

## MINIPIA – INTEGRATED INCENTIVES PACKAGES (Regional Programme 2021 2027 – RP Puglia ERDF ESF+ 2021-2027) Information sheet

### Overview

**Regione Puglia**, the regional government, has created a set of business incentive schemes that offer generous funding for investors, making Puglia one of the best places to start, finance and expand a business in Europe.

**MINIPIA (INTEGRATED INCENTIVES PACKAGES)** is one of the business incentive schemes, managed by the regional finance agency **Puglia Sviluppo S.p.A.**, designed specifically for micro and small enterprises, intending to carry out investment projects to set-up new businesses, expand or diversify existing business operations, advancing innovation across major industry sectors in Puglia.

### Who can apply: beneficiaries

- Micro and small enterprises (as defined by the GBER – General Block Exemption Regulation - Appendix I of EU Regulation n. 651/2014), including enterprises defined as medium-sized, based exclusively on participations;
- Freelance professionals.

*(For further information on eligible beneficiaries, please refer to the **MINIPIA public notice.**)*

### Eligible projects

The **MINIPIA (INTEGRATED INCENTIVES PACKAGES)** funding scheme supports investment projects to be carried out by enterprises already located in Puglia or intending to locate within the region, that maintain their operations in Puglia for at least three years after completion of the investment project.

Eligible investment projects should be aimed at developing new technologies and business solutions or innovative products and services, addressing the main drivers of innovation identified by the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy, relating to:

- ✓ Environmental sustainability and circular economy;
- ✓ IT for industry and society;
- ✓ Life sciences and health technologies;
- ✓ Blue growth and blue economy.

The **MINIPIA** scheme provides funding to partially cover the costs of capital investments for initial investments, related to:

- ❖ the setting-up of new business units;
- ❖ the expansion of existing business units;
- ❖ business diversification and the development of new products or business services, not previously available from the existing business units;
- ❖ fundamental changes to business processes or product innovation within the business units involved.

The capital investment projects **must** be integrated with investments in innovation and **may** be integrated with additional investments in:

- ⇒ training initiatives;
- ⇒ environmental protection measures;
- ⇒ business consultancy services and international business promotion initiatives, including the participation in trade fairs.

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### Eligible sectors

MINIPIA investment projects must be related to the sectors indicated in Appendix 3 of the **MINIPIA public notice**, based on the Economic Activities Classification - ATECO 2007 – updated 2022.

Eligible sectors include:

- the manufacturing sector, classified as section “C” (exclusions apply);
- waste treatment activities, classified under division 38 (exclusions apply);
- the construction sector, classified as section “F” (exclusions apply);
- the wholesale and retail trade sector classified as section “G” (exclusions apply);
- the transportation and warehousing sector, classified as section “H” (exclusions apply);
- the information and communication services sector, classified as section “J” (exclusions apply);
- the professional services, scientific and technical activities sector, classified as section “M” (exclusions apply);
- the rental services, travel agencies and business services sector, classified as section “N” (exclusions apply);
- the education sector, exclusively for international schools, classified under section “P” (exclusions apply);
- the healthcare and social services sector, classified as section “Q” (exclusions apply);
- the cultural activities, sports and entertainment sector, classified as section “R” (exclusions apply).

*(For further information on eligible industry sectors, please refer to the **MINIPIA public notice**.)*

### Investment limits

The **MINIPIA (INTEGRATED INCENTIVES PACKAGES)** scheme provides funding for investment projects with overall minimum eligible expenditure of **€30,000.00** and overall maximum eligible expenditure of **€5,000,000.00**.

The investment limit, in terms of maximum eligible costs for capital investments is fixed at **no more than 90%** of the overall value of the investment project.

Moreover, investment limits, in terms of maximum eligible costs for the other areas of investment, are fixed at:

- €1,000,000.00 for innovation by SMEs
- €1,000,000.00 for business process and organizational innovation;
- €500,000.00 for training initiatives;
- €3,000,000.00 for environmental protection initiatives;
- €500,000.00 for business consultancy services and international business promotion initiatives, in addition to up to € 500,000.00 for the participation in trade fairs.

### Eligible expenditure

Eligible investment costs refer primarily to:

- tangible assets, including: land purchase, construction works (including property purchase) and similar, machinery and production plant facilities, office furniture and commercial vehicles, feasibility studies and planning costs;

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- intangible assets, including: software licenses or development, acquisition of operating licenses and patents, patented or unpatented technologies and know-how;
- salaries of employees, involved in the investment project, for a period of two years;
- environmental protection initiatives, involving measures for improving energy efficiency and/or introducing clean hydrogen or high-yield renewable energy production systems for self-generation and consumption.

Eligible operating costs are related to the following categories:

- training costs relating to employees, involved in the investment project, for courses covering areas identified by the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy (such as open innovation, digitalization, innovation management, circular economy, international business promotion);
- consultancy services for the development of new products and business processes, including technical assistance for supporting innovation, technological transfer and digital strategies, new e-commerce sites, e-business, secure payment and data management systems, marketing strategies and international business promotion plans, product certification, environmental certification, corporate social responsibility management and ethical and social reporting;
- costs for the participation in trade fairs and related business events, including temporary showrooms in Italy or abroad for international business promotion.

### Levels of funding available

The **MINIPIA (INTEGRATED INCENTIVES PACKAGES)** scheme provides significant levels of funding for eligible investment projects. The levels of funding available, within the limits indicated in the **MINIPIA public notice**, are based on the type of investment as follows:

- Capital investments:
  - o 55-60% of eligible costs for micro and small enterprises;
  - o 45-50% of eligible costs for small enterprises, defined as “medium-sized” on the basis of company participations;
- Investments for innovation, including business process and organizational innovation: 50% of eligible costs;
- Investments for training initiatives:
  - o 70% of eligible costs for micro and small enterprises;
  - o 60% of eligible costs for small enterprises, defined as “medium-sized” on the basis of company participations;
- Investments for environmental protection measures:
  - o 65% of eligible costs for micro and small enterprises;
  - o 55% of eligible costs for small enterprises, defined as “medium-sized” on the basis of company participations;
- Investments in business consultancy services and international business promotion initiatives: 50% of eligible costs.

All of the above levels of available funding, depending on the limits indicated in the **MINIPIA public notice**, are made up of 3 components, of variable intensity:

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- a non-refundable grant payment: 30-50%, depending on the size of the enterprise and the type of investment;
- a subsidy payment, based on the total repayable interest on a loan granted by a financial intermediary: 10%;
- a quota of the gross grant equivalent (GGE) relating to guarantee, counter-guarantee, co-guarantee and reinsurance operations for the financial loan: 10%.

### How to apply

Applications must be submitted online, in Italian, through the platform PugliaSemplice:

<https://pugliasemplice.sistema.puglia.it>

following the procedure in the dedicated section “**MINIPIA**”

*On submitting an application, a protocol number will be assigned. The application should then be forwarded to the financial intermediary: at this stage, the platform will generate a CUP (Unique Project Code), after which the investment project may commence. The CUP must be quoted in all of the invoices and administrative documentation related to costs and expenses for investments included in the MINIPIA project. Once the financial intermediary receives the application, a review of the applicant’s eligibility for a loan will be carried out and, if approved, within the maximum term of six months, the financial intermediary will close the loan for the proposed investment project, which should be no less than 50% of the overall value of the investment project, and forward the application to Puglia Sviluppo and Regione Puglia.*

*The application, including a description of the investment project, the financial plan and the proposing enterprise’s profile will be assessed by Puglia Sviluppo and the assessment outcome will be communicated, via the platform, to the proposing enterprise and to the financial intermediary.*

*For successful applications, within three months of completion of the investment project, the beneficiary must present a declaration of completion of the project and a request for the disbursement of the grant and subsidy payments, complete with the supporting documentation required. Puglia Sviluppo will review the documentation provided and assess the relevance and eligibility for funding of the expenses incurred.*

*Regione Puglia will deliberate the overall funding approved and the single-payment terms for the MINIPIA investment project.*

### Where to find the public notice

The **MINIPIA public notice** and all of the official documentation relating to the **MINIPIA** funding scheme, including the templates for the application procedure are available online at:

<https://www.regione.puglia.it/web/competitivita-e-innovazione/-/mini-pia-pacchetti-integrati-di-agevolazione-avviso-pubblico>

### Deadline for applications

There are **no fixed deadlines for proposals**, subject to the availability of funds.

### For additional information

[www.pugliasviluppo.eu](http://www.pugliasviluppo.eu) - [www.regione.puglia.it](http://www.regione.puglia.it)

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