Innovation and modernisation to increase production and create new companies and businesses



STAR'LPME
Start smart.



### **Areas of intervention**

Operations that promote the diversification of the regional production base, related to at least one of the following actions, are eligible for support:



Creation of micro and small enterprises



Expansion or modernisation of micro and small businesses

# **Geographical area**

Mainland Portugal.

# **Financing rate**

The maximum financing rate for eligible operations is 60 per cent, with the following applied:

#### Base rate:

- · 50 % for investments located in low-density territories;
- · 40 % for investments located in other territories.

#### Increases:

• Up to 10.

# Minimum and maximum investment amounts

To present an eligible investment of €25,000.00 or more (twenty-five thousand euros).

# **Eligible expenses**

The following expenses are considered eligible:

- · Tangible assets, including the acquisition of machinery and equipment, directly attributable costs to place them in the location and condition necessary for them to be capable of operating, as well as the acquisition of computer equipment, including the software necessary for its operation. These expenses must be amortizable and included in the company's assets;
- · Intangible assets, including the transfer of technology through the acquisition of national and international patent rights, licenses, technical knowledge not protected by patent, and standard software or software developed specifically for a given purpose. These expenses must be amortizable and included in the company's assets;

- · Studies, diagnostics, audits, marketing plans, architectural and engineering services related to and essential for the implementation of the investment project;
- · Costs incurred in taking part in fairs and exhibitions abroad, including renting space, building and operating the stand;
- · Costs of specialized consultancy services, provided by external consultants, which do not constitute a continuous or periodic activity, nor are they related to the normal functioning of the beneficiaries' activity, including expenses with the intervention of certified accountants or statutory auditors, in validating the expenditure of payment requests;
- · Costs associated with the certification of products, processes or services, design costs and registration of new brands:
- · Construction of buildings, remodeling works and other constructions, provided they are duly justified by the objective of the operation;
- · Indirect costs.

## Non eligible expenses

The following expenses are not eligible:

- · Recoverable value added tax (VAT), even if it has not been or will not be effectively recovered by the beneficiary;
- Expenses paid under contracts made through intermediaries or consultants, where the amount to be paid is expressed as a percentage of the co-financed amount or of the eligible expenses of the operation;
- Expenditure that is not supported by an electronic invoice or equivalent tax document;
- · Cash payments, except in situations where this proves to be the most frequent means of payment, depending on the nature of the expenditure, and provided that the unit value is less than €250;
- · Additional contracts that unjustifiably increase the cost of implementing the project:
- Fines, financial penalties, interest and exchange costs;
- Costs of legal proceedings;

- Bank charges for loans and guarantees, with the exception of types of action relating to financial instruments;
- · Compensation for termination of employment contracts or severance pay for staff assigned to the operation, as well as payments to the Labour Compensation Fund and the Labour Compensation Guarantee Fund;
- · Non-compulsory charges for staff assigned to the operation;
- · Any legal transactions entered into, in any capacity whatsoever, with company officers, except those arising from an employment contract entered prior to the submission of the beneficiary's application.
- · Custos diretamente relacionados com a atividade de exportação, tais como os associados às quantidades exportadas, ao funcionamento de redes de distribuição no exterior ou outros custos correntes ligados à atividade de exportação;
- The beneficiary's normal operating costs and maintenance and replacement investments, as well as costs related to periodic or continuous activities, such as ongoing advertising, routine tax consultancy costs and legal and administrative services;

- · Costs relating to direct investments abroad;
- · Costs directly related to the export activity, such as those associated with the quantities exported, the operation of distribution networks abroad or other current costs linked to the export activity;
- · Work done by the company for itself;
- · Purchase of real estate, including land;
- · Leasehold and space utilization rights;
- · Acquisition of goods in a state of use;
- · Working capital;
- Transactions between beneficiaries of the same operation;
- Training of human resources to comply with legally binding standards.

# **Target audience**

Micro and small businesses can benefit.



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