



# Local Economic Base

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## Local Economic Base

### Areas of intervention

Investment projects aimed at satisfying the local market and boosting the internal market, with investments of more than 50,000.00 (euro) (fifty thousand euros), aimed at strengthening the productivity and competitiveness of companies by fostering integrated investment approaches, developed by commercial companies of any legal nature, complementary groupings of companies, cooperatives, or sole proprietors - SMEs only - in the areas of activity indicated in the Eligible CAE in the support notice, are susceptible to this support.

### Geographical area

Autonomous Region of the Azores.

### Financing rate

The incentive to be granted to eligible expenses takes the form of a non-refundable grant and corresponds to the application of one of the following percentages, as applicable:

- a) 35 % for the islands of São Miguel and Terceira;
- b) 40% for the islands of Faial and Pico and for the municipalities of Nordeste, Vila Franca do Campo and Povoação, on the island of São Miguel;
- c) 45 % for the islands of Santa Maria, Graciosa, São Jorge, Flores and Corvo.

Projects may be granted an achievement bonus, which consists of an increase of up to 20% to the non-refundable incentive rate.

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### Minimum and maximum investment amounts

The minimum amount is 50,000 (euros) and the maximum amount of incentive to be granted per project is 4,000,000.00 (euro) (four million euros).

### Eligible expenses and their limits

#### 1 - Expenditure related to direct investment in the operation:

a) Acquisition of dilapidated properties, amounting to 30% of the acquisition value, with a maximum value of 100,000.00 (euro) (one hundred thousand euros);

b) Acquisition of real estate for intervention in urban centers, amounting to 30% of the acquisition value, with a maximum value of 125,000.00 (euro) (one hundred and twenty-five thousand euros);

c) Construction and rehabilitation of buildings, and miscellaneous construction and rehabilitation, provided that they are directly related to the implementation of the project, using traditional construction methods, up to a limit of 60% of the eligible investment;

d) Construction and rehabilitation of buildings, and miscellaneous construction and rehabilitation, provided that it is directly related to the implementation of the project and meets the requirements of sustainable construction;

e) Acquisition of goods and equipment, including the acquisition of services such as transportation, insurance, assembly and disassembly, which are important for the development of the project;

f) Transport equipment, namely the purchase of light and heavy goods vehicles and other transport equipment, up to a limit of 30% of the eligible investment, with a maximum value of 200,000.00 (euro) (two hundred thousand euros), provided that they meet the following conditions:

- i) They do not have combustion engines that run on fossil fuels;
- ii) Are essential to the exercise of the activity;
- iii) They are not intended for hire without a driver;

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g) Acquisition of goods and equipment related to information and communication technologies, namely hardware and software, including the initial development of the website, up to a limit of 30% of the eligible investment;

h) Costs related to patents and brands, namely expenses with the creation and development of insignias, brands and own collections, designs, models and patents, as well as expenses with the valorization of brands, insignias acquired, created or constituted, up to a limit of 15% of the eligible investment;

i) Costs related to patents and trademarks, those associated with patent applications and trademark registration, fees, emoluments, renewal, research related to the state of the art, access to national or foreign databases, expenses with the study, design and production of prototypes of the technologies developed and consultancy fees in the field of industrial property in the phases of instruction of processes, as well as their valuation, namely in licensing processes, technology transfer and support for the creation of emerging companies;

j) Acquisition of services related to technical assistance in matters of planning, control and management relating to quality, environment and safety, production, technological modernization and best available techniques.

## 2 - Expenditure relating to investments in quality certification, safety and environmental management:

a) Acquisition of services related to the instruction of the certification, qualification or registration process and complementary expenses;

b) Acquisition of audits, verifications and inspection visits;

c) Purchase of technical assistance and consultancy services;

d) Acquisition of laboratory testing services for products and raw materials, provided that the tests are carried out by laboratories accredited under the Portuguese Quality System;

e) Acquisition of laboratory testing services for calibration, legal metrological verification and homogeneity and stability studies, provided that the tests are carried out by laboratories accredited under the Portuguese Quality System;

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- f) Acquisition of laboratory testing services for product certification and approval, provided that the tests are carried out by laboratories accredited under the Portuguese Quality System;
- g) Acquisition of transportation services for the products being tested or the equipment to be calibrated, as well as the respective associated expenses;
- h) Purchase of services related to obtaining and maintaining the eco-label;
- i) Purchase of goods and equipment related to technical bibliography;
- j) Purchase of services related to national or international publicity actions for obtaining certification, qualification, registration or awards, up to a limit of 20% of the total eligible expenditure in this component;
- k) Purchase of services associated with the implementation and certification of total quality management systems and applications for levels of excellence, national or international recognition awards for total quality;

l) Acquisition of goods and inspection, measuring and testing equipment essential to the project;

m) Acquisition of goods and equipment, specifically specific software indispensable to the project.

### **3 - Eligible expenses common to any of the components referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2:**

- a) Acquisition of services to prepare the application process, studies, diagnoses, audits, up to a limit of 2% of the eligible investment, with a maximum value of 15,000.00 (euro) (fifteen thousand euros);
- b) Acquisition of services for the preparation of marketing and communication plans, up to a limit of 10% of the eligible investment, with a maximum value of 50,000.00 (euro) (fifty thousand euros);
- c) Acquisition of services for the preparation of architectural and engineering projects, or others associated with the project, up to a limit of 4% of the eligible investment;

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d) Purchase of services related to the preparation of payment requests and the intervention of certified accountants or statutory auditors, in the context of the submission of payment requests, up to a limit of 1.5% of the eligible investment, with a maximum value of 10,000.00 (euros) (ten thousand euros);

e) Acquisition of services to carry out studies or reports within the scope of aligning the operation with the "do no significant harm" principle, up to a maximum value of 15,000.00 (euro) (fifteen thousand euros);

f) Acquisition of services to make a video presentation of the investment, in projects with eligible expenditure of more than 500,000.00 (euros) (five hundred thousand euros), lasting no less than 1 minute, up to a maximum of 1,500.00 (euros) (one thousand five hundred euros).

**4 - The expenses provided for in points a), b), c) and d) of the previous paragraph are eligible, cumulatively, up to a maximum amount of 150,000.00 (euro) (one hundred and fifty thousand euros).**

## Target Audience

Individual entrepreneurs, commercial companies regardless of their legal nature, cooperatives and complementary groups of companies, with tax residence, head office or permanent establishment in the Autonomous Region of the Azores may benefit from the incentives provided for in this measure.

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