



Guidance to demonstrate your project is innovative

We'll consider an idea as being innovative if it hasn't been tried elsewhere in the UK before. Whilst we received a lot of applications last year we were unable to invite many to the second stage of the process. This was because many applicants did not provide enough evidence to show that what they wanted to do hadn't been tried before.

So when you're developing your application you'll need to think carefully about the evidence you have that shows your idea is truly innovative.

Here's the kind of evidence we're looking for:

- Details of the research and investigation you've carried out to show that your idea hasn't been tried previously in the UK, for example:
 - Internet and literature searches.
 - Consultation with academic institutions, experts, policy makers, stakeholders and organisations working in the same field.
 - Research into relevant thematic, local, national or regional strategies.
- Information on existing activities or services to show how your project will fill specific gaps or compliment what's already being provided.
- Details of what others have done previously to tackle the problem you have identified, including why these approaches haven't worked and how this has informed your plans.
- If no one has yet tried to address the problem or use the approach you're proposing, details of the reasons why this may be and any barriers that may exist.
- Details of any research, surveys or consultation you have done to find out what other organisations are planning to address the problem you have identified and how this has informed your plans.

This list isn't exhaustive and there may be other ways you can show that what you want to do is innovative.