



PT 2030

**STEP – Productive Innovation:
Digital and Biotechnology**

STARTUPME
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 PORTUGAL
2030

Areas of Intervention

Support is available for innovative operations that result in the production of tradable and internationally marketable goods and services, with high added value and a strong level of national incorporation. These operations must contribute to the objectives of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) through the manufacturing of critical technologies and/or investments that help preserve and strengthen the respective value chains, in the following sectors:

1. **Digital technologies:** including those contributing to the targets and objectives of the Digital Decade Programme for 2030, and deep-tech innovation;
2. **Biotechnologies:** including medicines listed by the European Union as critical medicines and their respective components.

Within the scope of STEP objectives, supported investments must aim at the manufacturing of:

- a) Final products within the domain of the aforementioned critical technologies, as identified in Annex E
- b) Specific components and machinery, mainly used in the manufacturing of critical technologies
- c) Critical raw materials relevant to the production of critical technologies
- d) Associated services, including specialized services that are specific and critical to the manufacturing of final products.

Such investments must correspond to an initial investment, or to an initial investment in favour of a new economic activity, and must be related to one of the following types of action:

- a) A fundamental change in the overall production process or in the overall provision of services of an existing establishment.

- a) The establishment of a new facility;
- b) The diversification of the activity of an existing establishment, provided that the new activity is not the same as, nor similar to, the activity previously carried out at that establishment;
- c) The diversification of the production of an establishment into products not previously produced or services not previously provided at that establishment;

Geographical Area

Eligible territories correspond to the NUTS II regions of mainland Portugal (North, Centre, Alentejo and Algarve).

The location of the operation corresponds to the region where the beneficiary's establishment in which the investment will be carried out is located.

Funding Rates

Base Rate:

- a) 30 percentage points for small mid-caps and large enterprises;
- b) 40 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises;
- c) 50 percentage points for micro and small enterprises.

Through the application of the following bonus:

+10 percentage points for operations located in the NUTS II regions of North, Centre and Alentejo;

+5 percentage points for operations located in territories covered by the Regional Aid Map for 2022–2027 in the Algarve region.

Eligible operations must present:

A minimum eligible expenditure of €3,000,000;
An eligible expenditure below €25,000,000, assessed based on the data submitted in the application.

Beneficiary Entities

Companies of any size, nature and legal form.

Eligible Expenditure

a) Tangible assets

Acquisition of machinery and equipment, costs directly attributable to placing them in the required location and operating conditions, as well as the acquisition of IT equipment, including the software necessary for its operation.

b) Intangible assets

Technology transfer through the acquisition of patent rights (national and international), licences, non-patented technical knowledge, and standard software or software developed specifically for a particular purpose.

c) For SME operations only

Other investment expenses exclusively for SME operations, including costs related to certified accountants or statutory auditors for the validation of expenditure in payment requests; engineering services; studies, diagnostics and audits; studies or reports related to the alignment of the operation with the “Do No Significant Harm” principle, as defined in Article 8 of the REITD; marketing plans; architectural and engineering projects and services.

In duly justified cases, within the scope of the innovative activity incorporated in the operation, building construction, refurbishment works and other construction works may also be considered eligible.

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