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- TO3 - SME Competitiveness - £25m ERDF (£4m Opt-in)

7	6	3	2	3	4	25
2015	16	17	18	19	20	Total

- Social innovation can also be supported on an optional basis with the European Regional Development Fund under the Thematic Objectives of Research, Development & Innovation and SME Competitiveness

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The majority of investment in this field (£15m) will be invested into localised solutions for micro-businesses

- Provide an enhanced business support package (notably in Leicester) to engage BME / Female entrepreneurs
- Reduce the failure rates of businesses, which means interventions in the early stages of the business cycle

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- Support to young entrepreneurs to start-up businesses, with an emphasis on ensuring they are sustainable and growth focussed,
- Support for the Social Enterprise sector, notably linked to clear opportunities for contracted income and in the delivery of local or rural services and overcoming local market failures.
- Activity that creates work placement and apprenticeships opportunities
- We would expect to see strong linkages within this Thematic Activity with activities within TO10, notably Leadership and Management and SME Growth skills development

Working up Project ideas

- What would the project look like?
- What would deliverables be?
- What might be an appropriate consortium model?
- On what basis would you select partners?

Cross Sector Collaboration

There is also scope for cross sector collaboration:

- Working with universities/public sector/private sector
- Tackling issues of economic growth and development through innovation and research & development.
- Benefits of cross collaboration – match funding, expertise, diverse range of partners, meeting more needs of the community