

Fact sheet

Goal	Investment Support
Program/ Incentive ID	Competir + Subsystem of Incentives for Business Efficiency
Purpose	To aid the implementation of projects developed in one of the following types: a) Collective business efficiency actions b) Cluster development
Promotors	The following entities may benefit from this subsystem: a) Public entities with specific competences in public policy issues affecting the business sector; b) Business associations, local development associations and entities of the Azores Science and Technology System acting in the private business sector; c) Clusters developed under these regulations in the legal form of non-profit associations resulting from associations of independent entrepreneurs, limited liability companies, commercial enterprises, cooperatives and complementary groups of companies, as well as promoters specified in a) and b).
Description	<u>Definitions</u> For the purposes of this regulation, the following definitions shall apply: a) 'Collective business efficiency actions' – coherent and strategically justified set of initiatives integrated into a plan of action sustained in a strategic vision and aimed at innovation, qualification or modernization of a group of companies with a spatial implementation of regional or local expression, designed to foster the emergence of economies of agglomeration in a structured way, namely through cooperation and networking between companies or between companies and other agents relevant to the development of the respective sectors and locations. Such actions correspond to initiatives responding to shared risks and opportunities, the results of which translate into positive build-up and externalities; b) 'Cluster development' refers to initiatives which:

	<p>i) Aim to streamline and boost collective projects in common or in cooperation between companies and supporting entities, such as business associations, entities of the Azores Science and Technology System (SCTA), universities, regional and local administration services, regional development entities and local development associations, stimulating a new approach to creativity and innovation based on sharing and multiplying outcomes generated by merging several different competences;</p> <p>ii) Develop professional qualification, general R&DI framework, joint marketing and regional promotion, dissemination of technical information and markets, especially international, specialized consulting services and facilitating trade cooperation in terms of sale and purchase platforms;</p> <p>iii) Must be promoted by a partnership necessarily involving supporting companies and/or entities relevant for the consolidation of the cluster and the framework of the partnership, locally or regionally based and with a medium/long-term timeline, demonstrating the engagement of several different agents.</p> <p>Business Efficiency Actions</p> <p><u>Project types</u></p> <p>The following project types are eligible to receive support within the scope of the collective business efficiency actions:</p> <p>a) Information, business intelligence and prospective and strategic outlook, including business diagnostic and evaluation tools;</p> <p>b) Creation and promotion of business support networks;</p> <p>c) Awareness raising actions regarding critical factors of competitiveness and entrepreneurship;</p> <p>d) Market research, including technology and opportunities for innovation;</p> <p>e) Partnership coordination and management activities within the scope of collective business efficiency actions;</p> <p>f) Promotion, facilitation and incentive to access all community co-funding programs.</p>
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	<p><u>Eligible expenditure</u></p> <p>For projects developed within the scope of the collective business efficiency actions, among other expenditure, the following are eligible:</p> <p>a) Studies, research and diagnoses directly related to the project design, implementation and evaluation, up to a maximum of 5% of the eligible investment;</p> <p>b) Technical, scientific and consulting services, whenever required for the project and in specialized areas beyond the stakeholders' expertise;</p> <p>c) Costs associated with the promotion and dissemination of the project and related activities;</p> <p>d) Costs with the implementation of awareness-raising actions, information sessions and demonstrations, including calls for tender and respective awards;</p> <p>e) Payroll expenses related to the new jobs created through the development of the investment, considering for that purpose the gross salary before taxes and compulsory social security contributions over a two-year period with a monthly maximum amount per employee corresponding to: 4 times the regional minimum wage, if the job is filled by a PhD; 3 times the regional minimum wage, if the job is filled by a first degree graduate; and 1.5 times the regional minimum wage, if the job is filled by an undergraduate.</p> <p>Cluster development</p> <p><u>Project types</u></p> <p>With regard to cluster development, the following sectors are eligible to receive aids:</p> <p>a) Agriculture & Food industry</p> <p>b) Tourism</p> <p>c) Economy of the sea</p> <p>d) Forest-based industry</p> <p>e) Digital economy</p>
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	<p>f) Health and well-being</p> <p>g) Renewable energy</p> <p>h) Creative industries</p> <p><u>Eligible expenditure</u></p> <p>For projects developed within the scope of cluster development, among other costs, the following are considered eligible:</p> <p>a) Expenses with founding the entity promoting the cluster;</p> <p>b) Remodeling facilities;</p> <p>c) Administrative and computer equipment;</p> <p>d) Studies, technical assistance and marketing plans;</p> <p>e) Network animation and coordination activities;</p> <p>f) Payroll expenses related to the new jobs created through the development of the investment, considering for that purpose the gross salary before taxes and compulsory social security contributions over a two-year period with a monthly maximum amount per employee corresponding to: 4 times the regional minimum wage, if the job is filled by a PhD; 3 times the regional minimum wage, if the job is filled by a first degree graduate; and 1.5 times the regional minimum wage, if the job is filled by an undergraduate.</p>
Nature and amount of incentive	<p>Incentives granted for eligible costs of collective business efficiency action projects are non-refundable incentives corresponding to a rate of 85%, up to a maximum of €200,000.</p> <p>Incentives granted for eligible costs of cluster development projects are non-refundable incentives corresponding to a rate of 85%, up to a maximum of €200,000. Given the pertinence of the continuity of a given cluster development project, the aids may be marked up by 10%, if so decided, based on the interim evaluation mentioned in the regulations referring to this Subsystem of Incentives.</p>
Application period	Closed.

Notes	Reading the previous information does not substitute or dismisses the knowledge of the regulation of this incentive system. (Competir + and respective subsystem).
Entity in charge	Regional Directorate for the Support of Investment and Competitiveness