

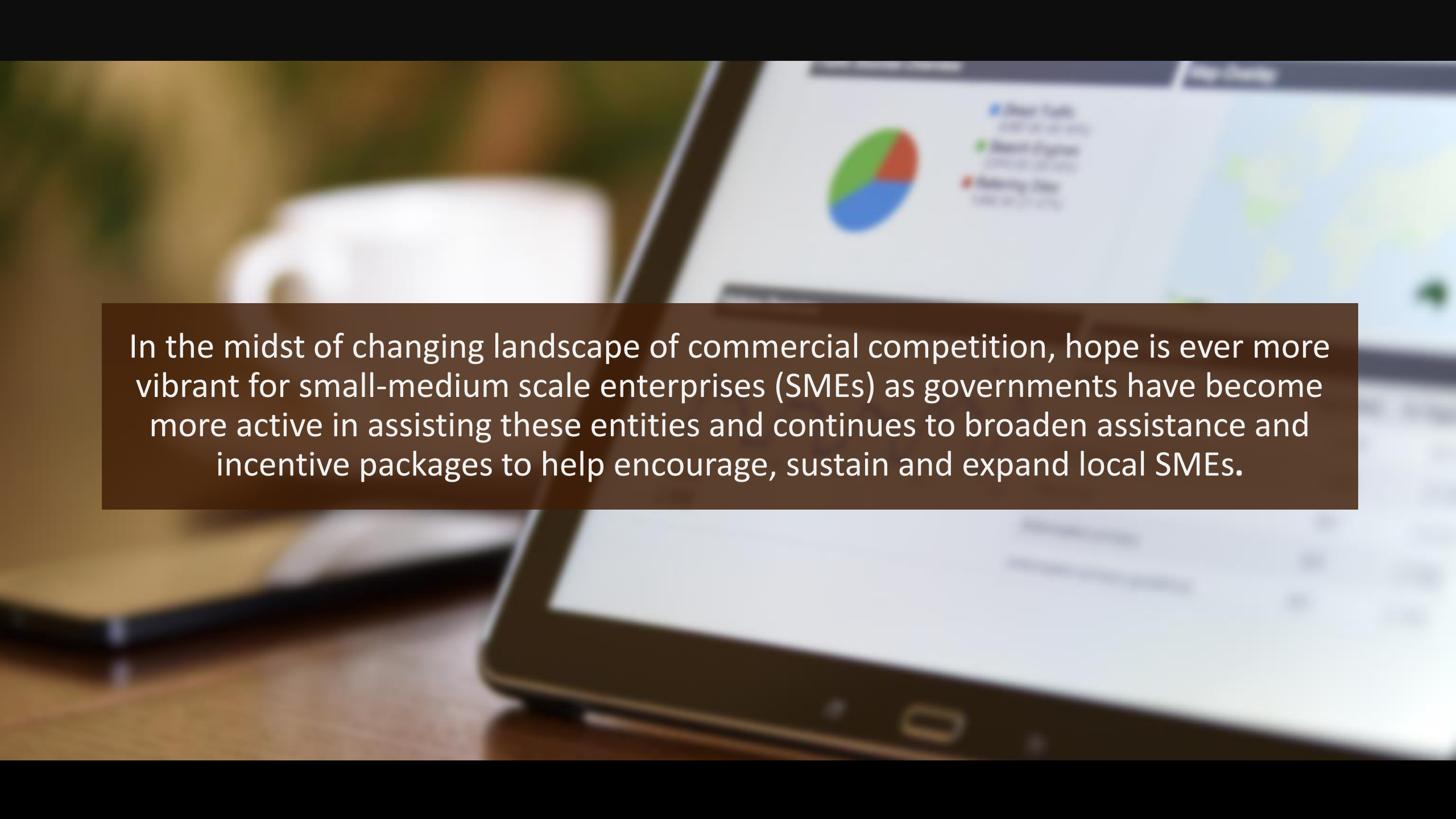


The image shows a tablet on a wooden desk displaying a dashboard. The dashboard has a 'Traffic Sources Overview' section with a pie chart and a 'Map Overlay' section. The pie chart data is as follows:


Traffic Source	Value	Percentage
Direct Traffic	3,097.00	40.49%
Search Engines	2,910.00	38.04%
Referring Sites	1,642.00	21.47%

The background is blurred, showing a white coffee cup on a saucer.

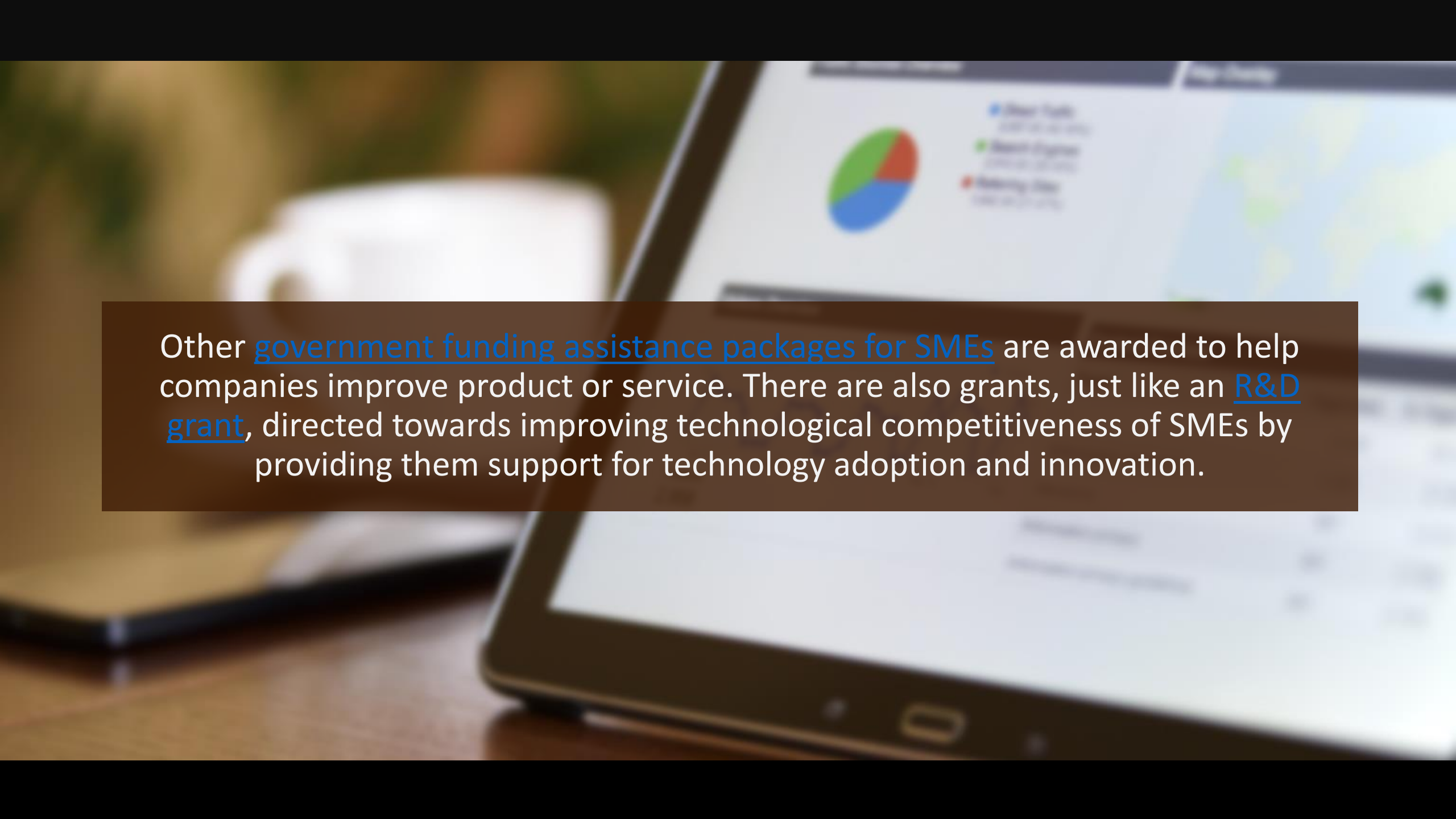
# EMERGING INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SMEs



In the midst of changing landscape of commercial competition, hope is ever more vibrant for small-medium scale enterprises (SMEs) as governments have become more active in assisting these entities and continues to broaden assistance and incentive packages to help encourage, sustain and expand local SMEs.

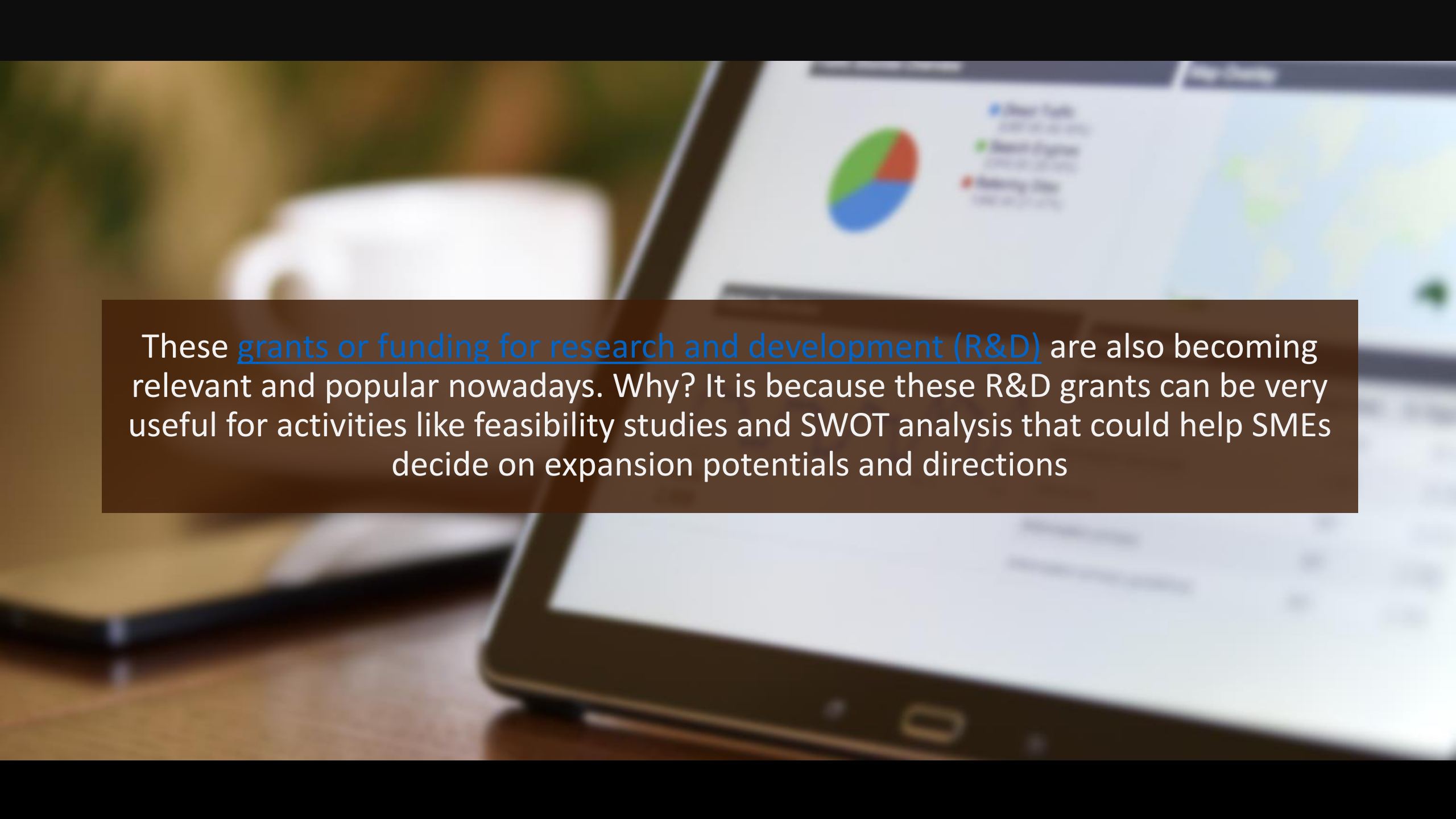


Traditionally, government support for SMEs take the form of financial aid or grants or financial support given to qualified small businesses for utilization in activities or initiatives towards various growth directions. Most grants are targeted for human resource or social capital development and are therefore awarded for specific purposes and activities like capacity-building or capacity development of staff and employees.

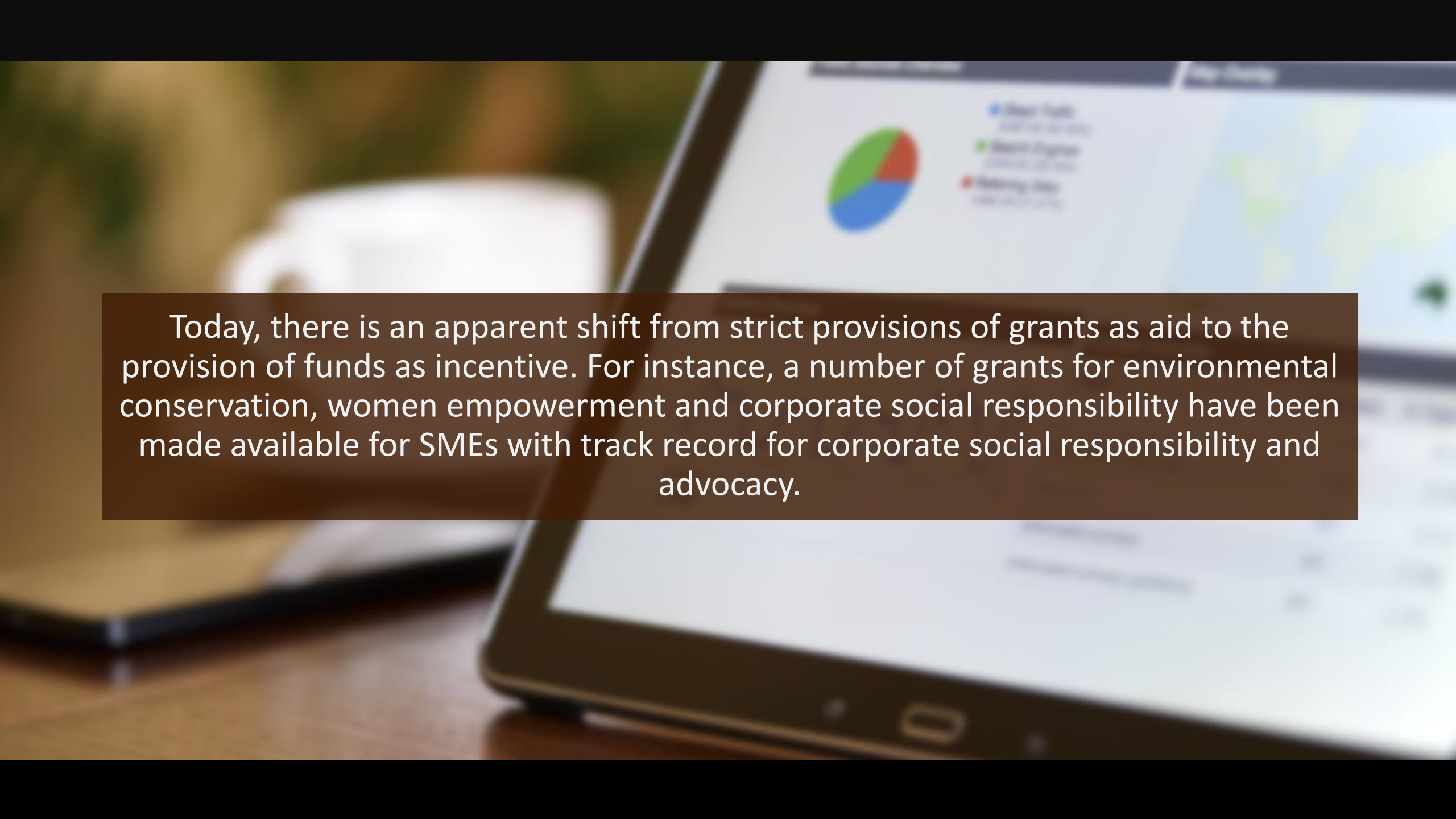


Other [government funding assistance packages for SMEs](#) are awarded to help companies improve product or service. There are also grants, just like an [R&D grant](#), directed towards improving technological competitiveness of SMEs by providing them support for technology adoption and innovation.

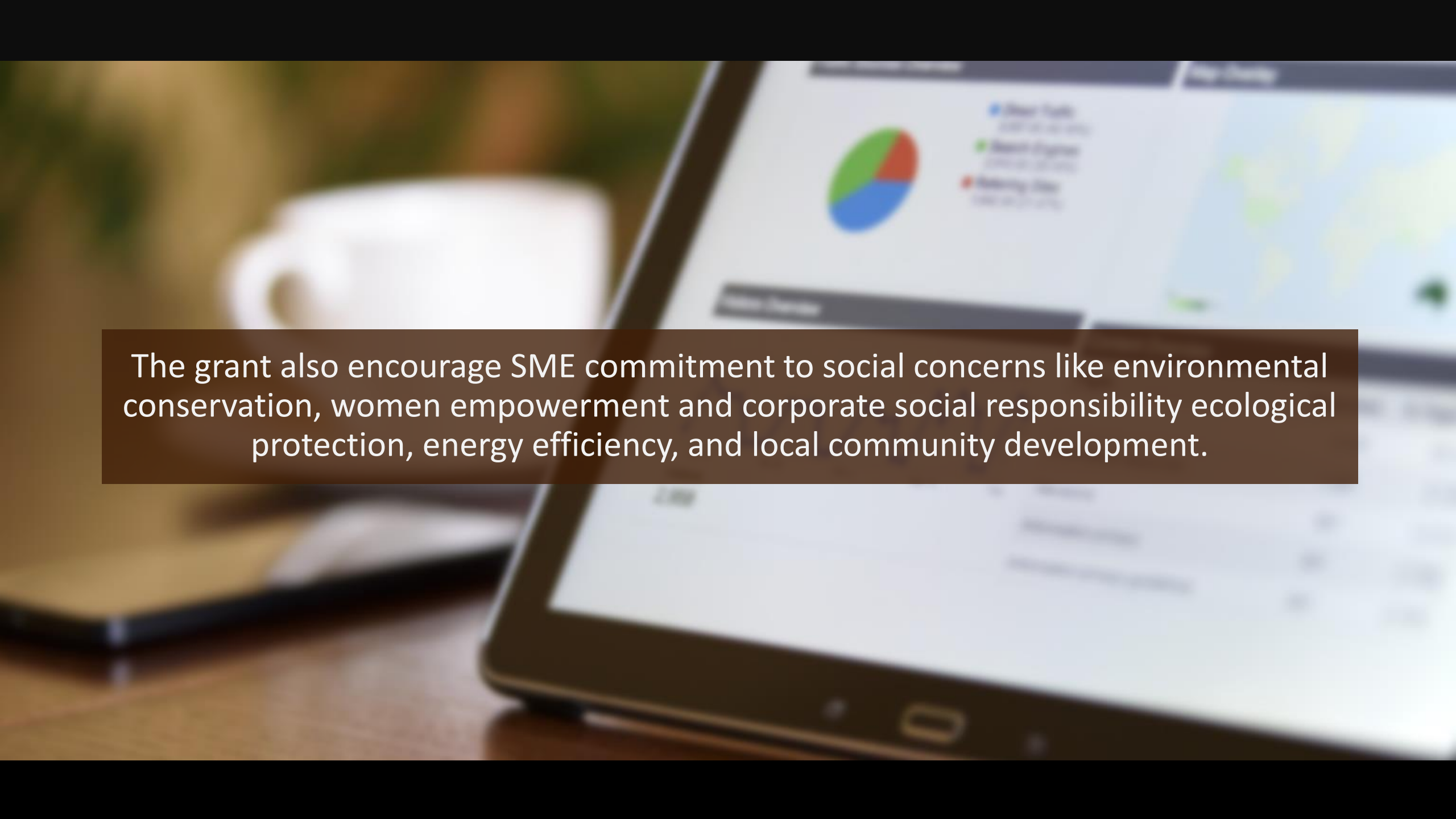




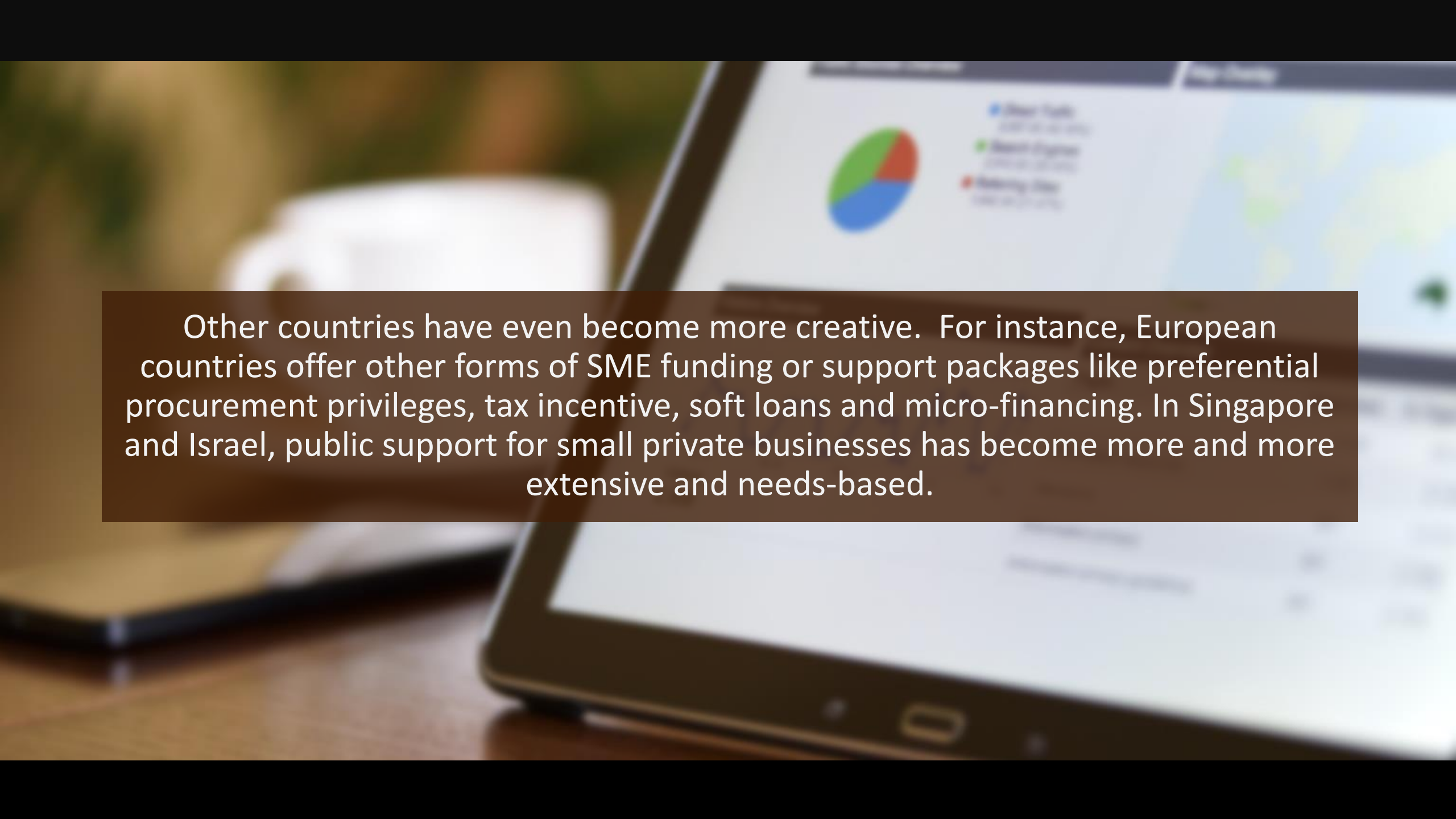
These [grants or funding for research and development \(R&D\)](#) are also becoming relevant and popular nowadays. Why? It is because these R&D grants can be very useful for activities like feasibility studies and SWOT analysis that could help SMEs decide on expansion potentials and directions

A blurred background image of a laptop screen displaying a dashboard. The dashboard features a pie chart with three segments in green, red, and blue. To the right of the pie chart is a legend with three entries, each accompanied by a colored dot. Further to the right, a map of a region is visible. The text is overlaid on a dark brown rectangular background.

Today, there is an apparent shift from strict provisions of grants as aid to the provision of funds as incentive. For instance, a number of grants for environmental conservation, women empowerment and corporate social responsibility have been made available for SMEs with track record for corporate social responsibility and advocacy.

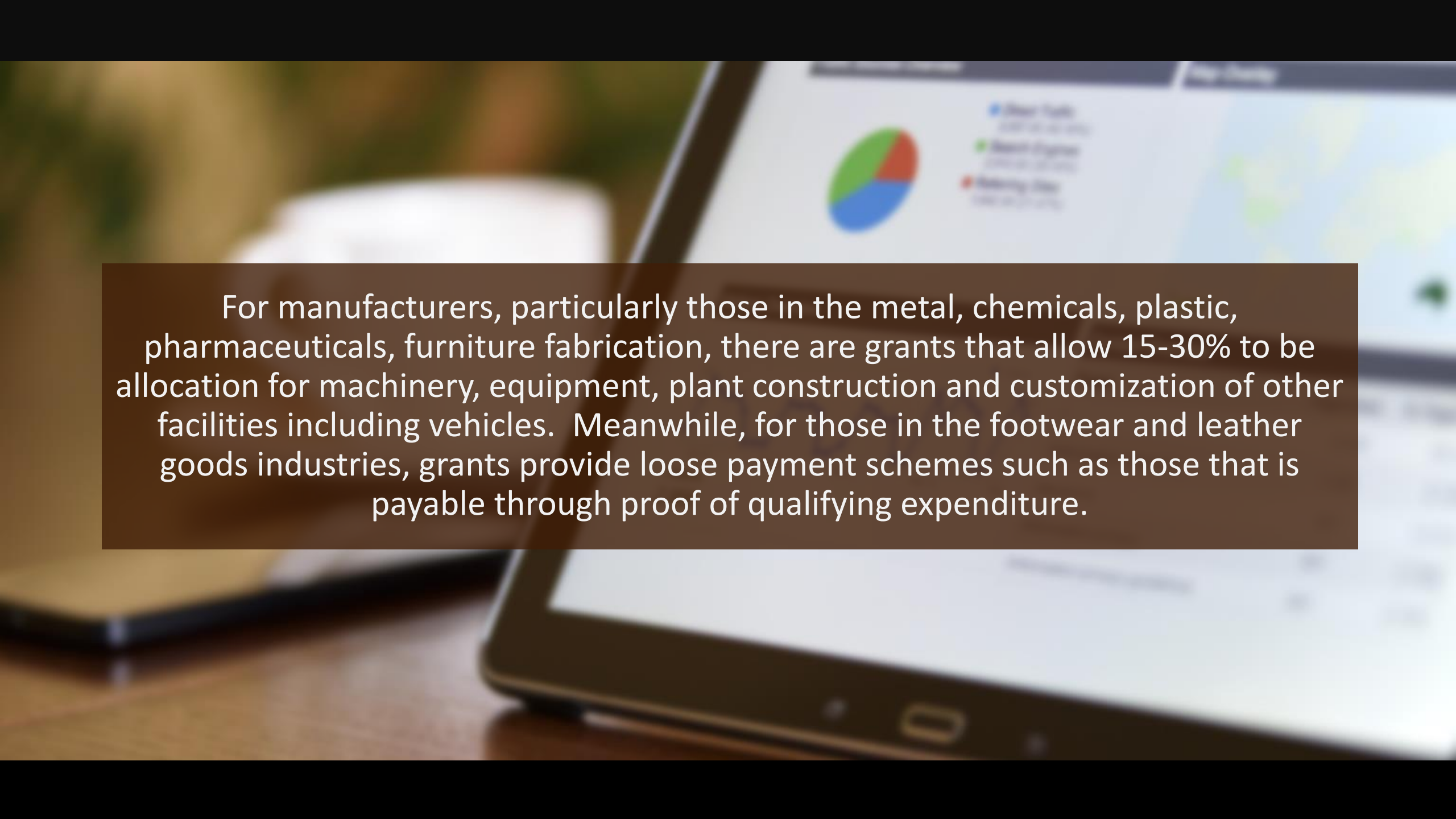


The grant also encourage SME commitment to social concerns like environmental conservation, women empowerment and corporate social responsibility ecological protection, energy efficiency, and local community development.

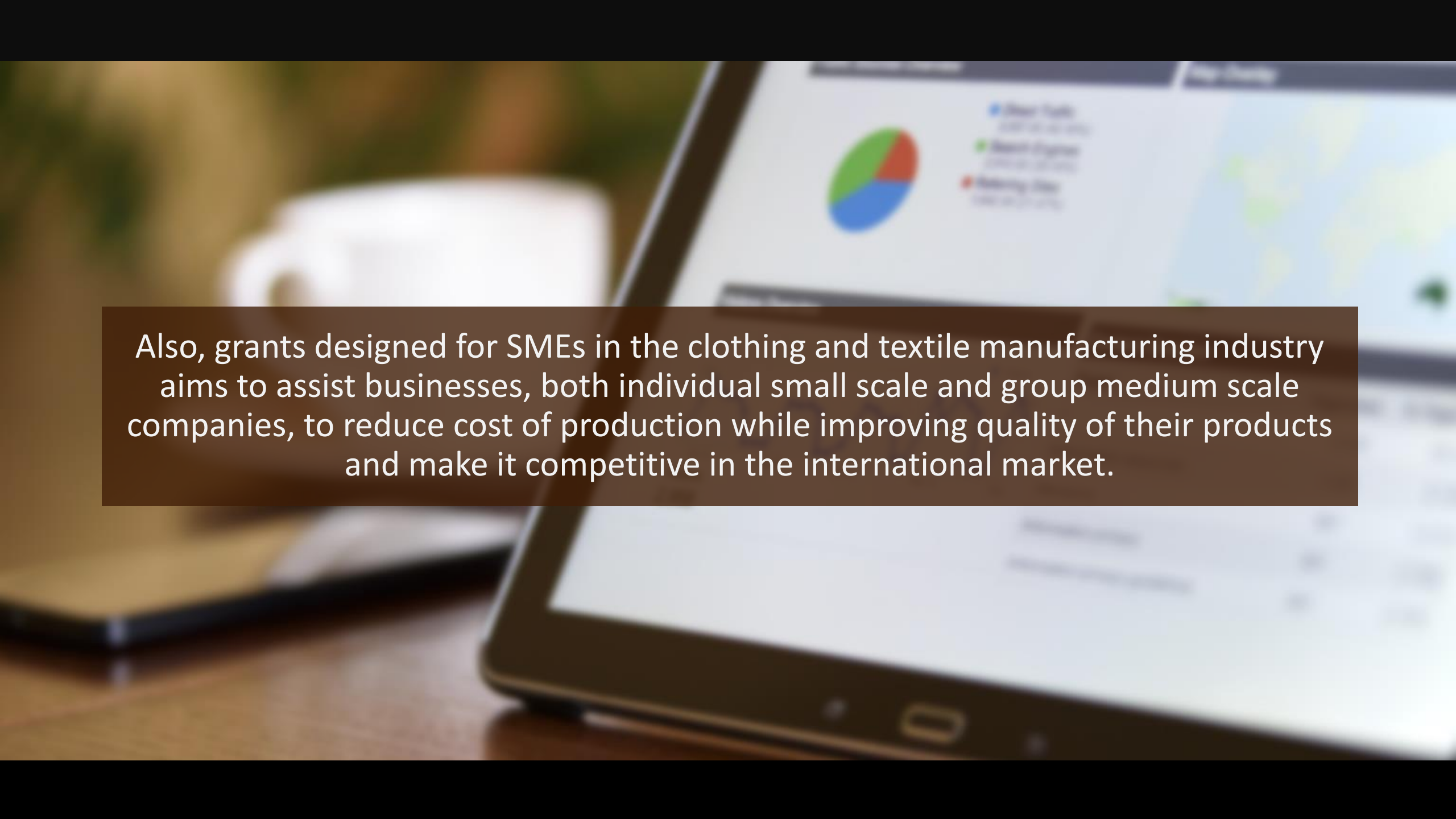


Other countries have even become more creative. For instance, European countries offer other forms of SME funding or support packages like preferential procurement privileges, tax incentive, soft loans and micro-financing. In Singapore and Israel, public support for small private businesses has become more and more extensive and needs-based.

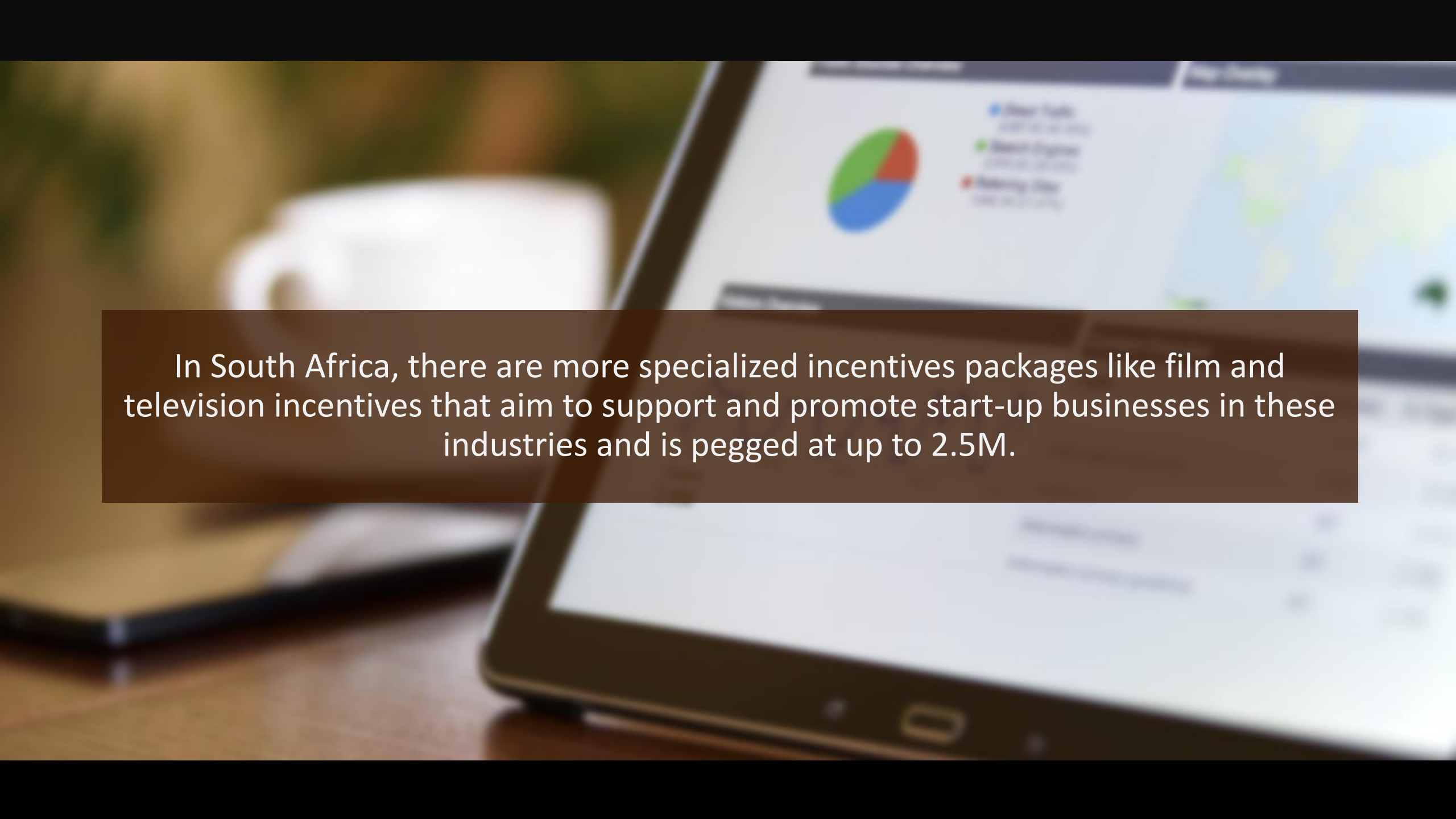


A blurred background image of a tablet displaying a dashboard. The dashboard features a pie chart with three segments in green, red, and blue. To the right of the pie chart is a legend with three entries, each with a colored dot corresponding to the pie chart segments. Further right, a map of a region is visible. The tablet is resting on a wooden surface.


For manufacturers, particularly those in the metal, chemicals, plastic, pharmaceuticals, furniture fabrication, there are grants that allow 15-30% to be allocation for machinery, equipment, plant construction and customization of other facilities including vehicles. Meanwhile, for those in the footwear and leather goods industries, grants provide loose payment schemes such as those that is payable through proof of qualifying expenditure.



Also, grants designed for SMEs in the clothing and textile manufacturing industry aims to assist businesses, both individual small scale and group medium scale companies, to reduce cost of production while improving quality of their products and make it competitive in the international market.

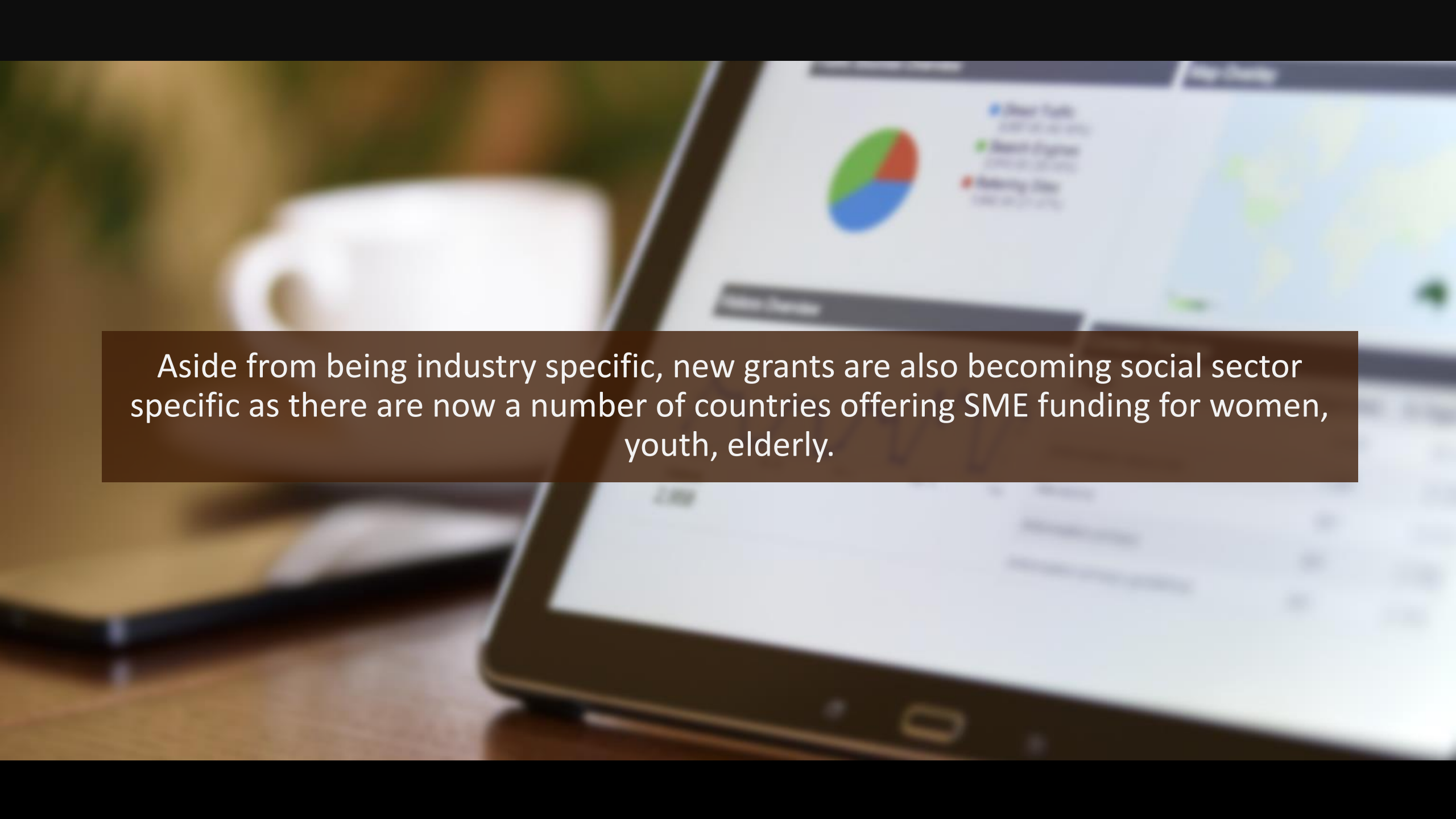


In South Africa, there are more specialized incentives packages like film and television incentives that aim to support and promote start-up businesses in these industries and is pegged at up to 2.5M.

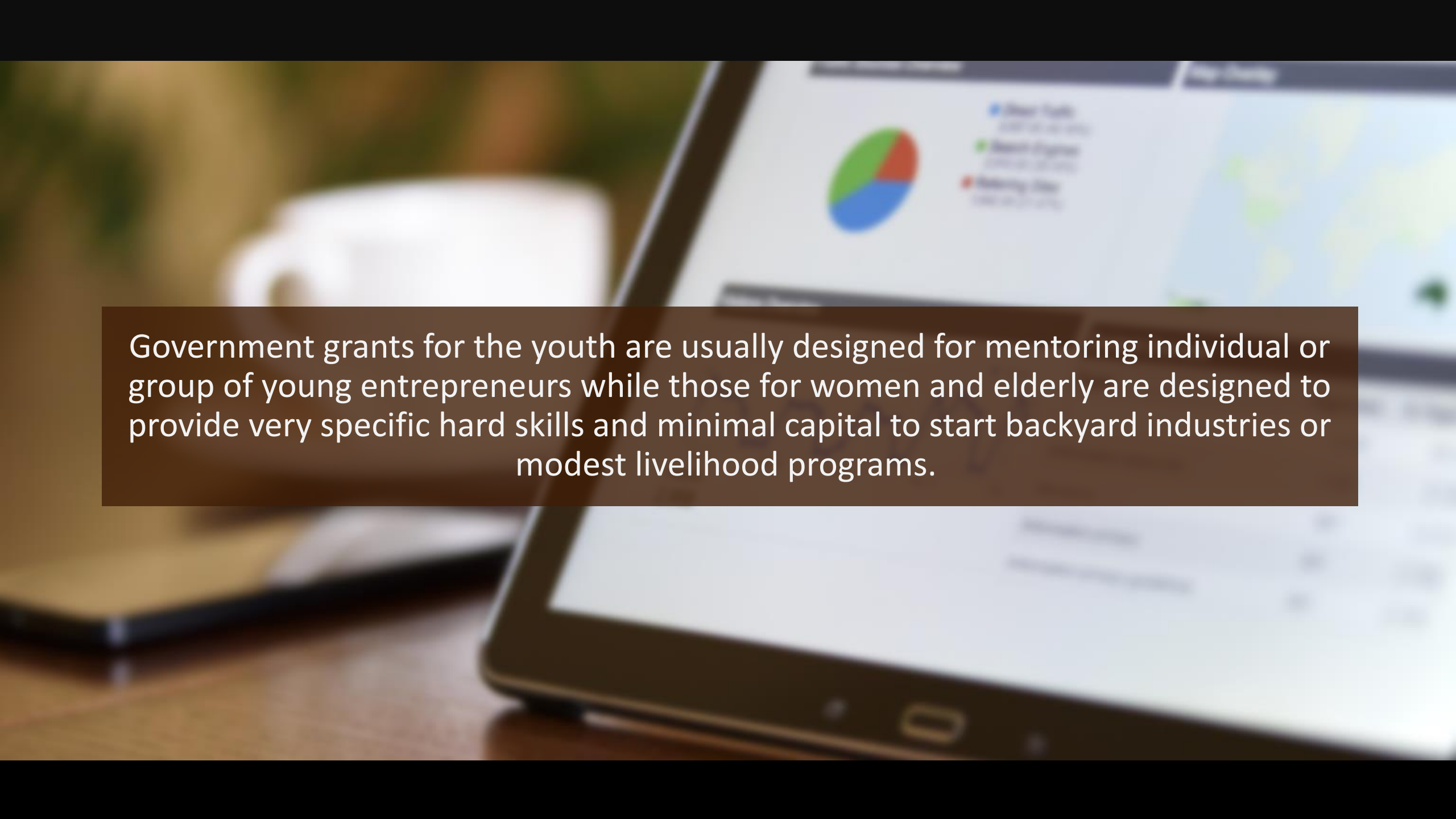


More industry and product specific grants like Aqua-culture Development and Enhancement Programme (ADEP) aim to help SMEs in in primary, secondary and ancillary aquaculture projects for both marine and fresh water or the Automotive Investment Scheme (AIS) which are grants specifically for those in the automotive industry and takes the form of new investments for replacement models and components that will increase production.





Aside from being industry specific, new grants are also becoming social sector specific as there are now a number of countries offering SME funding for women, youth, elderly.



Government grants for the youth are usually designed for mentoring individual or group of young entrepreneurs while those for women and elderly are designed to provide very specific hard skills and minimal capital to start backyard industries or modest livelihood programs.