

Annex

Questão C2 - General information on programmes

Programme nº 1 Table 1 (operacion POCI-01-0247-FEDER-024535)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The Inovstone 4.0 project had as its main objective the development of techniques and technologies aimed at reorienting the operating model of the Ornamental Stone Sector (OSS) towards Industry 4.0. The project was designed as a response to the new digital procurement model based on IFC object libraries within a BIM (Building Information Modelling) framework in the AEC sector (Architecture, Engineering and Construction).

The project is structured around four key pillars:

- Alignment with the objectives related to the global implementation of BIM within the AEC sector;
- Enhancement of ornamental stone products within the context of BIM-based digital procurement (transforming stone into a smart product);
- Convergence of production operations towards the Industry 4.0 model; and
- Alignment with the global green building initiative.

The strategy defined to address these challenges consists in the development of a Cyber Physical System (Cockpit Stone BIM 4.0 PPS 1) designed to interconnect networked production systems. The procurement model for construction materials has shifted towards a BIM-based environment, requiring all relevant information to be networked in order to ensure the planning capabilities (ERP) necessary to respond to market and customer requirements.

- Nature or form of the aid

The entirety of the support was granted in the form of non-repayable aid, i.e. a grant, to all entities involved in the consortium, comprising 17 companies and 7 non-business entities of the Research and Innovation System (RNIS).

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

For companies, the maximum aid intensity to be granted corresponds to a maximum base rate of 25%, which may be increased by the following bonuses:

- a) “Industrial research” bonus: an additional 25 percentage points, applicable to classified R&D activities;
- b) “Type of enterprise” bonus: an additional 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises or 20 percentage points for micro and small enterprises;
- c) Bonus of 15 percentage points, where at least one of the following situations applies:
 - c.1) “Cooperation between undertakings” bonus, applicable where the project cumulatively meets the following conditions:
 - i) Involves effective cooperation between undertakings independent of each other;
 - ii) No single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs of the project;
 - iii) Involves cooperation with at least one SME or includes R&D activities carried out in at least two Member States;
 - c.2) “Cooperation with non-business entities of the R&I system” bonus, applicable where the following conditions are cumulatively met:
 - i) The participation of non-business entities of the R&I system represents at least 10% of the eligible costs of the project;
 - ii) The non-business entities of the R&I system have the right to publish the results of the project arising from the R&D activities carried out by those entities;
 - c.3) “Wide dissemination of results” bonus, provided that the project results are subject to wide dissemination through technical and scientific conferences or publication in scientific or technical journals, or are deposited in open-access databases, i.e. databases providing free access to raw research data, or through free or public software.

The above-mentioned aid intensities are capped at a maximum rate of 50% for investments located in NUTS II Lisbon.

Non-business entities of the R&I System (RNIS) were eligible for an aid intensity of 75%, provided that the aid granted does not fall within the scope of State aid rules, as laid down in the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), with regard to the public funding of non-economic activities.

For non-business entities of the R&I System (RNIS) with investments located in NUTS II Lisbon, the maximum aid intensity is limited to 50%.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The call for proposals 10/SI/2016 – Business R&D (I&DT Empresarial) – Mobilising Programmes was published on 31 May 2016 and remained open until 17 October 2016.

The application was submitted under this call on 17 October 2016.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 1 January 2017
End date: 31 December 2020

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are as follows:

- Decree-Law No 159/2014 of 27 October — General Regulation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Portugal;
- Decree-Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — establishing the incentive schemes system;
- Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI) – SECTION III – Research and Technological Development (Articles 59 to 80);
- Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid;
- Decree-Law No 372/2007 and Decree-Law No 143/2009 — Electronic certification of SMEs.

- Mode of operation of the programme

This type of co-promotion application scheme:

- Supports multidisciplinary research and development activities of different profiles, which contribute to the identification of trends and to the understanding of critical success factors in the adoption of new technological applications and new business models for their commercialisation and valorisation;
- Covers a significant part of the knowledge valorisation and innovation cycle;
- Given its cross-cutting nature and the breadth of the competences involved, projects are required to be broken down into multiple sub-projects that contribute to the achievement of an overall objective. These sub-projects must bring together different complementary capabilities and be structured around specific objectives aimed at the development of new products, processes or services, or the introduction of significant improvements to existing products, processes or services (PPS), while ensuring intrinsic coherence and complementarity of objectives and results.

Projects are ranked on the basis of the Project Merit (PM) score, as defined in the call for proposals, calculated as follows: $PM = 0.2 A + 0.2 B + 0.3 C + 0.3 D$, provided that they achieve a minimum score of 3.00 points.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the entity responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include: the application form, the analysis tool (FACI), the opinion of the Intermediate Body to which competences had been delegated for monitoring the operation, the MA decision, payment claims and the corresponding analyses, and the closure analysis (FACIE).

Programme nº 2 Table 1 (operacion POCI-01-0247-FEDER-046083)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The overall objective of the project is to reorient innovative industrial models towards the Minerals Resources Industry through the development of advanced technologies, new products and software addressing the entire value chain: upstream activities, mineral resources valorisation and the marketplace (linkage to customers/market).

In order to achieve the intended objectives, the project was structured into five PPS (Products, Processes or Systems).

- Nature or form of the aid

The entirety of the support was granted in the form of non-repayable aid, i.e. a grant, to all entities participating in the consortium, comprising 13 companies and 8 non-business entities of the Research and Innovation System (RNIS).

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

For companies, the maximum aid intensity to be granted corresponds to a maximum base rate of 25%, which may be increased by the following bonuses:

- a) "Industrial research" bonus: an additional 25 percentage points, applicable to classified R&D activities;
- b) "Type of enterprise" bonus: an additional 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises or 20 percentage points for micro and small enterprises;
- c) Bonus of 15 percentage points, where at least one of the following situations applies:
 - c.1) "Cooperation between undertakings" bonus, applicable where the project cumulatively meets the following conditions:
 - i) Involves effective cooperation between undertakings independent of each other;
 - ii) No single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs of the project;

iii) Involves cooperation with at least one SME or includes R&D activities carried out in at least two Member States;

c.2) “Cooperation with non-business entities of the R&I system” bonus, applicable where the following conditions are cumulatively met:

i) The participation of non-business entities of the R&I system represents at least 10% of the eligible costs of the project;

ii) The non-business entities of the R&I system have the right to publish the results of the project arising from the R&D activities carried out by those entities;

c.3) “Wide dissemination of results” bonus, provided that the project results are subject to wide dissemination through technical and scientific conferences or publication in scientific or technical journals, or are deposited in open-access databases, i.e. databases providing free access to raw research data, or through free or public software.

The above-mentioned aid intensities are capped at a maximum rate of 50% for investments located in NUTS II Lisbon.

Non-business entities of the R&I System (RNIS) were eligible for an aid intensity of 75%, provided that the aid granted does not fall within the scope of State aid rules, as laid down in the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), with regard to the public funding of non-economic activities.

For non-business entities of the R&I System (RNIS) with investments located in NUTS II Lisbon, the maximum aid intensity is limited to 50%.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The call for proposals 14/SI/2019 – Business R&D (I&DT Empresarial) – Mobilising Programmes was published on 18 April 2019 and remained open until 18 July 2019.

The application was submitted under this call on 31 July 2019.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 1 July 2020

End date: 30 June 2023

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are as follows:

- Decree-Law No 159/2014 of 27 October — General Regulation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Portugal;

- Decree-Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — establishing the incentive schemes system;
 - Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI) – SECTION III – Research and Technological Development (Articles 59 to 80);
 - Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01);
 - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER);
 - Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid;
 - Decree-Law No 372/2007 and Decree-Law No 143/2009 — Electronic certification of SMEs.
- Mode of operation of the programme

This type of co-promotion application scheme:

- Supports multidisciplinary research and development activities of different profiles, contributing to the identification of trends and to the understanding of critical success factors in the adoption of new technological applications and new business models for their commercialisation and valorisation;
- Covers a significant part of the knowledge valorisation and innovation cycle;
- Given its cross-cutting nature and the breadth of the competences involved, projects are required to be broken down into multiple sub-projects that contribute to the achievement of an overall objective. These sub-projects must bring together different complementary capabilities and be structured around specific objectives aimed at the development of new products, processes or services, or the introduction of significant improvements in existing products, processes or services (PPS), while ensuring intrinsic coherence and complementarity of objectives and results.

Projects are ranked according to the Project Merit (PM) score, as defined in the call for proposals, calculated as follows:

$$PM = 0.2 A + 0.2 B + 0.3 C + 0.3 D$$

provided that they achieve a score equal to or higher than 3.00 points.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the entity responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include: the application form, the analysis tool (FACI), the opinion of the Intermediate Body to which competences had been delegated for monitoring the operation, the MA decision, payment claims and the corresponding analyses, and the closure analysis (FACIE).

Programme nº 4 Table 1 (operacion POCI-02-999-FN-047607)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The programme aims to continue attracting new, innovative business investment, with a focus on innovation, differentiation and diversification, promoting the production of tradable and internationalisable goods and services. The specific objectives included increasing business investment in innovative activities (product and process innovation), with an impact on the creation of qualified employment and on changing the productive profile, as well as strengthening the capacity of SMEs to develop innovative goods and services, thereby supporting their progression along the value chain.

In this context, LSI STONE, through the present project aimed at increasing production capacity, proposed to invest in digital transformation in order to enhance its responsiveness and product portfolio through the implementation of the “Digital Factory” concept. The project was based on increased automation and the integration of multiple technologies, with a view to positioning the company as an organisation aligned with the principles of Industry 4.0, enhancing its offering through digital interfaces and promoting the creation of a more competitive ecosystem.

- Nature or form of the aid

Hybrid support scheme, composed of two autonomous components: 50% of the total support in the form of non-repayable aid (grant) and 50% in the form of an interest-free bank loan, associated with a mutual guarantee financial instrument managed by the Development Finance Institution (IFD) under the Capitalizar Mais Line.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

The aid granted amounted to a total of EUR 968,520.78 (financed by National Funds).

- Date of establishment of the programme

The operation was submitted on 27 March 2020 under the Call for Proposals No 07/SI/2020, published on 5 February 2020, with republications on 13 March, 30 March and 29 April 2020, following the submission of an aid application record on 12 January 2020.

The approval decision was adopted on 9 September 2020.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 15 April 2019

End date: 31 March 2021

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree Law No 159/2014 of 27 October — General Regulation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Portugal;
- Decree Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — relating to the system of incentive schemes;
- Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI) — in particular Articles 3, 8, 9, 19, 20, 30 B, 31, 32 and 37;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER) — in particular Articles 2 (points 49 and 51), 21 and 22;
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, laying down common provisions for the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- Guidelines on regional State aid for 2014–2020 (OJ C 209, 23.7.2013);
- SA.38571 — Portuguese regional State aid map for the period 2014–2020 (OJ C 233, 18.7.2014);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid;
- Decree Law No 372/2007 and Decree Law No 143/2009 — Electronic SME certification;
- Decree Law No 381/2007 of 14 November — NACE Rev. 3;
- Call for Proposals No 07/SI/2020 and the corresponding project merit assessment framework.

- Mode of operation of the programme

Support for individual productive innovation projects under four types of initial investment: establishment of a new facility; increase in production capacity (minimum of 20%); diversification of production; and a fundamental change in the overall production process.

Applications are submitted electronically through Balcão 2020 and must include both the non-repayable aid component and the bank loan proposal with a credit institution participating in the Capitalizar Mais Line. The financial eligibility of the loan is assessed by the selected accredited credit institution and confirmed by the Mutual Guarantee Societies (MGS).

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation. The records maintained include: electronic application forms; financing proposals and contracts with credit institutions and Mutual Guarantee Societies (MGS); opinions issued by the Intermediate Bodies;

decisions of the Managing Authorities; terms of acceptance; payment claims and supporting expenditure documents; accounting records of the operations; analyses of payment claims, amendments and closure of the operation; monitoring records of the contracted indicators (GVA, qualified employment, turnover); and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.

Programme nº 11 Table 1 (operacion POCI-02-0752-FEDER-000069)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

Strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs through the development and reinforcement of their internal capacities in the field of internationalisation, promoting qualification processes that enhance the expansion of the export base and capacity, as well as the international visibility of SMEs, as measured by the increase in the value of exports in the turnover of participating SMEs.

In this context, the beneficiary submitted a project aimed at the international promotion of Portuguese companies, their brands and their products, with the objective of strengthening their external competitiveness and improving their positioning in international markets. This effort sought to contribute to an increase in both the volume and the value of exports of SMEs operating in the Mineral Resources sector.

The Internationalisation Action Plan envisaged the participation of 41 companies, covering not only the Ornamental Stone sector but also companies related to construction equipment and materials, thereby promoting an integrated value-chain approach.

The proposed actions were aligned with the strategic objectives of the project, focusing on strengthening the presence in traditional and mature markets, as well as on the pursuit of new markets, with particular emphasis on the Chilean market, thus aiming at geographical diversification and sustained growth of the sector's exports.

- Nature or form of the aid

The support takes the form of non-repayable aid (grant), co-financed by the ERDF.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

The aid granted amounted to a total of EUR 1,392,386.95.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The operation was submitted on 13 February 2015 under the Call for Proposals No 01/SI/2014, published on 30 December 2014, with a republication on 23 January 2015.

The approval decision was adopted on 28 May 2015.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 1 March 2015

End date: 31 December 2016

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree-Law No 159/2014 of 27 October — General Regulation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Portugal;
- Ordinance No 57-A/2015 of 27 February, as amended — Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 of 18 December on de minimis aid in the agricultural sector, or Commission Regulation (EU) No 717/2014 of 27 June on de minimis aid in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- Decree-Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — relating to the system of incentive schemes;
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June — General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), in particular Article 18 (consultancy services) and Article 19 (participation in trade fairs and exhibitions);
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, laying down common and general provisions for the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 — relating to sectoral restrictions in fisheries and aquaculture;
- Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC — definition of SMEs;
- Call for Proposals No 01/SI/2014 and the corresponding project merit assessment framework.

- Mode of operation of the programme

Joint project modality, promoted by public or private non-profit entities of an associative nature (business associations, chambers of commerce, tourism promotion agencies, entities of the National R&I System), which develop a joint action plan covering a minimum of 10 SMEs.

Eligible actions include participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, specialised consultancy services for the prospecting of external markets, marketing campaigns, and digital actions for international promotion.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include, inter alia: electronic application forms; pre-adhesion agreements of the participating undertakings; joint action plans; analysis opinions issued by the Intermediate Body; decisions of the Managing Authority; the term of acceptance; payment claims and the corresponding supporting expenditure documents; accounting data of the operations; analyses of payment claims, amendments and closure of the operation; monitoring and evaluation records of results; and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.

Programme nº 11 Table 1 (operacion POCI-02-0752-FEDER-026344)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The “Interstone 2017/2018” project aimed to strengthen the efforts to improve the competitive capacities of the 55 participating SMEs in the Mineral Resources sector, with a strong focus on the search for new markets and the promotion of collective participation in trade fairs, as well as on the organisation of business missions. The objective was to enhance the visibility and brand recognition of the participating companies, with a view to increasing their export capacity, international visibility and overall international competitiveness.

The investment plan implemented included participation in 12 international trade fairs held in China, the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Italy and Canada, in addition to the inbound business mission “Designing With Natural Stone Portugal 2018”.

From a sectoral perspective, the majority of the participating companies carried out activities predominantly related to the ornamental stone industry and the extraction of stone, sand and clay, while the remaining companies were engaged in related activities linked to construction and the manufacture of machinery.

- Nature or form of the aid

The entirety of the support was granted in the form of non-repayable aid (grant), co-financed by the ERDF.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

For the participating SMEs, the maximum aid intensity granted corresponded to a base rate of 50%.

In the case of the entities promoting the joint projects, the maximum aid intensity reached 85%, intended to finance the costs associated with the design, implementation and management of the joint action plan.

The aid granted under COMPETE 2020 amounted to a total of EUR 1,903,627.13.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The Call for Proposals No 21/SI/2016 – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects was published on 27 September 2016 and remained open until 30 December 2016.

The application was submitted on 23 December 2016.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 2 January 2017

End date: 16 November 2018

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree Law No 159/2014 of 27 October — establishing the general rules for the management and application of European funds in Portugal;
- Decree Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — relating to the system of incentive schemes;
- Ordinance No 57 A/2015 of 27 February, as amended — Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI), SECTION II – SME Qualification and Internationalisation (Articles 40 to 58);
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December, laying down common provisions for the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December, defining the scope and rules of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid;
 - Decree Law No 372/2007 of 6 November — SME certification;
 - Call for Proposals No 21/SI/2016 – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects;
 - Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement, setting out the national strategy for the application of European funds.
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- Mode of operation of the programme

Joint project modality, promoted by public or private non-profit entities of an associative nature (business associations, chambers of commerce, tourism promotion agencies, entities of the National R&I System), which develop a joint action plan covering a minimum of 10 SMEs.

This type of internationalisation joint project applications:

- Supports the capacity-building of SMEs for internationalisation, through the implementation of a structured plan of external promotion actions aimed at strengthening their presence in international markets and increasing exports;
- Is based on the action of associative entities, public or private non-profit organisations, which design and implement a joint action plan targeting a group of SMEs, ensuring economies of scale and collective efficiency;
- Integrates a coordinated set of actions, namely participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, market prospecting and client acquisition actions, international marketing campaigns and digital promotion initiatives, as well as transversal support actions such as the production of promotional materials, digital tools and benchmarking activities;
- Aims to promote knowledge sharing, the dissemination of good practices and the strengthening of the collective capacity of the participating companies, fostering an integrated and coherent approach to internationalisation.

Applications were assessed on the basis of the Project Merit (PM), determined according to a set of criteria defined in the call for proposals, namely project quality, impact on SME competitiveness, contribution to internationalisation and the coherence of the action plan.

Projects obtaining a score equal to or higher than 3.00 points are considered eligible and are subsequently ranked in descending order of merit for decision-making purposes.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation. The records maintained include, inter alia: electronic application forms; pre-adhesion agreements of the participating undertakings; joint action plans; analysis reports issued by the Intermediate Body; decisions of the Managing Authority; the term of acceptance; payment claims and the corresponding supporting expenditure documents; accounting data of the operations; analyses of payment claims, amendments and closure of the operation; monitoring and evaluation records of results; and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.

Programme nº 11 Table 1 (operation POCI-02-0752-FEDER-038085)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The INTERSTONE 2019/2020 project had as its main objective the strengthening of the export capacity of Portuguese companies operating in the Mineral Resources sector, focusing on aspects of their international competitiveness. It contributed to improving the competitiveness of the industry, enhancing the image of companies and their products and services, creating new business opportunities and increasing the capacity to establish partnerships between companies.

The Internationalisation Action Plan involved the participation of 65 companies, the majority of which carried out activities related to the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products and the extraction of minerals.

The proposed investment plan comprised 16 external promotion actions, including 14 participations in international trade fairs and 2 business missions to the markets of Mexico and Australia, supported by the preparation of prior market studies.

It also included transversal actions aimed at the broad sharing of information, experience and good practices, notably the development of various materials (such as a newsletter and the sector yearbook), the creation of a company directory, and the organisation of dissemination and benchmarking activities.

- Nature or form of the aid

The entirety of the support was granted in the form of non-repayable aid (grant), co-financed by the ERDF.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

For the participating SMEs, the maximum aid intensity granted corresponded to a base rate of 50%. In the case of the entities promoting the joint projects, the maximum aid intensity reached 85%, intended to finance the costs associated with the design, implementation and management of the joint action plan.

The total amount of aid granted was EUR 1,825,804.39.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The Call for Proposals No 28/SI/2017 – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects was published on 27 November 2017 and remained open until 29 January 2018.

The application was submitted on 29 January 2018.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 13 November 2018

End date: 30 October 2021

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree-Law No 159/2014 of 27 October — establishing the general rules for the management and application of European funds in Portugal;
- Decree-Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — relating to the system of incentive schemes;
- Ordinance No 57-A/2015 of 27 February, as amended — Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI), SECTION II – SME Qualification and Internationalisation (Articles 40 to 58);
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December, laying down common rules for European funds;
- Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December, defining the scope and rules of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid regime;
- Decree-Law No 372/2007 of 6 November — SME certification;
- Call for Proposals No 28/SI/2017 and the corresponding project merit assessment framework;
- Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement, setting out the national strategy for the application of European funds.

- Mode of operation of the programme

Joint project modality, promoted by public or private non-profit entities of an associative nature (business associations, chambers of commerce, tourism promotion agencies, entities of the National R&I System), which develop a joint action plan covering a minimum of 10 SMEs.

This modality of internationalisation project applications:

- Supports the capacity-building of SMEs for internationalisation, through the implementation of a structured plan of external promotion actions aimed at strengthening their presence in international markets and increasing exports;
- Relies on the action of associative promoter entities, public or private non-profit organisations, which design and implement a joint action plan addressed to a group of SMEs, ensuring economies of scale and collective efficiency;
- Integrates a coordinated set of actions, including participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, market prospecting and client acquisition activities, international marketing campaigns and digital initiatives, as well as transversal support actions such as the production of promotional materials, digital tools and benchmarking activities;
- Promotes knowledge sharing, the dissemination of good practices and the strengthening of the collective capacity of participating companies, fostering an integrated and coherent approach to internationalisation.

Applications were assessed on the basis of Project Merit (PM), determined according to a set of criteria defined in the call for proposals, notably project quality, impact on SME competitiveness, contribution to internationalisation and the coherence of the action plan.

Projects obtaining a score equal to or higher than 3.00 points were considered eligible and subsequently ranked in descending order of merit for decision-making purposes.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include, inter alia: electronic application forms; pre-adhesion agreements of the participating companies; joint action plans; analysis opinions issued by the Intermediate Body; decisions of the Managing Authority; the term of acceptance; payment claims and the corresponding supporting expenditure documents; accounting data relating to the operations; analyses of payment

claims, amendments and closure of the operation; monitoring and evaluation records of results; and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.

Programme nº 11 Table 1 (operacion POCI-02-0752-FEDER-179265)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The INTERSTONE 2021/2023 project, submitted under the joint internationalisation project modality, aims to strengthen the export capacity of Portuguese companies in the natural stone sector by enabling the continuation of market prospection activities and a sustained presence in clearly identified international markets (physical and digital trade fairs). The project also includes complementary actions aimed at improving the intrinsic quality of products and fostering international digital promotion and marketing activities (viral videos, a digital marketing platform associated with the sector's collective brand, including search engine optimisation and marketing analytics).

In this sense, the application is structured as a comprehensive programme involving the participation of 45 SMEs from the sector, encompassing a set of actions that focus not only on traditional communication approaches through participation in historically relevant trade fairs, but also on an innovative approach to the promotion of goods and services, combined with digital marketing actions and viral content. These actions are further supported by a renewed collective promotional image, aimed at differentiating natural stone products and services.

In view of the pandemic context, the project also incorporated a strong digitalisation component, through the use of international digital promotion platforms and the development of digital marketing actions associated with the sector's collective brand "StonebyPortugal", thereby enhancing the international visibility of the participating companies.

Additionally, the project sought to foster the collective capacity-building of companies along the sector's value chain, promoting synergies, knowledge sharing and the adoption of good practices, thus contributing to the sustainable strengthening of their competitiveness in external markets.

- Nature or form of the aid

The entirety of the support was granted in the form of non-repayable aid (grant), co-financed by the ERDF.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

For SMEs, the aid granted generally corresponded to an aid intensity of 50% of the eligible costs. This rate could be adjusted depending on the location of the investment, in particular in the case of the Lisbon region, where the maximum applicable rate was 40%. These eligible costs included external promotion actions, such as participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, market prospecting and client acquisition activities, as well as international and digital marketing initiatives and specialised services supporting internationalisation.

With regard to the promoting entity, the support covered the costs associated with the coordination of the joint project, including the preparation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the actions, as well as the implementation of transversal initiatives benefiting all participating companies. In this case, an aid intensity of up to 85% of the eligible costs was applicable.

The aid granted under COMPETE 2020 amounted to a total of EUR 1,194,138.36.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The Call for Proposals No 10/SI/2021 – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects was published on 9 April 2021 and was subsequently updated/republished on 27 April 2021, with the deadline for the submission of applications remaining set at 21 May 2021.

The application was submitted on 20 May 2021.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 15 September 2021
End date: 30 June 2023

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree-Law No 159/2014 of 27 October, as amended — General Regulation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Portugal;
- Decree-Law No 137/2014 of 12 September — relating to the system of incentive schemes;
- Ordinance No 57-A/2015 of 27 February, as amended — Specific Regulation for the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Thematic Domain (RECI), SECTION II – SME Qualification and Internationalisation (Articles 40 to 58);
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 — establishing the ceilings for de minimis aid to undertakings;

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December, laying down common provisions for European funds;
 - Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December, defining the scope and rules of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF);
 - Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December — de minimis aid regime;
 - Decree-Law No 381/2007 of 14 November — establishing the Classification of Economic Activities (NACE);
 - Decree-Law No 372/2007 and Decree-Law No 143/2009 — Electronic SME certification;
 - Resolution of the Council of Ministers No 20/2021 — defining the national strategy for business internationalisation;
 - Call for Proposals No 10/SI/2021 and the corresponding project merit assessment framework;
 - Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement, setting out the national strategy for the application of European funds.
- Mode of operation of the programme

Joint project modality, promoted by public or private non-profit entities of an associative nature (business associations, chambers of commerce, tourism promotion agencies, entities of the National R&I System), which develop a joint action plan covering a minimum of 10 SMEs.

This type of internationalisation project applications:

- Supports the capacity-building of SMEs for internationalisation, through the implementation of a structured plan of external promotion actions aimed at strengthening their presence in international markets and increasing exports;
- Is based on the action of associative promoter entities, public or private non-profit organisations, which design and implement a joint action plan addressed to a group of SMEs, ensuring economies of scale and collective efficiency;
- Integrates a coordinated set of actions, including participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, market prospecting and client acquisition activities, international marketing campaigns and digital initiatives, as well as transversal support actions such as the production of promotional materials, digital tools and benchmarking activities;
- Aims to promote knowledge sharing, the dissemination of good practices and the strengthening of the collective capacity of participating companies, fostering an integrated and coherent approach to internationalisation.

Applications were assessed on the basis of Project Merit (PM), determined according to a set of criteria defined in the call for proposals, notably project quality, impact on SME competitiveness, contribution to internationalisation and the coherence of the action plan.

Projects obtaining a score equal to or higher than 3.00 points were considered eligible and subsequently ranked in descending order of merit for decision-making purposes.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (COMPETE 2020) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include, inter alia: electronic application forms; pre-adhesion agreements of the participating companies; joint action plans; analysis opinions issued by the Intermediate Body; decisions of the Managing Authority; the term of acceptance; payment claims and the corresponding supporting expenditure documents; accounting data of the operations; analyses of payment claims, amendments and closure of the operation; monitoring and evaluation records of results; and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.

Programme nº 11 Table 1 (operation COMPETE2030-FEDER-00249800)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

Strengthening the business capacity of SMEs for internationalisation, enabling the expansion of their export base and capacity as well as their international recognition, through the implementation of promotion and marketing actions, participation in international events and access to knowledge and new markets.

In this context, the beneficiary submitted the INTERSTONE 2023/2024 project, which aims to contribute to strengthening the export capacity of Portuguese companies in the natural stone sector and enhancing their international recognition, by enabling the continuation of market prospecting activities and sustained presence in international markets.

The Internationalisation Action Plan envisaged the participation of 52 companies, covering not only the Ornamental Stone sector but also companies related to construction equipment and materials, thereby promoting an integrated value-chain approach.

The project reflects the continuation of the international promotion and competitiveness strategy that ASSIMAGRA has been leading, particularly through participation in trade fairs, with demonstrated

results in terms of mobilising dozens of sector stakeholders, organising business missions, and producing impactful digital promotional content for the sector, aggregated under the collective brand StonebyPORTUGAL.

Within the scope of this application, impactful and innovative digital promotion and marketing actions are planned, aimed at strengthening positioning in external markets, contributing to the creation of new business opportunities and enhancing the capacity for establishing partnerships between companies.

- Nature or form of the aid

The support takes the form of non-repayable aid (grant), co-financed by the ERDF.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

The aid granted under COMPETE 2030 amounted to a total of EUR 1,678,173.51.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The operation was submitted on 6 January 2023 under the Call for Proposals No 04/SI/2022 – SICE – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects, published on 21 October 2022, with a republication on 23 December 2022.

The approval decision was adopted on 19 October 2023.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 1 January 2023

End date: 31 December 2024

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree-Law No 5/2023 of 25 January, establishing the governance model for European funds for the 2021–2027 programming period;
- Extraordinary early implementation mechanism of Portugal 2030, approved by Decision No 27/2021 of 23 August of the Interministerial Coordination Committee (ICC) of Portugal 2020, which, in accordance with paragraph 4 of that Decision, simultaneously complies with the applicable EU regulations for the 2014–2020 and 2021–2027 programming periods. Accordingly, the supported operations must comply with the legal regime in force as well as

with the Portugal 2030 legal framework, in particular with regard to changes to the financing regime, reporting obligations and the assessment of access requirements applicable to beneficiaries where these are more demanding;

- Order No 12314-A/2022 of 20 October, issued by the Minister of the Presidency, the Ministers of Finance and of Economy and Maritime Affairs, and the Minister for Territorial Cohesion, whose specific objective is to ensure continuity in the granting of financial support to joint projects reinforcing SME capacity-building for internationalisation;
 - Management Guideline No 1/2023, relating to the requirements associated with decision-making on operations submitted under Call No 04/SI/2022 within Portugal 2030, with a view to ensuring compliance with the EU and national regulatory framework applicable to the 2021–2027 programming period;
 - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June — General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), in particular Article 18 (consultancy services) and Article 19 (participation in trade fairs and exhibitions);
 - Decree-Law No 20-A/2023 of 22 March, establishing the general regime for the implementation of European funds under Portugal 2030;
 - Ordinance No 103-A/2023 of 12 April, as amended — Specific Regulation of the Thematic Area Innovation and Digital Transition, within the scope of the Portugal 2030 Incentive Schemes, Subsection III – SME Qualification and Internationalisation;
 - Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, laying down common provisions for the European Regional Development Fund;
 - Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC — definition of SMEs;
 - Call for Proposals No 04/SI/2022 – SICE – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects, published on 21 October 2022, with republication on 23 December 2022.
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- Mode of operation of the programme

Joint project modality, promoted by public or private non-profit entities of an associative nature (business associations, chambers of commerce, tourism promotion agencies, entities of the National R&I System), which develop a joint action plan covering a minimum of 10 SMEs. Eligible actions include participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, specialised consultancy services for the prospecting of external markets, marketing campaigns, and digital actions for international promotion.

This type of internationalisation project applications:

- Supports the capacity-building of SMEs for internationalisation, through the implementation of a structured plan of external promotion actions aimed at strengthening their presence in international markets and increasing exports;

- Relies on the action of associative promoter entities, public or private non-profit organisations, which design and implement a joint action plan addressed to a group of SMEs, ensuring economies of scale and collective efficiency;
- Integrates a coordinated set of actions, including participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, market prospecting and client acquisition activities, international marketing campaigns and digital initiatives, as well as transversal support actions such as the production of promotional materials, digital tools and benchmarking activities;
- Promotes knowledge sharing, the dissemination of good practices and the strengthening of the collective capacity of participating companies, fostering an integrated and coherent approach to internationalisation.

Applications were assessed on the basis of Project Merit (PM), determined according to a set of criteria defined in the call for proposals, notably project quality, impact on SME competitiveness, contribution to internationalisation and the coherence of the action plan.

Projects obtaining a score equal to or higher than 3.00 points were considered eligible and subsequently ranked in descending order of merit for decision-making purposes.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Innovation and Digital Transition Programme (COMPETE 2030) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include, inter alia: electronic application forms; pre-adhesion agreements of the participating companies; joint action plans; analysis opinions issued by the Intermediate Body; decisions of the Managing Authority; the term of acceptance; payment claims and the corresponding supporting expenditure documents; accounting data of the operations; analyses of payment claims and amendments; monitoring and evaluation records of results; and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.

Programme nº 11 Table 1 (operacion COMPETE2030-FEDER-01475400)

- Objective and/or policy purpose of the programme

The main objective is to boost exports and increase the value added of Portuguese products, contributing to the sustainable growth of companies' turnover. All initiatives are integrated into a

modern and effective strategy that uses digital marketing as a key tool to promote the sector and connect it with specifiers and clients on a global scale. The action plan includes a strong and continuous presence at the main global trade fairs in the sector, across different continents, as well as complementary market study activities and targeted communication actions aimed at priority markets.

The operation provides for the participation of 45 companies from different segments of the sector's value chain. The majority of the SMEs carry out activities mainly related to the extraction of marble and other calcareous stones, followed by the manufacture of marble and similar stone products, as well as the extraction of ornamental granite and similar stones.

The project envisages 20 actions related to participation in trade fairs during the years 2025 and 2026, and also includes investments with a strong digital focus, namely investments in the development and adaptation of web stores and registration on marketplaces.

- Nature or form of the aid

The support takes the form of non-repayable aid (grant), co-financed by the ERDF.

- Nature of the benefits or concessions granted

The aid granted under COMPETE 2030 amounted to a total of EUR 1,535,837.24.

- Date of establishment of the programme

The operation was submitted on 27 August 2024 under the Call for Proposals MPr-2024-5 – SICE – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects, published on 3 June 2024, with a republication on 22 July 2024.

The approval decision was adopted on 25 February 2025.

- Duration of the programme

Start date: 2 January 2025

End date: 31 December 2026

- Laws and regulations under which the aid is granted

The main legal instruments establishing the framework are the following:

- Decree-Law No 5/2023 of 25 January, establishing the governance model for European funds for the 2021–2027 programming period;

- Extraordinary early implementation mechanism of Portugal 2030, approved by Decision No 27/2021 of 23 August of the Interministerial Coordination Committee (ICC) of Portugal 2020, which, pursuant to paragraph 4 of that Decision, simultaneously complies with the EU regulations applicable to the 2014–2020 and 2021–2027 programming periods. Accordingly, the operations to be supported must comply with the legal regime in force as well as with the legal framework of Portugal 2030, in particular with regard to changes to the financing regime, information reporting requirements and the assessment of access conditions applicable to beneficiaries where these are more demanding;
 - Order No 12314-A/2022 of 20 October, issued by the Minister of the Presidency, the Ministers of Finance and of Economy and Maritime Affairs, and the Minister for Territorial Cohesion, whose specific objective is to ensure continuity in the granting of financial support to joint projects that strengthen SME capacity-building for internationalisation;
 - Management Guideline No 1/2023, concerning the requirements associated with the decision-making process for operations submitted under Call No 04/SI/2022 within the framework of Portugal 2030, with a view to ensuring compliance with the EU and national regulatory framework applicable to the 2021–2027 programming period;
 - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June — General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), in particular Article 18 (consultancy services) and Article 19 (participation in trade fairs and exhibitions);
 - Decree-Law No 20-A/2023 of 22 March, establishing the general regime for the implementation of European funds under Portugal 2030;
 - Ordinance No 103-A/2023 of 12 April, as amended — Specific Regulation of the Thematic Area Innovation and Digital Transition, within the scope of the Portugal 2030 Incentive Schemes, Subsection III – SME Qualification and Internationalisation;
 - Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, laying down common provisions for the European Regional Development Fund;
 - Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC — definition of SMEs;
 - Call for Proposals No 04/SI/2022 – SICE – SME Internationalisation – Joint Projects, published on 21 October 2022, with republication on 23 December 2022.
- Mode of operation of the programme

Joint project modality, promoted by public or private non-profit entities of an associative nature (business associations, chambers of commerce, tourism promotion agencies, entities of the National R&I System), which develop a joint action plan covering a minimum of 10 SMEs. Eligible actions include participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, specialised consultancy services for the prospecting of external markets, marketing campaigns, and digital actions for international promotion.

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- Integrates a coordinated set of actions, including participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, business missions, market prospecting and client acquisition activities, international marketing campaigns and digital initiatives, as well as transversal support actions such as the production of promotional materials, digital tools and benchmarking activities;
- Promotes knowledge sharing, the dissemination of good practices and the strengthening of collective capacity among participating companies, fostering an integrated and coherent approach to internationalisation.

Applications were assessed based on Project Merit (PM), determined according to a set of criteria defined in the call for proposals, namely project quality, impact on SME competitiveness, contribution to internationalisation, and the coherence of the action plan.

Projects obtaining a score equal to or higher than 3.00 points were considered eligible and subsequently ranked in descending order of merit for decision-making purposes.

- Portuguese authority responsible for the administration of the programme and the types of records maintained (e.g. project files by beneficiary, accounting records, programme databases, budgetary approvals, among others)

The Managing Authority (MA) of the Innovation and Digital Transition Programme (COMPETE 2030) is the authority responsible for the management of the operation.

The records maintained include, inter alia: electronic application forms; pre-adhesion agreements of the participating companies; joint action plans; analysis opinions issued by the Intermediate Body; decisions of the Managing Authority; the term of acceptance; payment claims and the corresponding supporting expenditure documents; accounting data of the operations; analyses of payment claims and amendments; monitoring and evaluation records of results; and communications between the administration and the beneficiary.