

Notice of Call Opening

INVESTMENTS

RE-C05-i01.01 – Mobilising Agendas/Alliances for Reindustrialisation

RE-C05-i01.02 – Green Mobilising Agendas/Alliances for Business Innovation

NOTICE No. 01/C05-i01/2021

Call for Expressions of Interest for the Development of Projects under the Mobilising Agendas for Business Innovation

Ideas Competition

1 July 2021

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1. Context

The Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP) defines a set of investments and reforms that must contribute to the following dimensions: resilience, climate transition and digital transition. In this context, Component 5 – Business Capitalisation and Innovation, integrated within the Resilience dimension, aims to increase the competitiveness and resilience of the economy based on R&D, innovation, diversification and specialisation of the productive structure.

This Component includes the Mobilising Agendas for Business Innovation and the Green Agendas for Business Innovation, which differ solely in the domains of intervention of the projects to be promoted. Specifically, Green Agendas should foster the circular economy and leverage the development of new products, services and solutions, with high added value and incorporation of knowledge and technology, enabling responses to the green transition challenge towards environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality, in close alignment with the taxonomy for sustainable finance introduced by Regulation (EU) 2020/852 and with intervention field 022 – *Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between companies, focusing on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change*.

With the exception of the intervention domain, Mobilising Agendas and Green Agendas share all other regulatory aspects and are therefore implemented through a common procedure.

This **Call for the Submission of Ideas for the establishment of Mobilising Agendas or Green Agendas for Business Innovation, hereinafter referred to as Agendas**, aims, through an open and competitive consultation process in which all relevant business entities, scientific and technological system entities and public agencies may participate, to identify real investment opportunities and execution capacities, as well as innovation pacts and mobilising projects to be supported. From a perspective of mobilising new consortia, a new phase for the submission of ideas may be foreseen using the remaining allocation.

Following this selection process, **Calls for the submission of funding applications will be launched**, aiming at the conclusion of **programme contracts with the consortia that will promote the selected initiatives**.

This Call falls within the scope of [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021](#) and the [Portugal Recovery and Resilience Plan](#), Component 5 – Business Capitalization and Innovation.

1.1 Contributions to the General Objectives of the Plan

- Promote the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the Union: increase the level of disposable income in Portugal through an increase in potential output, together with the priority of creating qualified employment.
- Strengthen economic and social resilience: identify established and emerging industrial value chains, ensuring that the increase in Portugal's productive potential is underpinned by economic activities that increase exposure to higher value-added and higher-income segments of international value chains.
- Mitigate the social and economic impact of the crisis: support the creation of qualified employment, while simultaneously preparing the structural transformation of Portugal's productive capacity.

This Component directly contributes to four of the RRP pillars defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241:

Ecological Transition:

- Projects must contribute directly or indirectly to the green transition, biodiversity enhancement and environmental protection. Projects must fully respect the Do No Significant Harm principle and contribute to addressing the challenges of the European Green Deal, in particular the national energy and climate objectives set out in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (NECP 2030) and the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050 (RCN 2050), and to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, while ensuring a just transition.

Digital Transformation:

- The initiatives included within this component provide an opportunity to address the challenge of digital transformation, fostering the integration of digital technologies with the enhancement of R&D&I potential, strengthening the capacity-building of the scientific and technological system, and promoting greater interaction among its stakeholders, in particular businesses.

Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth:

- The projects leverage structural reforms in the Portuguese economic fabric, contributing to an increase in potential output and the creation of qualified jobs. Strengthening investment in science and technology, through research and innovation activities, has become even more relevant in the context of the current pandemic, constituting a key element in reinforcing the strategic autonomy of the Member States and of the European Union.

Economic Resilience:

- By virtue of its characteristics, the present Investment promotes key elements to ensure the fundamental conditions for economic prosperity, namely investment capacity and the capacity to integrate research processes with a view to harnessing innovation dynamics. Strengthening the strategic autonomy of the Member States and of the European Union is essential to enhancing

economic resilience and to reducing dependence on critical components or raw materials, as well as exposure to the risks of further disruptions in highly extended value chains.

1.2 Objectives of the Agendas

The Agendas aim to consolidate and expand the synergistic relationship between the business sector and the scientific and technological system in Portugal. The Agendas shall focus on enhancing the competitiveness and resilience of the Portuguese economy, based on research and development, innovation, and the diversification and specialization of the productive structure, by harnessing the effective potential for competitive positioning of established industrial value chains and emerging areas, thereby contributing to the twin digital and climate transitions and to the achievement of the national targets already defined. In particular, the Agendas must contribute effectively to Portugal achieving the following strategic objectives by 2030:

- a) To contribute to changing the specialization profile of the Portuguese economy, by fostering higher value-added and knowledge-intensive activities, oriented towards international markets and the creation of quality jobs. This entails supporting the consolidation or emergence of new innovative products, processes or services with greater technological complexity, reducing dependence on external markets and increasing the country's strategic autonomy;
- b) To increase exports of goods and services and contribute to European technological sovereignty, with the objective of achieving an export volume equivalent to 50 % of GDP by 2027 and 53 % of GDP by 2030, with a particular focus on improving the technological balance of payments;
- c) To increase investment in research and development, ensuring that it reaches 3 % of GDP by 2030, comprising 1.25 % public expenditure and 1.75 % private expenditure (in accordance with Communication COM(2020) 628 of 30 September 2020), compared with an estimated total of 1.4 % of GDP in 2019, with private expenditure accounting for approximately 55 % of the total. This corresponds to ensuring the creation of 25 000 new qualified jobs by 2030, tripling business R&D expenditure compared to 2020;
- d) To reduce CO₂ emissions by 55 % by 2030, in line both with a trajectory enabling carbon neutrality by 2050, in accordance with the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021–2030 (NECP 2030) and the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality, and with the definition of environmentally sustainable activities set out in Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of 18 June 2020, which establishes the framework for the promotion of sustainable investment and the taxonomy for sustainable finance.

2. Objectives and Priorities

2.1 Thematic Areas of the Agendas

As a result of the present process for the submission and selection of ideas, the initiatives to be supported will be identified, which must be aligned with the strategic priorities defined in the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (ENEI), combining the country's competitive and comparative advantages with those areas in which it has potential for growth.

In this context, the proposals to be submitted should, indicatively, fall within one or more of the following areas and their respective sub-areas:

➤ **CROSS-CUTTING TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**

- Energy
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Raw Materials and Materials

➤ **INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES**

- Production Technologies and Product Industries
- Production Technologies and Process Industries

➤ **MOBILITY, SPACE AND LOGISTICS**

- Automotive, Aeronautics and Space
- Transport, Mobility and Logistics

➤ **NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Agri-food
- Forestry
- Blue Economy
- Water and Environment

➤ **HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND TERRITORY**

- Health
- Tourism
- Cultural and Creative Industries (and Audiovisual)
- Habitat

Projects may also fall within other areas of activity, provided that their innovative nature is demonstrated within the framework of the current pattern of productive specialization in Portugal.

2.2 Geographical Area of Application

The projects to be supported must be implemented within national territory, and the entities forming part of the consortia must have a legally constituted establishment in any of the NUTS II regions.

2.3 Typology of Projects

The initiatives to be supported may fall within the following project typologies:

- **Innovation Pacts:**

Innovation Pacts are support programmes for collective initiatives carried out in cooperation by several entities and companies, with the capacity to bring about a structural transformation of the Portuguese productive fabric or that of a given region.

Support will be granted to research and development activities to be carried out by companies and by R&I institutions and, where necessary, to productive investment in business entities that materializes the production of new goods and services.

Projects must generate significant impacts on qualified and highly qualified employment and on the production of tradable goods and services, particularly in areas with growth potential and higher added value.

Innovation Pacts must additionally comply with the following specific conditions:

- Involving a minimum indicative investment amount of EUR 50 million;
- Being implemented by a Consortium preferably comprising a minimum of 10 entities, obligatorily including the participation of companies and non-business R&I entities (NBERIs), including at least one SME. In exceptional and duly justified cases, the participation of an SME may not be required;
- Being completed, with results achieved, by 31.12.2025.

- **Mobilising Projects of Innovation Agendas:**

Mobilising Projects of Innovation Agendas are investments promoted by industrial or service companies, in conjunction with R&I institutions, aimed at implementing the development and transfer of research and development activities and their transformation into new goods and services in the innovative strategic areas selected as targets under the agenda.

This type of project includes R&D activities to be carried out by companies and R&I institutions and, where necessary, the productive investment that materializes the production of new goods and services by business entities.

Initiatives of more specific interest to each entity, or of smaller scale, shall be supported through this instrument.

The Mobilising Projects must additionally comply with the following specific conditions:

- Involving an indicative investment amount exceeding EUR 20 million;
- Having a maximum duration of 36 months and being completed, with results achieved, by 31.12.2025.

3. Nature of the Investments to be Supported

3.1 Eligible Investment Typologies

The Agendas are intended to constitute an innovative line of action through a new approach that integrates a wide range of instruments and support measures designed to promote innovative production directly based on research and development (R&D), as a means of changing the economic profile of the Portuguese economy, by more directly combining knowledge, technology transfer and innovation for businesses. Through the Agendas, collaborative projects covering the entire innovation cycle will be implemented, from the R&D component, focused on high TRLs, through to market commercialization, with a clear focus on supporting technologically advanced production.

Accordingly, the following types of investment are eligible:

- Research, development and innovation projects, primarily focused on TRLs closer to the market, including technology transfer and demonstration processes, with a view to their market introduction;
- Productive investment projects that materialize the production of new goods and services, with a clear focus on supporting technologically advanced production by business investors;
- Projects for the qualification and internationalization of organizations, including support for the development of platforms and databases;
- Human resources capacity-building projects, including advanced training programmes;
- Projects for the dissemination and promotion of initiatives and of the products, processes or services developed within the scope of the Agendas.

3.2 Limits of support

Public support shall generally take the form of grants, under the conditions to be laid down in the programme contract to be concluded with the entities promoting the projects selected for support in Phase 2.

The support granted shall comply with EU State aid rules, in particular with the rules and limits laid down in the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 16 June 2014), which declares certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market. In the case of projects with integrated approaches, provided that they do not exceed the notification thresholds set out in Article 4 of the GBER, a mix of aid categories may be applied; accordingly, the reference framework for the funding rates of eligible expenditure shall be that resulting from the corresponding State aid framework in force. A summary of the maximum aid intensities by type of aid is set out in Annex I.

In exceptional cases, projects may exceed the thresholds referred to in the preceding paragraphs, subject to the approval by the European Commission of an individual notification of the aid to be granted.

3.3 Duration of projects and eligibility of expenditure

Expenditure associated with the selected projects shall be eligible from the date of submission of the proposal under the current Call for Expressions of Interest procedure.

The proposal must be submitted 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 obtaining permits and carrying out 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 permitted.

In order to ensure that the proposal meets the minimum aid application requirements set out in Article 6(2) of the GBER, it must include, for each undertaking:

- a) Name and size of the undertaking;
- b) Description of the project, including start and end dates;
- c) Location of the project;
- d) List of project costs;
- e) Type of aid and amount of public funding required for the project.

The milestones and final targets must be achieved by the deadline defined in the programme contract, with 31.12.2025 as the latest reference date.

The deadline for the submission of expenditure is 30.06.2026.

4. Structure of the proposals to be submitted

Proposals must be substantiated by Strategic Plans, containing a diagnosis of the structural transformation process they intend to promote in a given industrial macro-region and at national level.

The Strategic Plan to be submitted must include:

I. Identification of the Consortium and its members

- Identification of the lead company and co-promoters, as well as their synergies and contributions;
- Identification of the consortium governance model.

II. Identification of the Activity Plan, which must include:

- Business projects to be developed and their contribution to the major objectives of improving the economic specialization profile, resilience, digital transition and green transition;
- R&I projects associated with the business projects and their contribution to the respective Agenda;
- Scientific and technological capacity-building projects to be developed, together with the valorization and dissemination of knowledge across different disciplinary areas;
- Human resources capacity-building projects to be developed and their contribution to the development of multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary skills.

III. Proposed targets, which must contribute to enabling Portugal to achieve the strategic targets defined up to 2030 in terms of exports of goods and services, R&D investment and reduction of CO₂ emissions, including the identification of:

- Indicators of the project's impact on changing the specialization profile of the Portuguese economy;
- Indicators of the project's impact on the national or regional economy (investment multiplier effect) and on the competitiveness and productivity of the sector or cluster;
- Indicators of the project's impact on the production of tradable goods and services in the sector or country, as well as on reducing dependence on the domestic market in relation to external markets;
- Indicators of the project's impact on the main value chain or secondary value chains in which the project is integrated;
- Indicators of the project's contribution to the upskilling of human resources;
- Indicators of the creation of new knowledge and its dissemination;
- Indicators of the project's contribution to carbon neutrality;
- Indicators of job creation, direct and indirect, by qualification level;
- Other performance indicators and targets to be achieved, relevant to the project concerned.

IV. Specific conditions and monitoring system, including:

- Project implementation schedule;
- Indicative budget associated with the planned activities, including R&D and advanced and specialized training;
- Human resources involved, by qualification level.

V. Economic and financial assessment of the projects and of the promoting entities involved.

5. Eligible entities and consortium organisation

The consortia to be established, including innovation consortia – “Industrial Development Companies (SDI)”, must present their respective governance and coordination model and may, namely, follow the terms provided for consortium agreements as set out in Decree-Law No 231/81 of 28 July.

Any eligible entity, as defined below, may participate in more than one consortium, provided that its technical and financial capacity is demonstrated.

5.1 Entities eligible to participate in consortia:

- Companies, of any size or legal form;
- Non-business R&I System entities (NBERIs);
- Managing entities of Competitiveness Clusters;
- Public administration entities;
- Business associations or other associations relevant to the project’s field of activity.

5.2 Specific rules on consortium organisation

- Consortia must be obligatorily led by a company;

- Consortia must take the form of a “full consortium”¹, integrating companies that act as technology takers, i.e. those that will place it on the market, and must include a final user (end-user) of the technology;
- In the case of Innovation Pacts, consortia must obligatorily include an SME, given the desirable spillover effects generated in the economy.
- Exceptionally, consortia that do not include an SME may be accepted in duly justified cases and subject to approval during proposal evaluation;
- Business entities must assume a majority share within the consortium.

6. Procedures for the Submission of Ideas

- Proposals must be submitted via the electronic form available in the PT2020 Incentive System Network Information System (<https://pas.compete2020.gov.pt>);
- A Technical Annex incorporating the project description, with a maximum length of 25 pages, may be submitted (by upload);
- A letter of intent/declaration from the entities that will form part of the consortium must also be submitted (by upload);
- The deadline for proposal submission is 30.09.2021.

7. Admission, Analysis and Decision of Proposals

7.1 Agenda Coordination Committee and its responsibilities

- The admission, analysis and selection of proposals shall be ensured by the Agenda Coordination Committee (CCA), which comprises the following entities: IAPMEI – Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, I.P. (IAPMEI); National Innovation Agency, S.A. (ANI); Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade of Portugal, E.P.E. (AICEP); Managing Authority of the Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalization (COMPETE 2020); and Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT);
- The CCA evaluates and decides on the proposals submitted, taking into account the objectives established for the Agendas and the Selection Criteria defined in Point 7.2;

¹ Including the participation of business entities in the critical phases of the value chain of the products or processes targeted by the project, as a necessary condition for the effective exploitation of the results of R&D projects.

- The CCA is also responsible for promoting the articulation and compatibility of any competing and/or complementary proposals, either prior to or during the selection process, with a view to achieving broader objectives for the consortium to be established.

7.2 Admission and Selection Process for Ideas

- Only proposals that comply with the conditions defined in Points 2.3 (Project typologies) and 5.2 (Consortium composition) shall be admissible;
- Only proposals that ensure compliance with the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle shall be admissible, excluding activities that cause significant harm to any environmental objective within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU Taxonomy Regulation), in accordance with the list of excluded activities set out in Annex II;
- Proposals shall be evaluated on the basis of the identified selection criteria, according to the following scale:
 - Weak – Score 1: the proposal does not address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to incomplete information or significant gaps and shortcomings;
 - Reasonable – Score 3: the proposal addresses the criterion, but some minor gaps and shortcomings are identified;
 - Very Good – Score 5: the proposal addresses the criterion in a comprehensive manner.
- Proposals shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:
 - i. Degree of innovation or differentiation: assesses the degree of innovation of the proposal²² in introducing new products (goods or services) or new or significantly improved processes, in work organization or in the company's external relations, addressing duly identified real problems, and whether the products, services and processes to be developed have the potential to contribute positively to the growth of the companies participating in the consortium and to strengthening internal R&D and innovation capacities;
 - ii. Impact of the project on business competitiveness and on changing the country's productive specialization profile: assesses the potential effects on the results of the companies participating in the consortium and the subsequent effects on economic competitiveness, namely by promoting a shift in the current productive profile towards more technology- and knowledge-intensive activities and a more advantageous integration into the value chain.

² As defined in the Oslo Manual (Eurostat; OECD, 2005).

Contributions to the strategic objectives defined above and articulation with the remaining RRP domains (namely gender equality and equal opportunities for all), effects in terms of knowledge diffusion and dissemination, capacity for specialized and advanced training of human resources, and the ability to induce a structural change in the sector or cluster (multiplier effect) shall be valued;

- iii. Potential impact on the region in which the project is developed: assesses whether the actions and investments included in the project have an impact on the regions, in particular less developed regions and low-density territories, promoting territorial cohesion and benefiting the economy of those regions;
- iv. Investment leverage capacity: assesses the capacity of the investment to leverage other sources of co-financing, public and private, national and European, including synergies with other RRP programmes, as well as other national and EU funding programmes;
- v. Potential for economic valorization of innovation and scalability: assesses the level of development of the R&D component of the proposal and the potential impact of technology transfer on the national economic fabric, additionally analyzing the level of technological maturity and the possibility of rapid diffusion among the various consortium actors and/or impact across the entire value chain;
- vi. Contribution of the project to carbon neutrality and energy resilience, namely through its contribution to the European Flagship Initiatives under the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy³³, in particular with regard to strengthening energy capacity (clean technologies and accelerating the development and use of renewable energy, as well as their integration through modernized and more interconnected networks), building renovation to promote energy efficiency, and recharging and refueling infrastructure to promote sustainable transport;
- vii. Quality of the consortium in terms of the promoters' competencies in relation to the project's objectives and the consortium governance model: assesses whether the project allows for greater complementarity of competencies, risk-sharing, the involvement of elements with management expertise and key technological competences for the project, including broad participation across the value chain, as well as the clarity of the consortium governance model, execution track record and degree of involvement in the proposed activities;
- viii. Economic and financial viability of the projects and of the applicants: assesses the financing capacity of the entities comprising the consortium, in particular their ability to cover the private contribution required by the project, as well as the future profitability of the investments.

³³ Communication COM(2020) 575 of 17 November.

- Proposals shall be assessed on the basis of the evaluation of the criteria described above and their respective weighting;
- The analysis of applications may include a presentation and discussion session of the proposals;
- For selection purposes, proposals that have obtained a classification equal to or higher than “Reasonable” in all defined criteria shall be considered eligible;
- In the case of Green Agendas, proposals must additionally have obtained a classification equal to “Very Good” in criterion vi. Contribution of the project to carbon neutrality and energy resilience;
- Proposals shall be decided upon by the CCA within 60 calendar days from the deadline set out in Point 6;
- The selection of applications shall take into account their ranking position, with the maximum number of applications to be approved reflecting a balance in terms of the number of projects per thematic area and the available funding, in compliance with the allocations by typology indicated in Point 8;
- Any matters not specified in the present Call shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Code.

7.3 Submission of Projects and Contracting of Support

The ideas selected under the present Call for Expressions of Interest shall be invited to submit final proposals.

The assessment of final proposals and the allocation of the respective funding shall be proposed by the CCA and decided by a jury composed of national and international personalities of recognised merit and competence.

The selected projects shall be subject to an investment contract to be concluded between IAPMEI, I.P. and the promoting Consortium, the negotiation of which shall be ensured by the CCA.

8. Indicative allocation of the fund to be granted

The allocation assigned to the present call, in the non-repayable incentive component, amounts to EUR 930 million, corresponding to the following indicative allocation by measure:

- EUR 558 million for the Mobilizing Agendas for Business Innovation;
- EUR 372 million for the Green Agendas for Business Innovation.

9. Personal data processing

All personal data shall be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of 25 May 2018 and the Personal Data Protection Law – Law No 67/98 of 26 October, as amended.

10. Publication of results and contact points

Access to information and clarifications may be obtained through:

- [RRP Applications \(recuperarportugal.gov.pt\)](https://recuperarportugal.gov.pt);
- [IAPMEI – Recovery and Resilience Plan](#);
- e-mail: info@iapmei.pt;
- IAPMEI Blue Line at 808 201 201 or 213 836 237.

ANNEX I

Aid category	Eligible costs (under certain conditions)	Maximum aid intensities (Gross Grant Equivalent)
Regional investment aid (GBER) • Article 14 (regional investment aid) • Article 15 (regional operating aid)	Article 14: a) Investment costs in tangible and intangible assets; b) Estimated wage costs arising from job creation resulting from an initial investment, calculated over a two-year period; or c) A combination of points (a) and (b), not exceeding the higher of those amounts. Article 15: a) Additional transport costs of goods produced or reprocessed in assisted areas; b) Additional operating costs (excluding transport) incurred in outermost regions due to permanent disadvantages referred to in Article 349 TFEU.	Regional Aid Map 2021–2027 in force until 31/12/2027, support rates (*) for non-SMEs: • North, Centre and Alentejo: 30% • Autonomous Region of the Azores: 50% Autonomous Region of Madeira: 40% • Non-predefined ‘c’ regions (to be designated by the Member State): 15% or 10% (*) These rates may be increased (provided that the aid intensity for non-SMEs in the region concerned does not exceed 70%) by 10 percentage points in territories identified to benefit from support under the Just Transition Fund within the framework of a territorial just transition plan of a Member State approved by the Commission, and by 5 percentage points for NUTS 3 regions that recorded a population decline of more than 10% during the period 2009–2018. Bonuses: Medium-sized enterprises: 10% Small enterprises: 20% (only for projects with eligible expenditure ≤ EUR 50 million) For Large Projects – investments with eligible expenditure > EUR 50 million – these limits are subject to an adjustment in accordance with point 19(3) of the Guidelines on regional State aid for the period 2021–2027.
Investment aid for SMEs (GBER) • Article 17	a) Investment costs in tangible and intangible assets; b) Estimate wage costs of employment directly created by the investment project, calculate for a two-year period.	Maximum support rate: • Small enterprises: 20 % • Medium-sized enterprises: 10 %

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Aid category	Eligible costs (under certain conditions)	Maximum aid intensities (Gross Grant Equivalent)
Consultancy aid for SMEs (GBER) • Article 18	Costs of consultancy services provided by external consultants.	Maximum aid intensity: • SMEs: 50 %
Aid for SMEs' participation in fairs (GBER) • Article 19	Costs incurred for the rental, construction and operation of the stand when participating in a trade fair or exhibition.	Maximum aid intensity: • SMEs: 50 %
Aid for cooperation costs incurred by SMEs in European Territorial Cooperation projects (GBER) • Article 20	a) Organisational cooperation costs, including personnel and office costs, insofar as they are related to the cooperation project; b) Costs of advisory and support services related to cooperation and provided by external consultants and service providers; c) Travel expenses, equipment costs and investment expenditure directly related to the project, as well as the depreciation of tools and equipment used directly in the project.	Maximum aid intensity: • SMEs: 50 %
Aid for research and development projects (GBER) • Article 25	a) Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff, to the extent that they are employed on the project; b) Costs of instruments and equipment, to the extent and for the period during which they are used for the project; c) Costs of buildings and land, to the extent and for the period during which they are used for the project; d) Costs of contract research, knowledge and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under arm's length conditions, as well as consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project; e) Overheads and other additional operating expenses, including in particular costs of materials, supplies and similar products,	Base aid intensity: • Basic research: 100 % • Experimental development: 25 % • Industrial research & feasibility: 50 % Bonuses: • Only for industrial research and experimental development: Medium-sized enterprises 10% and small enterprises 20% Effective collaboration or wide dissemination: 15% (up to a maximum aid intensity of 80%) • Only for feasibility studies: Medium-sized enterprises 10% and small enterprises 20%

Aid category	Eligible costs (under certain conditions)	Maximum aid intensities (Gross Grant Equivalent)
Aid for innovation clusters (GBER) • Article 27	- Investment aid for the construction or upgrading of innovation clusters: investment costs in tangible and intangible assets; - Operating aid for innovation clusters shall cover personnel and administrative costs (including overheads) related to the following activities: a) Cluster animation to facilitate collaboration, information sharing, and the provision or channelling of specialised and customised business support services; b) Marketing operations of the cluster, with a view to increasing the participation of new undertakings or organisations, as well as enhancing their visibility; c) Management of cluster facilities; organisation of training programmes, seminars and conferences, with a view to supporting knowledge sharing and networking, as well as transnational cooperation	Maximum aid intensity: 50 % Bonuses: +15 % for innovation cluster in the Regions North, Centre, Alentejo, Madeira, Azores; <i>or</i> +5 % in Regions Algarve, Setúbal Peninsula and parts/municipalities of Greater Lisbon.
Innovation aid for SMEs (GBER) • Article 28	a) Costs of obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets; b) Costs relating to the secondment of highly qualified personnel from a research and knowledge-dissemination organisation, or from a large enterprise, who are assigned to research, development and innovation tasks within the framework of a newly created function in the beneficiary undertaking and who do not replace other staff members; c) Costs of innovation advisory services and innovation support services.	Maximum aid intensity: SMEs: 50 % In the specific case of aid for innovation advisory services and innovation support services, the aid intensity may be increased up to 100%, provided that the total amount of aid for such services does not exceed EUR 200 000 per undertaking over a three-year period.
Process and organisational innovation aid (GBER) • Article 29	a) Personnel costs; b) Costs of instruments, equipment, buildings and land, to the extent and for the period during which they are used in the project and throughout its implementation;	Maximum aid intensity: 50% for SMEs 15% for non-SMEs cooperating with SMEs (SMEs must bear at least 30% of the total eligible costs)

Aid category	Eligible costs (under certain conditions)	Maximum aid intensities (Gross Grant Equivalent)
	c) Costs of contract research, knowledge and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under normal competitive conditions; d) Additional overheads and other operating costs, including in particular costs of materials, supplies and similar products, which are incurred directly as a result of the project.	
Training aid (GBER) • Article 31	a) Personnel costs relating to trainers, for the hours during which the trainers participate in the training; b) Operating costs relating to trainers and trainees directly related to the training project, such as travel expenses, materials and supplies directly related to the project, and depreciation of tools and equipment, to the extent that they are used exclusively for the training project concerned. Accommodation costs are excluded, except for the minimum accommodation costs necessary for trainees who are workers with disabilities; c) Costs of consultancy services associated with the training project; d) Personnel costs relating to trainees and general indirect costs (administrative costs, rents, overheads) in relation to the total number of hours during which the trainees participate in the training.	Maximum aid intensity: 50 % Bonuses: • +10 % for disadvantaged or disabled workers; • +10 % for medium enterprises or 20 % for small enterprises (maximum aid intensity of 70 %). Where aid is granted in the maritime transport sector, the aid intensity may reach 100%, provided that the trainees are not active crew members but are supernumeraries on board, and that the training is carried out on board vessels registered in Union registers.
De minimis aid (Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013)	Other costs not covered by the GBER categories above.	Maximum ceiling of EUR 200 000 over a three-year period per single undertaking. In the case of a single undertaking carrying out road freight transport for hire or reward, the maximum aid amount is EUR 100 000 over a three-year period.

ANNEX II

Exclusion list for simplified DNSH

Climate change mitigation:

- Investments related to fossil fuels (including downstream use), except for gas-based heating/energy, in compliance with the conditions set out in Annex III to the DNSH guidance (European Commission Communication No C(2021) 1054 of 12 February 2021);
- Activities under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) with projected CO₂-equivalent emissions that are not substantially lower than the relevant benchmarks established for free allocation.

Circular economy:

Investments in facilities for waste disposal in landfills, in mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities, and in incinerators for waste treatment.

This exclusion does not apply to investments in:

- Facilities exclusively dedicated to the treatment of non-recyclable hazardous waste;
- Existing facilities, where the investment is aimed at increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use, or recovering materials from incineration ashes, provided that such investments do not result in an increase in the waste processing capacity of the facilities nor in an extension of their operational lifetime.
- Activities where long-term waste disposal may cause long-term harm to the environment (for example, nuclear waste).

For both objectives:

R&D&I dedicated to the assets and activities referred to above.

