



AZORES 2030 | Structuring Businesses

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GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Support investment projects that assume a structuring nature embedded in the economy of tradable goods and services, that promote the broadening of the economic export base, as well as investment projects that promote the use and enhancement of endogenous resources, the strategic reconversion of activities and the boosting investment in new business areas that respond to emerging market segments, resulting from changes in the regional production profile.

BENEFICIARIES

- Commercial companies, regardless of legal nature;
- Complementary groups of companies and cooperatives, with tax residence, headquarters or permanent establishment in the Autonomous Region of the Azores.

TYPE AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Projects resulting from the company's strategic analysis are supported, in its various functional areas, which include all investments identified as necessary, grouped by the following investment components:

- Investments directly related to the **operation**, considered as investments associated with the creation, expansion or modernization of companies;
- Investments related to **internationalization**;

- Investments related to **quality certification, safety and environmental management**.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

1 - Investments related to the “operation”

- a) Acquisition of:
 - Degraded properties;
 - Properties for intervention in urban centers;
 - Goods and equipment (includes transport, insurance, assembly and disassembly)
 - Transport equipment (light commercial vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles)
 - ICT goods and equipment
 - Technical assistance services in planning matters (control and management, production, technological modernization)

b) **Construction and rehabilitation of buildings**, as long as they are directly related to the implementation of the project;

c) Expenses related to **patents and trademarks**.

2 - Investments related to "internationalization"

- a) Acquisition of services for:
 - Implementation of the project, namely **hiring consultancy** to prepare market studies and

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- internationalization strategy, development of the brand design and brand registration project;
 - **International marketing** development;
 - **Online presence and e-commerce**;
 - Quality and **specific certification** for foreign markets.
- b) Enrollment and attendance in events.

3 - Investments under the "certification of quality, safety and environmental management"

- a) Acquisition of services:
- related to the **instruction of the certification process**;
 - **audits**, checks and inspection visits;
 - **technical assistance and consultancy**;
 - **laboratory tests** carried out by accredited laboratories under the Portuguese Quality System;
 - **transportation** for the products under test or equipment to be calibrated;
 - related to **obtaining and maintaining the eco-label**;
 - associated with the implementation and certification of total quality management systems and candidacies for levels of excellence, **national or international recognition awards** for total quality;
 - related to national **dissemination actions** for obtaining certification.
- b) Acquisition of goods and equipment:
- referring to **technical bibliography**;
 - for **inspection**, measurement and testing, that are essential to the project;

4 - Eligible expenses, common to any of the components mentioned:

- a) Acquisition of services:
- for **preparing the application process, studies, diagnoses and audits**;
 - for the elaboration of **marketing and communication plans**;
 - for the elaboration of **architectural and engineering projects**;
 - related to the preparation of payment requests and the **intervention of certified accountants or statutory auditors**, within the scope of the presentation of payment requests;
 - to carry out **studies or reports within the scope of the operation's alignment with the principle "do not cause significant harm"**;
 - for the **production of an investment presentation video**, in projects with an eligible expenditure of more than €500,000, with a duration of no less than one minute, up to a maximum value of €1,500.

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NATURE AND AMOUNT OF SUPPORT

Non-refundable incentive, corresponding to the application of one of the following percentages, as applicable:

- a) 40% – Islands of São Miguel and Terceira;
- b) 45% - Faial and Pico Islands and for the municipalities of Nordeste, Vila Franca do Campo and Povoação, on the island of São Miguel;
- c) 50% - Islands of Santa Maria, Graciosa, São Jorge, Flores and Corvo.

To the incentive rate that may result from the application of the paragraphs of the previous number, is added, at the end of the investment, and after evaluation of the cruise year, based on the degree of achievement of results, a **bonus for completion of the projects, under the form of non-refundable grant**. The achievement award corresponds to the application, on the eligible expenses of the project.

**Maximum amount of incentive to be granted per project:
€7 million.**

Without prejudice to the maximum limit referred to in the previous paragraph, the incentive rate to be awarded cannot exceed the maximum rates expressed in gross subsidy equivalent (ESB), being 50% for large companies, 60% for medium-sized companies and 70% for small businesses.

YUNIT SUPPORT

- Elaboration of the technical description of the project
- Elaboration of the economic and financial feasibility study
- Preparation and monitoring of the application
- Support and consultancy in the execution of incentive contracts

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