women?
The EXIST-Women programme line now supplements the EXIST funding programme with specific support for women at higher education institutions and research establishments interested in and suited to setting up a business. Funding is basically provided for a period of one year.

EXIST-Women aims to encourage women to dare to go into business, and in the medium term to boost the proportion of female managers and directors of innovative startups.

Who can receive funding?
EXIST-Women aims to support women who are interested in and suited to setting up a business in the phase before the startup, particularly when developing their business mind-set and their business ideas. A specific business idea may already exist, or may developed during the funding period.
- Funding goes towards graduates, scientists, students and women with a vocational qualification and a connection to a higher education institution.
- Students must already have a bachelor's degree or have completed at least half their course.

How does the funding work?
The funding is open to all projects and technology-neutral.
- For the establishment and realisation of the application process, and the establishment and realisation of specific training formats to empower women in the pre-startup phase, a higher education institution or research establishment can apply for a flat-rate support grant of €10,000/year.
- The budding entrepreneurs undergo a 12-month qualification phase which can take place alongside work or study. Further to this, they can optionally claim a three-month grant if they are not working more than 20 hours a week. Ideally, the grant is used to work particularly intensively on the startup idea and, for example, to prepare an application for the follow-up funding. The grant can also be claimed independently of this.

Level of grant:
- Students who have completed at least half their course: €1,000/month.
- Women who have completed a vocational training course: €2,000/month.
- Higher-education graduates: €2,500/month.
- Women holding a doctorate: €3,000/month.
- If the women have dependent children, a child bonus of €150 per child per month is paid.

Material expenses:
Funding for material expenses of up to €2,000 for each assisted woman can be applied for (e.g. for technical equipment, materials for prototypes, participation fees and other project-specific spending on advisory services, coaching and travel). A planning of the use of the funding is undertaken by the entrepreneurs immediately following the launch of the project, in consultation with the higher education institution or research establishment.

What do we need to do?
Universities and research institutions in Germany are eligible to apply if they have established, or are planning to establish, advisory services for female entrepreneurs. The institutions submitting the applications must be involved in a (startup) network:
- Existence of a central point of contact for those interested in starting up a business
- Specific consultancy services for female entrepreneurs (at the latest from the commencement of the funding)
- Specific consultancy services for all phases of the startup
- Active networking with female mentors (in exceptional cases, male mentors may be permitted), female entrepreneurs and alumnas, and other startup-related organisations

Where can we find further information?
www.exist.de