



INVESTOR'S GUIDE



1st EDITION



GOVERNO
DOS AÇORES

**INVEST
.MAZORES**

INVEST IN AZORES

Dear investors,

Welcome to the Azores.

An archipelago of nine islands, situated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean that offer you a unique investment opportunity and a sustainable tourist destination with more and more visitors from all over the world looking for authentic and diverse experiences.

We are recognised for having one of the best qualities of life in Europe, with an affordable cost of living, a safe and healthy environment, and a hospitable and enterprising population.

The Azores benefit from an attractive tax regime, with one of the lowest VAT and CIT rates in the eurozone and incentives for investment in strategic areas such as tourism, energy, agriculture, industry, and innovation.

Investing in the Azores is investing strategically in the European Atlantic, with potential for growth, competitiveness, and profitability.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a regional development project that values sustainability, diversity, and quality.

Invest in the Azores!

**Regional Secretary for Finance, Planning and Public
Administration**

Duarte Freitas

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMPETITIVENESS

Construir 2030

- Structuring Business
- Local Economic Base
- Young Investor
- Small Business

Capital Participativo Açores I

Loja +

Digital Capacity and Transformation of Enterprises in
the Azores

- UDE – Upgrade Digital Empresarial
- EI – Empresarial Innovate
- AAB – Accelerate Azores Brand

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AZORES

Construir 2030

Construir 2030 is structured around a number of measures that translate into specific lines of support suited to the state of regional economic and social development, seeking to meet the needs of companies in the areas of Structuring Business, in particular to encourage the broadening of the economic export base, the strategic reconversion of activities and boosting investment in new business areas, the Local Economic Base, particularly in sectors of activity essentially geared towards domestic demand, the Young Investor, in dynamic sectors that contribute to the diversification and renewal of the business fabric and, finally, Small Business, in sectors that contribute to economic and social cohesion.



For more informations, contact

DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DO EMPREENDEDORISMO E COMPETITIVIDADE

Website - **empresas.azores.gov.pt**

Linha de Apoio ao Empresário - **800 257 257**

E-mail - **drec@azores.gov.pt**

CONSTRUIR 2030

Structuring Business



Objectives:

- Broadening the economic export base;
- Strategic conversion of activities;
- Emerging business areas.

Type of project:

- Investments directly related to the operation;
- Internationalisation;
- Quality, safety, and environmental management certification.



Non-refundable incentive of:

- 50% for the islands of Corvo, Flores, São Jorge, Graciosa and Santa Maria;
- 45% for the islands of Faial and Pico and the municipalities of Nordeste, Povoação and Vila Franca do Campo on the island of São Miguel;
- 40 per cent for the island of Terceira and the municipalities of Ponta Delgada, Ribeira Grande and Lagoa, on the island of São Miguel.

Minimum investment:

**More
than €50
thousand**

Maximum incentive
amount:

€7 million

Local Economic Base

Minimum investment:

**More
than €50
thousand**

Maximum incentive amount:

€4 million



Objectives:

- Projects aimed at internal demand;
- Restructuring and modernisation;
- Rural development.

Scope: SMEs only

Type of Project:

- Investments directly related to the operation;
- Certification of quality, safety, and environmental management.



Non-refundable incentive of:

- 45% for the islands of Corvo, Flores, São Jorge, Graciosa, and Santa Maria;
- 40% for the islands of Faial and Pico and the municipalities of Nordeste, Povoação and Vila Franca do Campo on the island of São Miguel;
- 35% for the island of Terceira and the municipalities of Ponta Delgada, Ribeira Grande and Lagoa, on the island of São Miguel.

CONSTRUIR 2030

Young Investor



Objectives:

- Investment in companies set up by young people;
- Diversification and renewal of the business fabric;
- Knowledge and innovation.

Scope:

- Companies created less than two years ago, 100 per cent owned by young entrepreneurs (aged between 18 and 40).

SMEs only.



Non-refundable incentive of:

- 55% for the islands of Corvo, Flores, São Jorge, Graciosa, and Santa Maria.
- 50% for the islands of Faial and Pico and the municipalities of Nordeste, Povoação and Vila Franca do Campo on the island of São Miguel.
- 45% for the island of Terceira and the municipalities of Ponta Delgada, Ribeira Grande and Lagoa.

+ premium of up to 25% (+ 5% mark-up for projects promoted by companies incubated in the Azores Business Incubator Network, which aim to set up outside the incubators).

Investment limits:

**More than
€15,000
and no more than
€350,000
eligible**

Maximum incentive amount:

**€245 mil
non-refundable**

Small Business

Investment limits:

**€5,000 or more
and no more
than €50,000**

Maximum incentive amount:

**€35,000
non-refundable**



Objectives:

- Small-scale projects;
- Economic and social cohesion.

Scope:

- Micro and small businesses only



Non-refundable incentive of:

- 60% for the islands of Corvo, Flores, São Jorge, Graciosa, and Santa Maria.
- 55% for the islands of Faial and Pico and the municipalities of Nordeste, Povoação and Vila Franca do Campo on the island of São Miguel.
- 50% for the island of Terceira and the municipalities of Ponta Delgada, Ribeira Grande and Lagoa.

+ premium of up to 10% (increase)

Capital Participativo Açores I

Capital Participativo Açores I is the first financial instrument created under the “Recapitalising the Azores Business System” measure (RE-C05-i04-RAA) of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, to be operated through the Azores Business Capitalisation Fund, set up with the aim of recapitalising viable companies in the region, as a response to the chronic problem of undercapitalisation of the regional business fabric.



For more information see the website

**Banco Português
de Fomento**

bpfomento.pt

Capital Participativo Açores I



Objective:

- To bridge the market gap regarding access to financial and capital instruments by companies based and operating in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, and
- To build a tool that, by strengthening equity capital, promotes entrepreneurs' access to the Construir 2030 incentive system.

Amount of support:

From €20.000
(minimum amount) to

€200.000

(limit resulting from the application of the de minimis aid scheme).



Recipients:

- Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Mid-Caps, with headquarters and activity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores;
- Final beneficiaries must submit their application to an accredited Financial Intermediary;
- The application period begins immediately after accreditation with the Financial Intermediaries and ends on 31 March 2024;
- Applications are analysed during the period referred to in the previous point in chronological order of submission.



Financial Intermediary:

- Credit institutions that operate in the Autonomous Region of the Azores and have been accredited by Banco Português de Fomento within the scope of the first phase of applications to the Programme.

For more informations see the website
Banco Português de Fomento
Website - bpfomento.pt



Loja +

The Support Programme for the Revitalisation of Shops in Urban Centres, Loja+, aims to promote the requalification and revitalisation of commerce in urban centres, with a view to occupying vacant spaces, by providing support for the rental and requalification of commercial space.



The support consists of a non-refundable subsidy of:

- 70% (works and projects) and 60% (rents) for the islands of Santa Maria, Graciosa, São Jorge, Flores and Corvo;
- 65% (works and projects) and 55% (rents) for the islands of Pico and Faial;
- 60% (works and projects) and 50% (rents) for the islands of São Miguel and Terceira.



For more informations, contact

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Linha de Apoio ao Empresário - **800 257 257**

E-mail - **drec@azores.gov.pt**

Digital Capacity and Transformation of Enterprises in the Azores

The Incentive System is designed to help regional businesses adopt and integrate digital technologies, focusing on areas like management, online sales, automation, cybersecurity, AI, and IoT.



For more informations, contact
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E-mail - **drec@azores.gov.pt**

DIGITAL CAPACITY AND TRANSFORMATION OF ENTERPRISES IN THE AZORES

UDE – Upgrade Digital Empresarial



Objective:

To fund investment projects that leverage digital technologies to enhance competitiveness, boost productivity, foster innovation, and streamline business processes.

The maximum
funding per
application is
€ 50,000.



Funding is provided as a non-refundable grant:

- a) 50% for large companies;
- b) 60% for medium-sized companies;
- c) 70% for small and micro enterprises.



Eligibility:

Funding can be provided for investments in all economic sectors, except for those sectors specifically excluded by the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

This measure also does not apply to investment projects involving the primary production of agricultural products listed in Annex I of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

El – Empresarial Innovate



Objective:

To fund investment projects providing consultancy services to equip companies with the tools to navigate digital transformation, accelerate business processes to drive innovation and competitiveness, and strengthen cybersecurity to protect sensitive data.

The maximum funding per application is
€30,000.



Funding is provided as a non-refundable grant:

- a) 50% for large companies;
- b) 60% for medium-sized companies;
- c) 70% for small and micro enterprises.



Eligibility:

Funding can be provided for investments in all economic sectors, except for those sectors specifically excluded by the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

This measure also does not apply to investment projects involving the primary production of agricultural products listed in Annex I of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

DIGITAL CAPACITY AND TRANSFORMATION OF ENTERPRISES IN THE AZORES

AAB – Accelerate Azores Brand



Objective:

To fund investment projects for in-person, online, or hybrid events aimed at helping companies adopt and integrate digital technologies. These events will foster networking and knowledge sharing among Azorean companies and tech providers, facilitate access to new technologies and market trends, accelerate business processes, and enhance competitiveness. The goal is to promote best practices and efficient processes in the regional business ecosystem, boosting productivity and service quality.

The maximum funding per application varies based on event type and duration:

- a) Online events: up to €5,000.00;
- b) 1-day in-person or hybrid events: up to €15,000.00;
- c) 2-day or longer in-person events: up to €25,000.00.



Funding is provided as a non-refundable grant:

- a) For private entities as defined in point 1(b) of article 6 of the aforementioned diploma, funding rates vary by company size:
 - i) 50% for large companies;
 - ii) 60% for medium-sized companies;
 - iii) 70% for small and micro enterprises.

- b) For public entities as defined in point 1(b) and 1(c) of article 6 of the aforementioned diploma, a single rate of 100% applies.

EMPLOYMENT

JOB CREATION AND MAINTENANCE

Contratar

Construir o Próprio Emprego

INTERNSHIPS

Estagiar L

Estagiar T

Estagiar +

Reconverter Pro

Eurodisseia

SOCIOPROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

Berço de Emprego

INVEST
MAZORES

JOB CREATION AND MAINTENANCE

Contratar



Objectives:

The aim of Contratar is to create new jobs and increase wages by providing support to promoting organisations to sign full-time, indefinite employment contracts.



Recipients:

- Unemployed people registered with the Qualification and Employment Centre (CQE);
- Young people who have recently graduated from courses with a level of qualification equal to or higher than level IV of the National Qualifications;
- Framework (QNQ), who have never worked in the respective training area under an employment contract and have never completed a traineeship promoted by the Regional Government of the Azores, aged 30 or under at the time of submitting the application, with recent graduates being understood as those who have completed their training less than 12 months previously.



Duration:
36 months



Employment contract requirements :

Eligible employment contracts are those whose basic salary is set out in the following terms:

- For workers with NQF level VI, VII and VIII qualifications, the gross remuneration must be equal to or greater than 1.50 times the Guaranteed Minimum Monthly Remuneration in the Autonomous Region of the Azores.
- For workers with NQF level IV and V qualifications, the gross remuneration must be equal to or greater than 1.25 times the Guaranteed Minimum Monthly Remuneration in the Autonomous Region of the Azores.
- For workers with qualifications at or below level III of the NQF, the gross remuneration must be equal to or greater than 1.10 times the Guaranteed Minimum Monthly Remuneration in the Autonomous Region of the Azores.

The requirements set out in points a) to c) of the previous paragraph do not apply to employment contracts concluded with unemployed people in a disadvantaged situation.



Support :

Support amounts to 15 times the gross remuneration per supported employment contract.

The following increases apply:

- 10%, for jobs located on the islands of Faial and Pico and the municipality of Vila Franca do Campo, in the island of São Miguel.
- 15% for jobs located on the islands of Santa Maria, Graciosa, São Jorge, Flores and Corvo and the municipalities of Nordeste and Povoação in the island of São Miguel.

DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DE QUALIFICAÇÃO PROFISSIONAL E EMPREGO

For more informations, contact
Website - emprego.azores.gov.pt

Phone - **296 308 000**

E-mail - emprego@azores.gov.pt



JOB CREATION AND MAINTENANCE

Construir o Próprio Emprego



Objectives:

- The aim of this measure is to promote self-employment by awarding financial support for the creation of full-time employment to beneficiaries of the Young Investor and Small Business measures under the Incentive System for Boosting Sustainable and Integrated Investment (Construir 2030).



Support :

The support is worth 12 times the minimum monthly wage guaranteed in the Autonomous Region of the Azores. The following cumulative increases are also applicable:

- 25% if the recipient is a disabled person or has a degree of disability equal to or greater than 60%.
- 15% if the recipient plans to create their own job on the islands of Santa Maria, Graciosa, São Jorge, Flores or Corvo.
- 10% if the recipient plans to create their own job on the islands of Faial, Pico or in the municipalities of Nordeste, Povoação or Vila Franca do Campo on the island of São Miguel.
- 10% if the recipient is unemployed and in a situation of disadvantage or social fragility.
- 5% if the recipient is aged 55 or over.



Duration:

36 months



Recipients:

The following recipients can apply for the Build Your Own Job measure if they are both beneficiaries of the Young Investor or Small Business measures and plan to create their own job as part of the respective project:

- Unemployed people, registered with the Qualification and Employment Centre (CQE) at the time the beneficiary entity was set up, created with a view to applying for the Young Investor measure or the Small Business measure;
- Recent graduates from courses with a level of qualification equal to or higher than level IV of the National Qualifications Framework, who are unemployed, with recent graduates being understood as those who have completed their training less than 12 months ago;
- Trainees who have completed a traineeship measure promoted by the Regional Government of the Azores for less than six months and who have not worked during this period;
- Unemployed people registered with the CQE in a situation of disadvantage or social fragility.



For more informations, contact

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INTERNSHIPS

Estagiar L

Duration:



- Traineeships last **12 months**, including a month's rest to be taken during the 12th month of the traineeship.

The traineeships provided for in the previous paragraph may be extended under the following terms:

- On the islands of São Miguel, Terceira, and Faial for a further three months, at the private employers provided for in Article 4(1) of the Regulation annexed to Government Council Resolution 115/2022 of 19 July;
- On the islands of Santa Maria, São Jorge, Pico, Graciosa, Flores and Corvo;
- For a further six months, for private employers;
- For a further three months, in public administration organisations.



Objectives:

- To enable young people with higher or intermediate level qualifications to undertake a professional internship in a real work context, which promotes their integration into working life;
- To complement and improve young people's socio-professional skills by means of an internship in a real work situation;
- Facilitate the recruitment and integration of staff into companies through professional internships;
- Promote the transition of young university students into working life;
- To support the settlement of young people on the smaller islands.

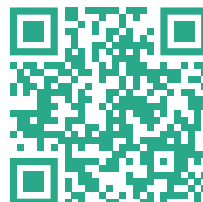


Recipients:

- Young people who have recently graduated from higher education and hold level VI, VII or VIII of the NQF (National Qualifications Framework).
- Aged 30 or under at the time of application.
- Have never worked in the respective training area under an employment contract after completing their training.

DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DE QUALIFICAÇÃO PROFISSIONAL E EMPREGO

For more informations, contact
Website - emprego.azores.gov.pt
Phone - **296 308 000**
E-mail - emprego@azores.gov.pt



INTERNSHIPS

Estagiário T



Objectives:

- To enable young people with higher or intermediate level qualifications to undertake a professional internship in a real work context, which promotes their integration into working life;
- To complement and improve young people's socio-professional skills by taking part in an internship in a real work situation;
- Facilitate the recruitment and integration of staff into companies through professional internships;
- Promote the transition of young university students to working life;
- Supporting the settlement of young people on islands with smaller demographics.



Recipients:

- Young people who have recently graduated from higher professional qualification courses, level IV or V of the NQF (National Qualifications Framework);
- Aged 30 or under at the time of application;
- Who have never worked in the respective training area under an employment contract after completing their training.

Duration:



- Traineeships last **12 months**, including a month's rest to be taken during the 12th month of the traineeship.

The traineeships provided for in the previous paragraph may be extended under the following terms:

- On the islands of São Miguel, Terceira, and Faial for a further three months, at the private employers provided for in Article 4(1) of the Regulation annexed to Government Council Resolution 115/2022 of 19 July.
- On the islands of Santa Maria, São Jorge, Pico, Graciosa, Flores and Corvo:
 - For a further six months, in private employers;
 - For a further three months, in public administration organisations.



For more informations, contact
**DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DE QUALIFICAÇÃO
 PROFISSIONAL E EMPREGO**

Website - emprego.azores.gov.pt

Phone - **296 308 000**

E-mail - emprego@azores.gov.pt

INTERNSHIPS

Estagiar +

Duration:



- Traineeships last **12 months**, including a month's rest to be taken during the 12th month of the traineeship.

The traineeships provided for in the previous paragraph may be extended under the following terms:

- On the islands of São Miguel, Terceira, and Faial, for a further three months at private employers.
- On the islands of Santa Maria, São Jorge, Peak, Graciosa, Flores and Corvo:
 - for a further six months for private employers and
 - for a further three months in public administration organisations.



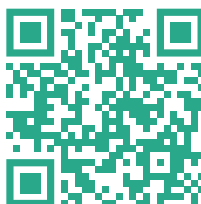
Objectives:

- To enable young people with qualifications equal to or lower than level III of the NQF, who have been registered with the EQC for more than 3 months when they are looking for their first job, and young people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months when they are looking for a new job, to undertake a professional internship in a real work context, which promotes their integration into working life;
- To complement and improve young people's socio-professional skills by giving them an internship in a real work situation;
- Facilitate the recruitment and integration of staff into companies through professional internships;
- Promoting young people's transition from school to working life;
- Support the settlement of young people on islands with smaller demographics.



Recipients:

- Young people with qualifications equal to or below level III of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), registered with the CQE when they are looking for their first job;
- Young people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months when they are looking for a new job.



For more informations, contact
**DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DE QUALIFICAÇÃO
PROFISSIONAL E EMPREGO**
Website - emprego.azores.gov.pt
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E-mail - emprego@azores.gov.pt

INTERNSHIPS

Reconverter Pro



Objectives:

- To promote the professional reconversion of unemployed people with greater employability difficulties;
- To encourage the development of personal and training skills;
- To promote internships in a real work context with a view to their subsequent integration into the labour market.

Duration:



- The internship has an initial duration of **8 months** and may be extended for a period of 6 months, including 1 month's rest to be taken during the 12th month.
- When the promoting organisation provides at least 150 hours of certified training during the initial internship period.



Recipients:

- Unemployed people who are undergoing or have completed an integration programme, and who have remained uninterruptedly registered with the Qualification and Employment Centre (CQE) after completing the measure;
- Unemployed people who have been registered with the CQE for more than 12 consecutive months and are aged over 30 and under 55;
- Unemployed people aged 55 or over, registered with the EQC;
- Are young unemployed people aged 30 or under, with a qualification equal to or lower than level III of the National Qualifications Framework, registered with the EQC for more than:
 - 3 months, when they are looking for their first job;
 - 6 months if they are looking for a new job.
- Unemployed people in a situation of disadvantage and social fragility;
- Unemployed people who have successfully completed a training programme of 300 hours or more in the last six months and who have remained uninterruptedly registered with the CQE after completing the training.



For more informations, contact

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E-mail - emprego@azores.gov.pt

INTERNSHIPS

Eurodisseia



Objectives:

Eurodisseia is a measure of professional internships in partnership with trainees for the acquisition of new professional skills in a real work context and the learning and/or improvement of a foreign language.



Duration:

3 to 7 months

Internships in the ARA have a maximum duration of 6 months, including the Portuguese language and culture course.



Recipients:

Unemployed young people who fulfil the following requirements:

- 18 to 30 years old, inclusive, measured at the start date of the traineeship;
- Have lived in the ARA for at least six months;
- Have a qualification between levels three and eight of the NQF;
- Have knowledge of at least one foreign language;
- Have not previously benefited from this measure.

For more informations, contact
DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DE QUALIFICAÇÃO PROFISSIONAL E EMPREGO
Website - emprego.azores.gov.pt
Phone - **296 308 000**
E-mail - emprego@azores.gov.pt



SOCIOPROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

Berço de Emprego



Objectives:

The Berço de Emprego Programme aims to temporarily replace employees on initial parental leave, initial parental leaves to be taken by one parent in the event of the other parent's incapacity or adoption, with unemployment benefit recipients.



Recipients:

- Private companies;
- Co-operatives;
- Public companies;
- Non-profit organisations;
- Central, regional, and local public administration.



Duration:

- The duration of the project is temporary and is limited to the period of initial parental leave, initial parental leaves to be taken by one parent in the event of the impossibility of the other or adoption, plus two months, which cannot be less than one month.



For more informations, contact
DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DE QUALIFICAÇÃO PROFISSIONAL E EMPREGO
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ENERGY

SOLENERGE

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SOLENERGE



Objective:

Increase installed capacity by 12.6 MW

Focusing on electrification, decentralised production and distributed storage, this investment will allow the end user to go from being an end consumer to an active agent in the energy system, with the possibility of consuming, storing, and producing, assisting the network.

Financing conditions:

- The incentive may be awarded prior to payment to the installation organisation.
- The support takes the form of a non-refundable incentive.

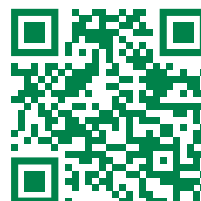


Recipients:

- Natural and legal persons, except for the autonomous regional administration and the direct administration of the State.

Applications:

At solenergie.azores.gov.pt



Financial Incentives for the purchase of solar photovoltaic systems to be installed in the Autonomous Region of the Azores

Supports 100 per cent of eligible expenses up to a maximum of €1,500 per kW installed.

For more informations, contact
DIREÇÃO REGIONAL DA ENERGIA

Website - portaldenergia.azores.gov.pt

Phone - **296 304 360**

E-mail - dren@azores.gov.pt





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