

NON OFFICIAL TRANSLATION – NON CONFIDENTIAL

CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

NOTICE No. 15/SI/2019

AMENDMENT TO THE NOTICE AT POINTS 13, 14 AND ANNEX B

INCENTIVE SYSTEM

“PRODUCTIVE INNOVATION”

28 August 2019

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Amendment

The Managing Authorities of the Regional Operational Programmes of Alentejo, Lisbon and Algarve have approved the extension of the deadline for the receipt of applications under the present Notice to 16 September 2019.

As a result of this amendment, points 13 – Modalities and procedures for the submission of applications, 14 – Procedures for the analysis and decision of applications, and Annex B – Diagram of the procedures for the analysis and decision of applications, of the present Notice are hereby amended and are republished below.

Preamble

Pursuant to Article 8 of the [Specific Regulation of the Competitiveness and Internationalisation Domain](#), hereinafter referred to as RECI, as amended, applications are submitted under a competitive procedure, the respective Calls for Proposals being published through the [Portugal 2020 Portal](#).

The present Call for Proposals has been drawn up in accordance with Article 16(6) of the [General Regulation of the European Structural and Investment Funds \(ESIF\)](#), approved by Decree-Law No. 159/2014 of 27 October, as amended, and stipulates the following:

1. Objectives and priorities pursued

The PT2020 reprogramming exercise made it possible to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of public policy instruments aimed at stimulating investment, employment and economic activity, by strengthening the strategic alignment of the Portugal 2020 Operational Programmes (PO) with the current socio-economic context and with the priorities of the National Reform Programme (NRP).

The implementation of the present Incentive System – SI Innovation, within the framework of Portugal 2020, has generated significant momentum in business investment, with particular relevance for SMEs, while also serving as an instrument for value creation in territories covered by Operational Programmes which present lower than expected levels of budget availability and implementation.

Accordingly, under the present Call for Proposals and as regards the financing structure of projects, in addition to the non-repayable component provided for in Article 30(1) of the RECI, projects shall be financed through an interest-free repayable component, as an alternative to a bank loan associated with a Financial Instrument, in accordance with Article 30(2) of the RECI.

Thus, SMEs proposing to invest through eligible projects under the SI Innovation system within the scope of the present Call shall benefit, from the outset, from a non-repayable incentive component (previously granted only in the form of repayment exemption following verification of performance results), while the interest-free repayable incentive component shall remain applicable.

Building on this strategic framework, the specific objective of the present call is to continue attracting new business investment, through the typology designated “Business Innovation”, as defined in Article 3 of the RECI, by granting financial support to projects that contribute to:

- **Increasing business investment by large enterprises in innovative activities** (product or process innovation), strengthening business investment in innovative activities, promoting the increase of tradable and internationally marketable production and the change in the productive profile of the economic fabric, through the development of innovative solutions based on R&D results (research and technological development) and on the integration and convergence of new technologies and knowledge, as well as

the creation of qualified employment (Investment Priority (IP) 1.2 referred to in point (a) of Article 19(1) of the RECI);

- **Strengthening the business capacity of SMEs for the development of goods and services**, through business investment in innovative and qualified activities that contribute to their progression up the value chain (Investment Priority (IP) 3.3 referred to in point (c) of Article 19(1) of the RECI).

Accordingly, a clear focus is placed on investments in the areas of differentiation, diversification and innovation, in the production of tradable and internationally marketable goods and services, within the framework of productive sectors and broader value chains that generate higher added value.

Therefore, for applications to be considered eligible under the present call, they must clearly demonstrate their contribution to the pursuit of the objectives and priorities set out above.

2. Types of operations and application modality

Eligible for support are individual projects involving innovative activities that propose to undertake an initial investment, as defined in Article 2(49) of [Regulation \(EU\) No 651/2014](#) of 16 June, relating to the following typologies:

- a) The creation of a new establishment;
- b) The increase in the capacity of an existing establishment, whereby such increase must correspond to at least 20% of the installed capacity compared to the pre-project year. Under this typology, the undertaking must increase its productive capacity of goods and/or services already produced at that establishment. For the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the minimum increase of 20%, an increase in terms of Gross Value of Production (GVP) or another technically sustainable criterion proposed by the undertaking and demonstrated in the application form shall be admissible.

The criterion to be used must allow the calculation of the increase in terms of growth rate between the pre-project and post-project periods, according to the following formula: $((\text{Year_post} - \text{Year_pre}) / \text{Year_pre}) \times 100$;

- c) The diversification of the production of an establishment into products not previously produced at that establishment, provided that the eligible costs exceed by at least 200% the book value of the assets reused, as recorded in the financial year preceding the start of works (2018). That is, the eligible expenditure of the project must represent at least three times (3×) the book value of the reused assets. The assets reused in the diversification project (land, buildings, machinery, equipment and other tangible and intangible fixed assets) must be identified by the undertaking in the application. The use of a pro-rata method for determining such value shall be admissible, based on the relative weight of sales volume of the new products or on another criterion, provided that it is technically sustainable;

- d) A fundamental change in the overall production process of an existing establishment (under this typology, no new products or services are involved; the typology corresponds to a fundamental change in the overall production process), provided that the eligible costs exceed the amortisation and depreciation of the assets associated with the process to be modernised over the three financial years preceding the start of works (2016, 2017 and 2018). The amortisation and depreciation of the assets associated with the process to be modernised are those recorded in the undertaking's accounts corresponding to the establishment concerned and relating to the product/service to which the fundamental change in the production process applies. Where the fundamental change in process does not cover the production of all products/services of the establishment, the use of a pro-rata method shall be admissible for its calculation, based on the relative weight of the sales volume of the products covered by the fundamental change process or on another criterion, provided that it is technically sustainable.

In the case of investment projects by non-SMEs located in the NUTS II Lisbon and Algarve regions, only productive innovation activities in favour of a new economic activity, as defined in Article 2(51) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June, shall be eligible.

Within the scope of the initial investment, a specific human resources training component may also be included, associated with the participation of entrepreneurs, managers and employees of the undertakings in training actions integrated into the project, aimed at improving the effectiveness of the companies' innovation processes.

For this purpose, the training actions integrated into the investment project must be presented autonomously in an application to be submitted under Notice No. 18/SI/2017.

In the application form, applicants must present the investment by establishment, indicating the corresponding typology referred to above or, where this is not possible, the dominant typology, and provide an adequate technical, economic and financial description of the innovation activities (in line with the MP reference framework) applied under each typology, from among the following:

- Product Innovation;
- Process Innovation;
- Marketing Innovation (SMEs only);
- Organisational Innovation (SMEs only).

3. Nature of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the support provided under this Call for Proposals are undertakings (SMEs and large enterprises) of any nature and legal form that propose to implement investment projects meeting the objectives and priorities referred to in Point 1 and complying with the access, eligibility and selection criteria set out below.

4. Geographical area of application

The present Call for Proposals applies to the following mainland NUTS II regions: Lisbon, Alentejo and Algarve.

The location of the project corresponds to the region where the beneficiary's establishment in which the investment is to be implemented is located.

For projects with investments located in the Lisbon and Algarve regions, undertakings must submit a separate application for the investments located in each of those regions.

5. Sectoral scope

Projects are eligible in all economic activities, with particular emphasis (valued under the Project Merit) on those aimed at the production of tradable and internationally marketable goods and services, generating significant economic value added.

The concept of tradable goods and services includes goods and services produced in sectors exposed to international competition and which can be the object of international exchange, demonstrated through:

- Sales abroad (exports);
- Indirect sales abroad, of goods to customers in the national market, when these are subsequently incorporated into other goods for sale abroad;
- Provision of services to non-residents, provided this turnover is reflected as such in the company's accounting;
- Import substitution, increase in production for internal consumption of goods or services with a negative trade balance (evidenced in the last year of available statistical data). This condition must be demonstrated through the identification of importing customers that will replace current imports with the products resulting from this project.

Services of general economic interest are understood to be commercial service activities that fulfil missions of general interest and are therefore subject to specific public service obligations (Article 106 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). This is the case, in particular, of undertakings entrusted with the provision of services of general economic interest, namely network services in the transport, energy and communications sectors.

Projects falling under the present call shall also exclude those relating to the following activities (Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities – CAE, revised by Decree-Law No. 381/2007 of 14 November):

- a) Financial and insurance activities – divisions 64 to 66;
- b) Defence – subclasses 25402, 30400 and 84220;
- c) Lotteries and other gambling activities – division 92.

Due to specific European restrictions on State aid, the activities identified in Annex B of the RECI are also excluded from the present call.

6. Specific conditions of the Notice

In addition to the specific eligibility criteria applicable to beneficiaries and projects, as provided for in Decree-Law No. 159/2014 and in the RECI, the projects to be supported under the present Call for Proposals must also meet the following specific access conditions:

- a) Contribute to the objectives and priorities set out in Point 1;
- b) Present a total eligible expenditure, assessed on the basis of the data submitted in the application, of less than EUR 25 million, with the exception of the Alentejo Regional Operational Programme (POR Alentejo), where projects must present a total eligible investment of less than or equal to EUR 5 million;
- c) Present a minimum total eligible expenditure per project of EUR 75,000;
- d) For the purposes of verifying SME status, undertakings must obtain or update the corresponding Electronic Certification provided for in Decree-Law No. 372/2007 of 6 November, as amended by Decree-Law No. 143/2009 of 16 June, through the IAPMEI website (www.iapmei.pt);
- e) The investment must be supported by a strategic analysis identifying the critical areas of competitiveness for the business, diagnosing the company's position in those critical areas and substantiating the proposed investment options;
- f) Demonstrate economic and financial viability, in particular through an analysis of the risks associated with the undertaking and the project;
- g) Carry out at least 25% of the own funds provided for in the project's financing plan (share capital, incorporation of shareholders' loans and supplementary capital contributions) by the date of the first payment;
- h) In the case of applications submitted under POR Lisbon in the tourism sector seeking support for tourism establishments, only those relating to hotels with high-quality features, recognised reputation and a high level of differentiation, demonstrating a structuring effect on the tourism offer, shall be considered admissible, under the following conditions:
 - i. Creation of four- or five-star hotel units in buildings classified as national monuments or properties of public or municipal interest;
 - ii. Refurbishment of existing hotels with the aim of obtaining a four- or five-star classification;
 - iii. Refurbishment of existing four- or five-star hotels with the aim of maintaining their classification;
- i) Where the applicant is a non-SME (large enterprise), the following additional requirements shall also apply:
 - i. Make a significant contribution to the internationalisation and tradable orientation of the Portuguese economy;
 - ii. Demonstrate a significant impact in terms of the creation of qualified employment;

- iii. Demonstrate a significant impact in terms of spillover effects on economic activity, in particular on SMEs;
- iv. Fall within the priority domains of the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (RIS3);
- v. Demonstrate a degree of novelty and dissemination at national or international market level (innovation limited solely to the level of the undertaking shall not be considered);
- vi. Ensure that the implementation of the supported investment does not result in a substantial loss of jobs in another region of the European Union;
- vii. Demonstrate the incentive effect, with the following conditions being observed in particular:
 - 1. The project must not have started at the date of application;
 - 2. Demonstrate that the incentive is decisive for the implementation of the investment in the region and that, in its absence, the project would not be sufficiently profitable for the beneficiary, thus resulting in the closure of an existing establishment in that region or the non-implementation of the project;
- j) Have an application date, or date of request for aid, prior to the start of works, with the start of works being understood as either the commencement of construction works related to the investment or the first firm commitment to order equipment or any other commitment that makes the investment irreversible, whichever occurs first. The purchase of land and preparatory works, such as the obtaining of permits and the carrying out of feasibility studies, shall not be considered as start of works, in accordance with Article 2(23) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June, and no advance payments by way of deposit shall be admitted.

For the purposes of the present Call for Proposals, the year 2018 is used as the pre-project reference year, and, for that purpose, financial statements approved by the competent bodies of the undertaking may be submitted, subject to subsequent verification following the submission of the IES.

7. Processing of Personal Data

Beneficiaries must ensure compliance with the rules of the General Data Protection Regulation, approved by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016, regarding personal data they provide for the purposes of application and its execution.

8. Rules and Limits on expenditure eligibility

The present Notice does not provide for the eligibility of the expenditure referred to in points (d) and (e) of Article 32(1) of the RECI, and, in the case of non-SMEs, the expenditure referred to in point (c) of Article 32(1) of the same Regulation.

The present Notice likewise does not provide for the eligibility of any expenditure incurred prior to the date of application or the date of the request for aid, including feasibility studies.

For the purposes of Article 12(2) of the RECI, where the assets supported under the present Notice are encumbered for the purpose of obtaining bank financing, such encumbrance shall be authorised when shared with the respective Intermediate Bodies identified in point 19 of the present Notice.

For projects submitted by non-SMEs, expenditure related to the Marketing Innovation and Organisational Innovation typologies shall not be considered eligible, as set out in point 2. Nevertheless, such expenditure may contribute positively for the purposes of project selection, through the calculation of Project Merit – Criterion A.

Projects in the tourism and industry sectors (the sectoral scope of which is identified by CAE in Annex A) may include as eligible expenses the construction of buildings, renovation works, and other constructions in duly justified cases within the scope of the innovative activity incorporated in the project, provided they are acquired from third parties not related to the purchaser, with the following restrictions and limits:

- **For projects located in the Alentejo NUTS II region, the following limits apply:**
 - a) 60% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of tourism sector projects;
 - b) 40% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of industry sector projects.
- **For projects located in the Algarve NUTS II region, the following limits apply:**
 - a) 20% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of tourism sector projects;
 - b) 50% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of tourism sector projects that contribute to the development of the following products identified in the Algarve Strategic Marketing Plan: Gastronomy and wine, Touring, Health tourism, Nature tourism;
 - c) 50% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of industry sector projects;
 - d) 70% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of industry sector projects that fall within the scope of the Regional RIS 3 and contribute to the development of innovative solutions based on R&D results and the integration and convergence of new technologies and knowledge.
- **For projects located in the Lisbon NUTS II region, the following limits apply:**
 - a) 40% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of tourism sector projects that contribute to mitigating seasonality;
 - b) 30% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of nature, nautical, and sports tourism projects;
 - c) 45% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of tourism projects exclusively dedicated to health;
 - d) 20% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of industry sector projects that fall within the scope of the Regional RIS 3;

e) 30% of the total eligible expenditure of the project in the case of industry sector projects that fall within the scope of the Regional RIS 3 and contribute to the development of innovative solutions based on R&D results and the integration and convergence of new technologies and knowledge.

9. Selection criteria for applications

The calculation methodology for the selection and ranking of projects is based on the Project Merit (MP) indicator, determined by the following formula:

$$MP = 0,30A + 0,20B + 0,20C + 0,30D$$

where:

A = Project Quality;

B = Impact of the project on the company's competitiveness;

C = Contribution of the project to the economy;

D = Contribution of the project to regional convergence.

Together with this Notice, the Project Merit Analysis Framework is made available.

The scores for the criteria are assigned on a scale ranging from 1 to 5, with the MP result rounded to the nearest hundredth.

For selection purposes, projects that obtain a final MP score equal to or higher than 3.00 and the following minimum scores in the criteria are considered eligible and subject to ranking:

- Criterion A – 3.00 points;
- Criterion B – 2.00 points;
- Criterion C – 2.00 points;
- Criterion D – 2.00 points.

Projects are ranked in descending order based on the MP and by date (day/hour/minute/second) of the application submission, and selected up to the budget limit defined in Point 16 of this Notice, without prejudice to the said limit being reinforced by decision of the Managing Authority, thus setting the selection threshold for the call.

For the purposes of the provisions of point h) of Article 9 of the RECI and the definition of the selection threshold for the call, the higher representation of women in the management, administration, and executive bodies of the applicant company is used as a tie-breaking criterion between applications with the same score (MP), when necessary.

10. Limit on the number of applications

Under this Call for Applications, each applicant may only submit one application, with the exception of projects with investments located in the Lisbon and Algarve regions, where the company must submit a separate application for the investments located in each of those regions.

11. Financing rates for projects

Taking into account the provisions of Article 31 of the RECI, the financing rate for projects under this Notice is obtained from the sum of the following parts, base rate plus bonuses, up to a maximum limit of 75%:

a) Base Rate:

- i. For eligible investments equal to or higher than 15 million euros or promoted by Non-SME companies: 15 percentage points (p.p.);
- ii. For other situations: 35 p.p. for medium-sized companies and 45 p.p. for micro and small enterprises.

b) Bonuses:

- i. «Low Density» – 10 p.p. for projects located in low-density territories, under the terms defined in the resolution of the CIC Portugal 2020 on 12 September 2018 (Low Density Territories);
- ii. «Sectoral policy priorities»: 10 p.p. for SMEs with eligible investments of less than 15 million euros, to be granted to projects developing the project in the areas of Industry 4.0, where digital transformation will allow disruptive changes in business models, products, and production processes, circular economy, or energy transition (Sectoral Policy reference frameworks).
- iii. «Creation of qualified employment in new production units»: 5 p.p. to be granted to projects for the creation of new units generating the creation of qualified jobs (qualification equal to or higher than level 6 according to Administrative Rule No. 782/2009, of 23 July), granted when the following occurs:

<i>Net creation of highly qualified employment in the post-project period (No. of jobs)</i>	<i>Micro and Small Enterprise</i>	<i>Medium Enterprise</i>	<i>Large Company</i>
	<i>3 or + (*)</i>	<i>10 or + (*)</i>	<i>20 or + (*)</i>

() or more highly qualified jobs;*

- iv. «Female or youth entrepreneurship»: 10 p.p. to be granted to projects for new companies resulting from female or youth initiatives.

The incentives to be granted by the Lisbon and Algarve Regional OP, under this notice, are limited to a maximum rate of 40% and 60%, respectively.

12. Nature and limits of support

The total support obtained by applying the financing rate, calculated in accordance with point 11 (Financing rates for projects), to the eligible expenditure will be distributed into two autonomous components:

- a) 50% of the total value through a non-reimbursable incentive;
- b) 50% of the total value through a non-interest-bearing reimbursable incentive, subject to a repayment plan, under the terms of the conditions provided for in paragraph 2 of Article 30-B of the RECI.

In the case of projects by Non-SMEs or projects with eligible investment equal to or higher than 15 million euros, they do not benefit from the reimbursable incentive.

The non-reimbursable incentive component is granted on a non-definitive basis until the evaluation of the project results, depending on the degree of compliance with the contractually established targets, under the terms provided for in Annex D of the RECI, regarding the following indicators (identified in paragraph 4 of Annex D of the RECI):

- Indicator I1 - Gross Value Added (GVA);
- Indicator I2 - Creation of Qualified Employment (CQE);
- Indicator I3 - Turnover (T).

In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Annex D of the RECI, the following weightings are defined for each indicator:

- Indicator I1 – $\beta_1 = 0.40$;
- Indicator I2 – $\beta_2 = 0.30$;
- Indicator I3 – $\beta_3 = 0.30$.

13. Methods and procedures for the submission of applications

The submission of applications is carried out via "Balcão 2020", through an electronic form made available on the PT2020 Incentive System for companies platform, and cannot be altered after it has entered the analysis circuit.

To submit the application, it is essential that the beneficiary has registered and authenticated themselves at "Balcão 2020". With this authentication, a reserved area is created in which the beneficiary can rely on a set of features, regardless of the nature of the project, the Region, or the Operational Programme to which they intend to apply.

In this reserved area, the beneficiary must confirm and complete their entity characterisation data that will be used in their applications to Portugal 2020.

The application is submitted by the company through the PT2020 Incentive System for Companies platform, which will distribute it electronically among the various entities involved in the analysis.

Under this call, the period for submitting applications runs until **16 September 2019 (7:00 PM)**.

Beneficiaries who registered a request for aid through Call for Applications (AAC) No. 16/SI/2018 may submit an application using the registered project data. The project presented in the application must correspond to what was presented in the request for aid, without prejudice to justified and accepted changes.

With the publication of this Call for Applications, the receipt of requests for aid under AAC No. 16/SI/2018 is suspended for the territories covered by the Notice.

The Managing Authorities of the Operational Programmes may suspend the receipt of applications under this Notice at any time, through prior communication to be published in the locations defined in point 20, with a minimum notice of 3 working days in relation to the date established for the suspension.

14. Procedures for analysis and decision on applications

Applications are analysed and selected in accordance with the eligibility criteria and the selection criteria provided for in this Notice.

The reasoned decision on the funding to be allocated to the applications is issued by the Managing Authorities (MA) involved in the funding of the projects within **60 working days** from the closing date of the Notice.

The aforementioned period is suspended when any clarifications, information, or documents are requested from the applicant, which can only occur once. Failure by the applicant to provide the requested clarifications, information, or documents within **10 working days** will signify the withdrawal of the application.

The deadline for notification of the decision proposals is **20/12/2019**.

Applicants are heard in a prior hearing procedure (*audiência prévia*), under legal terms, being granted a maximum period of 10 working days to present any opposing allegations in opposition, counted from the date of notification of the decision proposal, namely regarding any intention of refusal and the respective grounds.

Annex B presents an illustrative flowchart on the procedures for analysis and decision on applications.

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, the holding of a prior hearing suspends the counting of the fixed period for the adoption of the final decision.

The decision proposals for applications regarding which opposing allegations have been presented are reassessed starting from the date the allegation is presented (said reassessment includes analysis, decision, and a new prior hearing, if applicable).

Unsupported projects which, as a result of this reassessment process, obtain an MP score that would have allowed their inclusion in the set of selected projects, will be considered selected and supported under the present call.

The final decision is notified by the MAs to the beneficiary within 5 working days from the date of its issuance.

With authentication at Balcão 2020 and after submission of the application form, the applicant is granted permission to access the Simplified Access Platform (PAS) through which they interact for the purposes of:

- a) Responding to requests for clarification;
- b) Communication of the withdrawal of the application, namely in the absence of a response to the request for clarification, information, or additional elements, when requested;
- c) Prior hearing regarding the decision proposal on the applications, namely the communication of the decision proposal and the submission of any opposing allegation;
- d) Communication of the MA's final decision on the applications;
- e) Consultation on the status of the projects and the beneficiary's history.

15. Acceptance of the decision

Acceptance of the decision to grant the incentive is made by signing the acceptance term, which is submitted electronically and authenticated pursuant to Article 11 of Decree-Law No. 159/2014, of 27 October.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 21 of Decree-Law No. 159/2014, the approval decision expires if the acceptance term is not signed within a maximum period of 30 working days from the date of notification of the decision, unless for a justified reason not attributable to the applicant.

16. Indicative endowment of the fund to be granted

The ERDF¹ Fund endowment allocated to this call is 42.5 million euros, corresponding to the following indicative endowment per Operational Programme (OP) and per Investment Priority (IP):

(thousands of euros)

Operational Programme	ERDF	ERDF	Total Budget Allocation
	IP 1.2 Productive Innovation Non-SME	IP 3.3 Productive Innovation SME	
<i>Lisbon Regional</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>7,500</i>	<i>10,000</i>
<i>Alentejo Regional</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>30,000</i>
<i>Algarve Regional</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>2,500</i>

¹ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

<i>Total</i>	<i>14,500</i>	<i>28,000</i>	<i>42,500</i>
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17. Identification of results to be achieved

The selection criteria A2 “Degree of innovation” and C1 “Complementary contribution of the project to the OP Results” contribute to the alignment of the project with the OP results.

Following this orientation towards results, the indicators provided for in point 12 of this Call for Applications are subject to contracting and monitoring.

18. Funding Operational Programmes

The intervention boundaries of the Operational Programmes funding the projects included in this call are determined as follows:

- a) In investments located in the Alentejo NUTS II region, projects with a total investment equal to or less than €5M are funded by the Managing Authority of the Alentejo Regional Operational Programme;
- b) Regardless of the size of the projects, projects with investments located in the Lisbon and Algarve NUTS II regions are funded by the respective Regional Operational Programmes.

19. Intermediate Bodies responsible for the analysis

Pursuant to Articles 36 and 37 of Decree-Law No. 137/2014, of 12 September, regarding the governance model of the ESIF, the entities designated by a delegation of powers contract that ensure the issuance of an opinion on applications within the scope of this Call for Applications are:

- a) **Portuguese Investment and External Trade Agency, E. P. E. (AICEP, E.P.E)**, for the projects provided for in point a) of paragraph 1 of Article 5 of its statutes, approved by Decree-Law No. 229/2012, of 26 October;
- b) **Turismo de Portugal, I. P.**, for tourism sector projects (as described in Annex A of this Notice);
- c) **Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, I. P. (IAPMEI, I. P.)**, for the remaining projects.

20. Dissemination of results and contact points

On the Portugal 2020 portal and the Simplified Access Platform (PAS), applicants have access to:

- a) Other relevant documents and information, namely framework legislation;
- b) Technical support and help with clarifying doubts during the period the call is open;
- c) Contact points to obtain additional information;
- d) The results of this call.

28 August 2019

Chairman of the Directive Committee of the Lisbon Regional OP

Fernando Ferreira

Chairman of the Directive Committee of the Alentejo Regional OP

Roberto Pereira Grilo

Chairman of the Directive Committee of the Algarve Regional OP

Francisco Serra

Annex A
Activities included in the industry and tourism sectors

Industry Sector: activities included in divisions 05 to 33 of the CAE (Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities).

Tourism Sector: activities included in divisions 55, 79, 90, 91, in groups 561, 563, 771, and activities falling within subclasses 77210, 82300, 93110, 93192, 93210, 93292, 93293, 93294, and 96040 of the CAE.

Annex B²

Structured Summary of the Illustrative Flowchart on Procedures for Analysis and Decision on Applications

Formal Summary of the Application Assessment and Decision Procedure

1. Submission Phase

- **Action:** Submission of the **Application Form**.
- **Key Date:** AAC Closing Date: **16/09/2019**.

2. Clarification Phase

- **Action:** Request for Clarifications.
- **Procedural Rule:** Once clarifications are requested, the applicant has a **10-day deadline** to respond.
- **Outcome if No Response:** The application is deemed withdrawn (**Withdrawal of application**).
- **Outcome if Received:** The process proceeds to the Intermediate Body (IB) opinion stage.

3. Analysis and Technical Opinion

- **Action:** The **Intermediate Body (IB)** issues a technical opinion on the application.
- **System Integration:** Data is integrated via the **SI Network Platform**.

4. Decision Phase

- **Action:** Issuance of the **Decision Proposal** by the **Managing Authority (MA)**.
- **Timeline:** Expected date for the communication of the decision proposal (including the period for additional clarification requests) is **20/12/2019**.

5. Prior Hearing (Audiência Prévia)

- **Action:** Notification and **Prior Hearing**.
- **Applicant Rights:** Candidates are heard in the procedure and granted a maximum period of **10 working days** to present any opposing allegations, counted from the date of notification of the decision proposal.

² For the avoidance of doubt, the information set out in Annex B constitutes a structured summary incorporating explanatory elements intended to facilitate analysis and interpretation. The original Portuguese version remains the authoritative reference for the full methodological framework.