

To the Clients:

Subject: Publication of the "Sicily Tourism Call", to enhance the quality of accommodation facilities in Sicily - Development and Cohesion Fund 2021-2027.

The Sicilian Region, through the Regional Department of Tourism, Sport and Entertainment, has approved an important program of economic incentives aimed at strengthening and redeveloping the regional tourism sector.

In particular, the **Sicily 2025 Tourism Call**, financed with funds from the FSC 2021-2027 Program, has a total sum of 135 million euros and is intended as a key tool to improve the competitiveness and attractiveness of the island's accommodation offer, through non-repayable fundings.

Specifically, the D.D.G. no. 2106/S11 of 25th June 2025, addressed **135 million euros** to companies in the tourism-accommodation sector, with the aim of improving the quality of the Sicilian tourist offer, making it more competitive, sustainable and innovative.

In fact, this initiative is part of the larger strategic plan promoted by the Sicilian Region to raise the standards of the tourist offer and support businesses in adapting to the new needs of the market, while promoting sustainable and inclusive development models.

Purpose of the call

The call aims to encourage the **modernization** of existing accommodation facilities and promote the start of new accommodation activities through:

- the building and functional redevelopment of the structures;
- adaptation to quality and regulatory standards;
- the adoption of digital and green solutions;
- the improvement of accessibility and usability of services by all consumers, including people with disabilities.



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Beneficiaries and requirements

The call is addressed to:

- **micro, small, medium and large enterprises** with operational or registered office in Sicily;
- **sole proprietorships or companies**, including those established in cooperative or consortium form, active in the sectors identified by **ATECO code 55** (accommodation, hotels, bed and breakfasts, hostels, campsites, holiday homes, lodges, tourist villages, guest houses, etc.);
- companies already established or to be established, if they meet the requirements set out in the call.

In addition, among the main requirements necessary to access the funding, it is essential that the beneficiary owns an accommodation facility, whether hotel or non-hotel, located in Sicily and that the company is registered on the Business Register, as an additional condition for being able to submit the funding application.

Types of intervention allowed

Projects involving the expansion, modernization or renovation of existing structures *are eligible for funding*, including actions aimed at the reactivation of these buildings, which may include extraordinary maintenance works, structural consolidation, demolition and subsequent reconstruction, always in compliance with the regulations provided for by the urban planning tools of the Municipality.

In addition, projects for the *construction of new structures or activities*, which involve the transformation of existing buildings, with a change of intended use, allocating them to accommodation facilities, both hotel and non-hotel, can be financed.

Another type of eligible project concerns *the physical or functional recovery*, as well as the completion of buildings or tourist or accommodation facilities, which have been legitimately started but not yet completed.

In addition, the investments, referred to in the previous points may also include interventions intended for the creation of "*functional services*", i.e. those services necessary for business activity, provided that these services do not become prevalent with respect to the main activity for which the funding application is submitted.



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It is essential that these ancillary services are *closely linked to the main activity* and aimed at improving the overall quality of the service that the company intends to offer.

Eligible expenses

The eligible expenses for the subsidy include those incurred from the submission of the application until the end of the project, if they are strictly necessary for the intervention and comply with Presidential Decree no. 22/2018 and art. 14 of Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014.

They must relate to fixed assets, pursuant to art. 2423 et seq. of the Italian Civil Code and comply with the accounting standard OIC 16. These expenses include various types of interventions, each with specific spending limits. In particular, the following are eligible:

1. **expenses for specialist consultancy**, economic-financial feasibility studies, and for obtaining environmental quality certifications or energy performance certificates according to internationally recognized standards and methodologies, with a maximum limit of 2% of the eligible investment;
2. **expenses for costs relating to design, construction management, testing and verification**, which can cover up to 4% of the eligible investment;
3. **expenses for the purchase of company land, buildings, real estates or structures previously intended for tourist activities (hotel and non-hotel)**, as well as demolition, reconstruction and renovation of existing structures, extensions, modernizations, completion works, extraordinary maintenance and/or consolidation. In this case, the maximum eligible amount is 70% of the investment, with a limit of 30% for the purchase of land, buildings or real estate or structures already previously used for hotel or non-hotel tourism activities;
4. **expenses for the purchase of computer programs**, which cannot exceed 20% of the eligible investment;
5. **expenditure on the purchase of new machinery, plant, furniture and fittings and brand-new miscellaneous equipment and materials.**



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Important to underline, **specialist consultations** are not eligible for **large companies**.

In addition, as regards structures **previously intended for tourist-hotel activities**, these must have been decommissioned for at least five years to be considered eligible.

It is essential that the movable assets are new from the factory, used exclusively for the company's activity and located in the regional territory.

In addition, the goods and services purchased must be obtained at market conditions, from suppliers who are not in any control, connection or association relationship referred to in art. 2359 of the Civil Code and the Ministry of Productive Activities Decree of 18 April 2005, with the beneficiary in the 24 months prior to the application.

Provided concessions

The contribution will be **non-repayable**, with different intensities depending on the size of the company and the chosen regime:

1. **"De minimis" regime**, pursuant to Reg. (EU) No. 2831/2023:
 - a) Contribution of up to **80% of eligible expenses**, with a maximum ceiling of **€ 300.000,00** per company (over three years). The requested and granted contribution must in any case be between a minimum of € 50.000,00 and a maximum of € 300.000,00.
2. **"GBER" (State aid) scheme**, according to which the maximum amount of the granted contribution is € 3.500.000,00:
 - a) **Up to 60%** of eligible expenses for micro and small enterprises (MPIs);
 - b) **Up to 50%** of eligible expenses for medium-sized enterprises;
 - c) **Up to 40%** of eligible expenses for large companies.

The contribution can vary from a **minimum of € 50.000 to a maximum of € 3.500.000** per single beneficiary and cannot be combined with other regional, national or EU public funding requested for the same eligible expenses.



Terms and procedures for submitting the application

Applications can only be submitted **electronically**, subject to payment of the relevant stamp duty, pursuant to the law (in the amount of € 16,00), through the IRFIS platform (<https://incentivisicilia.irfis.it>), managed by IRFIS-Fin Sicilia, **from 12:00 pm on 15th July 2025 until 5:00 pm on 15th October 2025.**

Each company can **submit only one application**: only the last one sent in chronological order by the deadline will be considered valid.

The selection will be made through a ranking evaluation procedure, with priority given to projects that require fewer contributions with the same score. **Particular attention will be given to projects that aim to enhance the territory without new land consumption, in compliance with sustainability and current urban planning regulations.**

Two separate rankings will be drawn up, one for each of the planned aid schemes, i.e. EU Regulation No. 651/2014 and EU Regulation No. 2023/2831. In the ranking for the exempted scheme, 70% of the available places will be reserved.

Pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 3, of Legislative Decree no. 123/1998, the beneficiary companies are entitled to the benefits exclusively within the limits of the financial resources referred to in Article 8, without prejudice to any subsequent further allocation of financial resources for the implementation of the intervention governed by the mentioned Notice.

Documentation to be transmitted

The documentation, referred to in paragraph 2, must be submitted exclusively in accordance with the standards made available by Irfis and must contain penalty the non-attribution of the related scores:

- a) a declaration in lieu of affidavit, included in the same application;
- b) a technical report sworn by a qualified professional certifying:



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- b.1) the calculation of the employment impact index (AWU) in the full year, understood as the number of employees for inactive companies and an increase compared to the year preceding the submission of the funding application for active companies, in relation to the planned investments. This index is calculated according to the data contained in the funding application;
 - b.2) the calculation of the ratio between the total cost of the investment and the value of tangible and intangible fixed assets is carried out according to the data contained in the funding application;
 - b.3) the calculation of the indices of the economic results expected from the expenditure program, drawn up according to the format made available on the website, referred to in paragraph 2, shall be carried out according to the data contained in the funding application.
- c) a *sworn technical report*, drawn up by a qualified technician, certifying:
- c.1) the type of property subject to investment, any classification of the same as a prestigious property or an asset of historical-architectural interest pursuant to art. 13 or referred to in art. 134 of Legislative Decree no. 42/2004, or those existing in the areas indicated in the same art. 134;
 - c.2) the value of the cost items making up the expenditure program supported by estimates drawn up by companies qualified to supply the goods and/or services;
 - c.3) the type of work concerning the interventions aimed at energy efficiency and consumption savings for the entire accommodation facility;
 - c.4) the possible location of the project intervention in rural areas and/or on the smaller Sicilian islands and/or in areas with marginal accommodation.

In the application, the candidate must specify the type of aid scheme chosen.

In the event of the submission of **several applications** for subsidies by the same company, only the last one submitted will be taken into consideration, with the consequent forfeiture of those previously submitted.

In any case, the disbursement of the contribution will take place after verification by Irfis of the certification of regularity of contributions (DURC) and the anti-mafia documentation, as well as



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any other verification required by reference legislation based on the progress of the activity plan and/or the project admitted to the facilities.

Timing of implementation

Approved projects must be **implemented within 24 months** from the date of notification of the funding award decision. It is possible to request an extension to the conclusion of the investment, within the timeframe stipulated in Article 19 below, up to a maximum of six months.

In any case, the plan must be completed **no later than 30th September 2028.**

It is also required that the financed accommodation activity remain active for at least five years, otherwise the funding will be revoked.

To conclude, this measure represents a great opportunity to relaunch Sicily's tourism offer, especially in view of the new market challenges, which reward modern and sustainable facilities, and are focused on customer experience.

9th July 2025

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