



**Support for Aquaculture sustainable
development in the domain
of productive investments**

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GOALS AND PRIORITIES

- Improve the economic and environmental performance of aquaculture companies, as a decisive contribution to increase aquaculture production
- Promote sustainable aquaculture activities and the transformation and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products
- Promote sustainable aquaculture activities, in particular by strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production, whilst ensuring that these activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term

INCENTIVES TOTAL

€16.785.714

APPLICATION PERIOD

From 09/01/2023 a 11/30/2023

BENEFICIARIES

SME and Non-SME

Individual companies

- CAE 03210 “Aquaculture in salt and brackish waters” or CAE 03220 “Aquaculture in fresh waters” or companies that carry out their activity through purification and/or shipping centers with CAE 46381 “Wholesale trade in fish, crustaceans and molluscs”.

In co-promotion, led by a company

- Higher education institutions, respective institutes and R&D units;
- State or international laboratories with headquarters or permanent representation in Portugal;
- Private non-profit institutions whose main purpose is R&D activities;
- Other public and private, non-profit institutions that develop or participate in scientific research activities.

Note: Only beneficiaries who hold an aquaculture activity title and a veterinary control number, when applicable, are eligible; present a balanced economic-financial situation (pre-project TA \geq 15% or \geq 20% in the case of non-SMEs).

TYPES OF OPERATIONS

- Innovation promoted by companies or in co-promotion with universities or research centers, as long as it is led by the company, which includes the following investments:
 - i) Means of production modernization, to increase product quality and production capacity;
 - ii) Monitoring the quality of the production environment for greater control;
 - iii) Reduction of the impact on the quality of marine waters and the dependence on the consumption of fishmeal and fish oil;
 - v) Improved animal welfare or new sustainable production methods;

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- vi) Creation or introduction of new aquaculture species into the market;
- vii) Increased energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, circular economy and introduction of ICT to dematerializing processes.
- Establishment of start-ups and spin-offs, whose purpose is to initiate aquaculture production;
- Construction or modernization of aquaculture production units, maternity hospitals or related establishments, handling, packaging and packaging units when integrated into aquaculture establishments, and installation of transposition areas for live bivalve molluscs;
- Diversification of aquaculture production and cultivated species, namely those inherent to macroalgae and microalgae cultivation and multitrophic cultures, minimizing the impact on the environment;
- Improving product quality through the modernization of aquaculture production units or related establishments;
- Decarbonization (use of renewable energy or use of commercial and transport vehicles with reduced carbon emissions);
- Support for the promotion of animal health and welfare;
- Requalification of natural or artificial tanks used for aquaculture or requalification/reconversion of old salt ponds;
- Closed recirculation systems investments;
- Certification and trademark or patent registration processes Investments;
- Management training.

ACCESS CONDITIONS

- Eligible expense equal to or greater than €10,000
- Maximum total investment of €20M or €4M in NUTS II Algarve

Note: Support is not granted for operations consisting of investments in equipment or infrastructure, intended to ensure compliance with requirements of EU law, from the moment these requirements become mandatory for companies, with the exception of cases in which that the investment concerns new installations; involve the cultivation of genetically modified organisms.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Acquisition, construction, modernization or adaptation of buildings or facilities, except the land value;
- Acquisition and installation/adaptation of: machines, equipment and means of internal movement; containers for transporting juveniles; computer and telematics equipment and systems (including ERP); automation systems; etc.
- (EPTAR) or WWTP construction and respective systems and equipment;
- Social facilities and equipment that ensure the quality of working conditions (when constructing new production establishments);
- Applications for online sales development, as well as acquisition of computer hardware and software for this purpose;

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- Systems and equipment intended for checking, controlling and certifying the quality and product tracking;
- Expenses for: audit, consultancy, preparation or monitoring of the application, works inspections, licensing preparation, studies and technical-economic or environmental impact projects, professional and management training;
- Implementing food safety, quality control and certification systems plans;
- The acquisition of eggs, larvae, juveniles and parents, as well as the constitution of working capital, when in the type of operation “Constitution of startups and spin-offs”;
- The cost of hiring a maximum of 2 new technical staff for each micro and small company supported, with NQ ≥ 6.

Note: Expenses eligibility begins on January 1st, 2021. Eligible costs for hiring up to two new technical staff have a maximum limit salary base of €1,600.

NATURE AND FEES OF SUPPORT

Non-refundable Incentive

Maximum co-financing rate:

- 70% for Companies
 - 100% for Scientific System Entities projects
- Public support rate of up to 50% of eligible expenses, without prejudice to the provisions of the following numbers.

- Support fee is up to:
 - i. 60% for SMEs and to support sustainable aquaculture;
 - ii. 75% for start-ups and spin-offs or in co-promotion projects that aim to introduce innovative products, processes or equipment into the company;
 - iii. 100% for public entities;
 - iv. 50% of eligible expenses, in other cases.
- The highest maximum support rate applies when falling into more than one situation.

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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