

## **SME FUND 2024**

**16 January 2024**

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It is being reported that the **SME Fund** is to be launched on **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**.

The SME Fund is run by the EUIPO in collaboration with the European Commission, designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') in the protection and exploitation of their intellectual property rights.

This grant mechanism provides financial support to SMEs which are based in the European Union in the form of partial reimbursement of fees for specific actions, namely:

- 1- IP Scan/ IP Scan Enforcement (voucher 1)
- 2- Trade Marks and Designs (voucher 2)
- 3- Patents (voucher 3)
- 4- Plant varieties (voucher 4)

IP Scan Enforcement is a new option designed to partially cover fees incurred for receiving advice on questions of infringement of IP rights in the following cases:

- Where the SME becomes aware of the infringement of an IP right belonging to it by third parties
- Where the SME runs the risk of being accused by third parties for infringing IP rights (e.g. in case the SME has received a cease and desist letter by a third party)
- Where the SME wishes to receive precautionary measures to protect an IP right which is considered as facing a high risk of infringement, e.g. in the case where the SME is about to launch an innovative product on the market.

The estimated budget for the SME Fund in 2024 amounts to 20mln EUR for vouchers 1 and 2 and 3mln EUR for vouchers 3 and 4.

More details on the SME Fund shall be provided in the upcoming days.

Should you wish to find out more about the scheme and/ or your ability to claim under the scheme, please contact us on [mkiriadou@kiriadou-papathoma.com](mailto:mkiriadou@kiriadou-papathoma.com).