

To the clients:

Subject: Non-repayable grants of up to 80% for the digitalisation of Sicilian companies.

With the Decree of the Director General no. 2175 of 05/08/2025, the Department of Productive Activities of the Sicilian Region approved the Public Notice **DIGIT IMPRESE "Support for the digitalization of companies and system actions for digital" - Scope 1 "Support for digital transition in companies"** in implementation of the PR ERDF Sicily 2021/2027 to allow citizens, companies, research organizations and public authorities to reap the benefits of digitization.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and their aggregations, in possession of the requirements set out in the Notice and **already established and operational for at least 1 year, can apply for access to the facilities**, as Proponents.

Freelancers (without any distinction between their registration in a register or not) are also included as small and medium-sized enterprises as carrying out economic activities, regardless of the legal form covered according to the provisions of Art. 1 paragraph 821 of Law 28 December 2015, no. 208 – Stability Law.

A **micro-enterprise** is defined as an enterprise that employs less than 10 people and that achieves an annual turnover and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 2 million euros.

A **small enterprise** is defined as an enterprise that employs less than 50 people and that achieves an annual turnover and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 10 million euros.

The category of **medium-sized enterprises** consists of enterprises employing less than 250 people, whose annual turnover does not exceed €50 million and/or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed €43 million.

Excluded are those enterprises that carry out an economic activity identified as prevalent in the **primary production of agricultural products**, i.e. the production of **soil and livestock products, fisheries and aquaculture** or in one of the sectors excluded according to Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 as **tobacco production, weapons manufacturing, waste disposal in landfills, fossil fuels, illegal activities**.



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Deadlines for submitting the aid application

Applications must be sent **from 12:00 noon on 11 November 2025** until 12:00 noon on 26 November 2025 through the appropriate IT platform whose access and operating instructions will be communicated by the Administration within a reasonable time with respect to the deadline for the submission of aid applications.

The proponent must have:

- ✓ a **certified e-mail** address (PEC), as the official address for the forwarding and receipt of documents;
- ✓ valid **digital signature** kit of the person authorized to sign the application (legal representative);
- ✓ **SPID** digital identity (level 2), or CNS/CIE, in the name of the legal representative of the proponent.

This is not an over-the-counter procedure, so the order of submission of applications is irrelevant; The applications are considered to have all been received at the same time.

The access of the project proposals to the preliminary phase will take place on the basis of a special list within which the same applications will be ordered in descending order on the basis of the value attributed to the indicator (the so-called "authorizing criterion") calculated on the data of the last financial statements filed and the cost of the investment to be carried out, by filling in the appropriate prospectus duly **certified by a chartered accountant, or an official auditor or a CAF**.

Applications will be financed until the available resources are exhausted.

Duration and terms of project's implementation

The investment program candidate for the subsidies cannot have a duration exceeding **12 months** starting from the date of acceptance of the financing and commitment decree.

The start of the works for the project's implementation cannot take place before the submission of the application for funding. The expenses are eligible from the day following the date of submission of the aid application.

Investment ceilings

The total eligible cost of the submitted project **must not exceed**:

- € 60.000,00 for micro-enterprises;
- € 100.000,00 for small enterprises;
- € 150.000,00 for medium-sized enterprises.



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A minimum threshold of € 20.000,00 is prescribed for all types of investment support/programmes.

The aid in question is granted because of the provisions of art. 3 of Reg. 2023/2831 "**de minimis**" and ss.mm. ii. **in the form of a non-refundable grant (capital grants), up to a maximum amount of 80% of the expenditure deemed eligible because of the evaluation activity.**

Eligibility Requirements

Among the eligibility requirements provided for in the notice, the applicant, on the date of submission of the application, in addition to not being in other conditions provided for by law as a cause of inability to benefit from public financial benefits or in any case obstructing this:

- must follow **the obligations relating to the payment of social security** and welfare contributions in favour of workers or be in possession of the certification attesting to the existence and amount of certain, liquid and payable receivables claimed against the Sicilian Region in an amount equal to the contribution charges ascertained and not yet paid by the same subject (DURC);
- possess **adequate economic and financial capacity** in relation to the investment plan to be implemented, which must be documented by a certificate issued by a credit institution (a share equal to at least 30% of the total cost of the investment program candidate for the facilities, or the willingness of the same institution to activate a credit line for the same amount);
- possess the operational and administrative capacity in relation to the project to be carried out;
- possess the ability to have the resources, technical-professional skills and adequate financial coverage to adequately support the operating costs associated with the exercise of the economic activity affected by the subsidized interventions;
- possess the capacity to contract with the public administration, in the sense that no disqualification sanction pursuant to art. 9, paragraph 2, letter c), of Legislative Decree no. 231 of 8 June 2001 and ss.mm. ii., or other sanction that involves the prohibition to contract with the public administration;
- not have been the recipient of measures suspending business activity in the last two years;
- observe the obligations of collective labour agreements and comply with the legislation on the prevention of accidents in the workplace and occupational diseases; health and safety in the workplace; inclusion of the disabled; equal opportunities; contrasting irregular work and daily and weekly rest; environmental protection; comply with current urban planning and landscape protection regulations;
- not have previously benefited from other public funding aimed at the realization, even partial, of the same activities envisaged in the project candidate for the subsidies;
- respect the principle of ***"not cause significant damage to the environment "* (DNSH).**



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Expenditure eligible for public financial support

The expenses eligible for financial support are as follows:

- a) **specialist consultancy for the implementation of** the ex-ante and ex-post digital diagnosis whose cost **cannot exceed 5%** of the total eligible cost for the investment program assessed as such by the Sicilian Region;
- b) **specialist consultancy, in the field of technological innovation**, aimed at the acquisition and/or development and implementation of basic and advanced digital technological solutions (enabling technologies of S3 Sicily);
- c) **acquisition/development/implementation of basic digital technologies** (e.g. IT solutions, administrative and accounting management software, warehouse stock management software, e-commerce, customer relationship management software, electronic payments, demand and *distribution* planning systems, logistics optimization, etc.);
- d) **acquisition/development/implementation of advanced digital technologies** (e.g. blockchain, big data, development of data collection and analysis solutions for the introduction of artificial intelligence, augmented reality, cyber security, cloud computing and Cloud-to-Edge solutions, *Industrial Internet of Things*, additive manufacturing (IoT), NBIC emerging enabling technologies, etc.) - see S3 Sicily enabling technologies;
- e) **purchase of technological equipment, IT programs and services functional to the introduction of advanced digital technologies** (enabling technologies of the S3 regional strategy)

The service providers that beneficiaries of the subsidies may contact for the relevant acquisition must – under penalty of inadmissibility under penalty of ineligibility of the related expenses – fall **into one of the following categories**:

- ✓ registered in the Innovation manager list, a list kept by the MIMIT right Ministerial Decree of 7 May 2019;
- ✓ professionals registered in the national register of experts in technological innovation pursuant to the Ministerial Decree of 31 August 2016;
- ✓ Research Organizations/Certified Incubators/Innovation Hubs/Digital Innovation Hubs referred to in the National Transition Plan 4.0;
- ✓ Innovative start-ups pursuant to Legislative Decree 18/10/2012;
- ✓ Innovative SMEs referred to in Legislative Decree no. 2/2015

No specific requirements are required for suppliers of technological equipment, IT programs and services functional to the introduction of advanced digital technologies (enabling technologies of the S3 regional strategy) referred to in letter e)



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Application assessment procedure

The applications submitted will be examined and evaluated based on the following aspects:

a) Acceptability

- submission of the application within the terms and in the forms provided for in the Notice;
- completeness and regularity of the application and attachments;
- compliance with the conditions set out in paragraph 2.1. of the notice.

b) Admissibility:

- Fulfilment of all eligibility requirements.

c) Evaluation, evaluation criteria:

- quality of the proposal in terms of definition of objectives, methodology and procedures for implementing the intervention;
- economic and financial quality of the proposal in terms of the relationship between the amount of support, the activities undertaken and the achievement of the objectives;
- innovativeness of services aimed at users and design of services developed with user involvement processes.

d) Award criteria:

- female and/or youth employment effects generated by the project;
- contribution to the achievement of S3 (share of investment in S3 enabling technologies on the total investment).

8 September 2025

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