

INVEST IN AZORES

AZORES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Investment support: Competir +

The System of Incentives for Business Competitiveness, Competir+, aims to promote the sustainable development of the regional economy, strengthen competitiveness, the ability to reach new markets and the internationalization of regional businesses, as well as to expand the economic export base of the Azores. Competir+ is structured into seven subsystems. Applications may be submitted throughout the year on an ongoing basis.

Subsystem of Incentives for Qualification and Innovation

Scope

To aid projects with investments between €15,000 and €500,000 in all sectors of activity, excluding:

- a) Advertising, market research and public opinion polling (CAE 73);
- b) Architectural, engineering and related technical activities; technical testing and analysis (CAE 71);
- c) Cleaning activities (CAE 812);
- d) Driving school activities (CAE 85530).

This Subsystem of Incentives **does not** cover investment projects related to the primary production, processing and marketing of the agricultural products listed in Annex I of the Treaty of the European Union.

Type of investment

- A) Productive innovation investments
- B) Investment in quality systems

Promoters

Independent entrepreneurs, single shareholder companies, private limited companies, public limited companies, commercial enterprises, cooperatives and complementary groups of companies.

Eligible expenditure

Among other expenditure, the following are eligible costs for projects under **type A)**:

- a) Adaptation of buildings and facilities, up to a maximum of 10% of the eligible costs of the project;
- b) Acquisition of scientific and technical tools and equipment required for the project;
- c) Acquisition of computer equipment related to the development of the project;
- d) Standard or specific software related to the development of the project;

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- e) Transfer of technology by acquiring patent rights, licenses, 'know-how' or unpatented technical knowledge;
- f) Studies, diagnoses, audits, inspections and reviews associated with the project (only for SMEs);
- g) Acquisition of third-party services, including technical, scientific and consulting services;
- h) Costs associated with the preparation of requests for patents, utility models and national models or designs that are overseas by direct means through national, European and international administrations, including rates, state-of-the-art research and consultancy fees related to industrial property;
- i) Costs associated with the promotion and dissemination of the results of product or process innovation projects with commercial application in the sector of end users or target companies, including registration and rental of space in national or international fairs, excluding out-of-pocket costs and/or expenses with commercial purposes;
- j) Costs related to the certification process of the Management System for Research, Development and Innovation, namely consultancy fees, training and instruction of the process by the certifying entity;
- k) Raw materials and components necessary for the construction of pilot, experimental or demonstration facilities or for the construction of prototypes;
- l) Initial registration of domains associated with third-party hosting, adherence to marketplaces and other electronic platforms, creation and publication of electronic product and service catalogues, as well as inclusion and/or cataloguing;

Among other expenditure, the following are eligible costs for projects under **type B**):

- a) Adaptation of buildings and facilities, up to a maximum of 10% of the eligible costs of the project;
- b) Purchase of specific machinery and equipment exclusively designed for the areas of quality, occupational safety and health, the environment and laboratory control;
- c) Acquisition of computer equipment related to the development of the project;
- d) Acquisition of measurement, inspection and testing equipment essential to the project;
- e) Standard or specific software related to the development of the project;
- f) Technical assistance necessary for the development of the project and the application;
- g) Studies, diagnoses, audits, inspections and reviews associated with the project (only for SMEs);
- h) Costs with the implementation and certification of management systems, products and services, namely expenses associated with the certifying entity (for a certification cycle), specific technical assistance, testing, measuring and monitoring devices, calibrations, bibliography and dissemination actions;
- i) Laboratory tests carried out by accredited entities under the Portuguese Quality System;
- j) Costs with obtaining eco-labels and the certification and marking of products.

Nature and amount of incentives

The incentive is non-refundable and corresponds to 50% of the total eligible costs.

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In addition to the said incentive, an achievement award may be granted upon completion of the investment project, corresponding to 3% of eligible costs for each qualified job created, up to a maximum of 15%.

“Qualified job” refers to the job filled by an employee holding a higher education degree or equivalent.

Disclaimer

This document is for information purposes only. It partially reflects but does not disclose completely nor substitute the knowledge of the full legislation governing incentives in Portugal. SDEA is available to assess specific business plans and to determine how specific investments may qualify for incentives packages and what, if any, type of packages may be applicable to the investment.