

TECNOIDI
(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.

TECNOIDI is one of the business incentive schemes, managed by the regional finance agency **Puglia Sviluppo S.p.A.**, designed specifically for technological start-ups and small-sized innovative enterprises, intending to set-up and/or develop business investment projects in high-tech sectors in Puglia.

Who can apply: beneficiaries

Technological start-ups or small enterprises, as defined by the GBER – General Block Exemption Regulation - Appendix I of EU Regulation n. 651/2014, that have been registered in the Italian Business Register for no longer than 5 years and are not listed on the stock exchange, falling within one of the following categories:

- a) an enterprise which is effectively set-up and registered in the national Innovative Start-ups Register (established by national Decree no. 179 of 18/10/2012, subsequently Law n. 221 of 18/12/2012);
- b) a company which has sustained R&D costs totalling at least 10% of overall operating costs in at least one of the three financial years preceding the award of the **TECNOIDI** grant or, in the case of start-ups without accounts for previous financial years, 10% of overall operating costs in the revised accounts for the current financial year, as certified by an independent auditor. Alternatively, the company should be able to demonstrate, by means of an independent assessment to be carried out by an external expert, that its R&D activities will lead to the development of new products, services or business processes, in the near future, that represent a significant breakthrough compared to the state of the art in the relevant business sector and that involve high levels of business risk;
- c) a company that can demonstrate that it falls within the category of “innovative companies” as referred to by the provisions of Art. 2, point 80), letters (c) and (d) of the EU Regulation n. 651/2014.

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

Eligible projects

The **TECNOIDI** funding scheme supports new business initiatives which aim to bring new business solutions or products and services to the market, particularly in the specific areas of innovation identified by the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy, relating to:

- ✓ Sustainable manufacturing;
- ✓ Human and environmental health;
- ✓ Digital, creative and inclusive communities.

Eligible sectors

The proposed investment projects must be presented for initiatives related to one of the following areas of innovation, as identified by the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy:

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1. **Sustainable manufacturing:** New materials; Advanced connectivity; Artificial intelligence; Virtual reality and advanced human-machine interfaces; Automation and robotics; Sensors; Electrification of propulsion systems; Hybrid propulsion systems and alternative fuels; Technologies and applications for autonomous driving and remotely piloted systems; Aviation manufacturing technologies; Microsatellites and space services; Ecological transition; Quality, traceability and food safety; Nutraceuticals; Smart agriculture; Safeguarding typical local production; Energy efficiency in buildings; Eco-design applied to furniture and furnishing elements; Smart and safe homes; New textiles and applications; Environmental sustainability and product circularity.
2. **Human and environmental health:** Digital health; Predictive, personalized and precision medicine; Advanced diagnostics; Medical systems; Technologies for rehabilitation, active aging and ambient assisted living; Telemedicine; Innovative medical devices and drugs; Environmental monitoring; Environmental recovery; Waste recovery, recycling and valorisation; Intelligent management of energy systems; Technologies for energy and energy efficiency.
3. **Digital, creative and inclusive communities:** Access to cultural events; Intelligent management of cultural heritage; Intelligent and sustainable tourism; Development of new content and connected innovative services; Green last mile logistics; Intelligent logistics; Cyber security and privacy; Cloud Computing; Big data and data fusion; Artificial intelligence; Health IT; Open science.

*(For further indications on the eligible areas of innovation, please refer to Annex A of the **TECNOIDI** public notice.)*

Investment limits

The **TECNOIDI** scheme provides funding for investment projects with overall eligible expenditure falling within the range between €50,000.00 (with a minimum €25,000 for capital investment costs) and €350,000.00, of which maximum €250,000.00 for capital investment costs and up to €100,000.00 for operating costs.

Eligible expenditure

Eligible investment costs refer primarily to:

- tangible assets, including: machinery and production plant facilities, office furniture and commercial vehicles, construction works and similar;
- intangible assets, including: software licenses or development, technology transfer through the acquisition of operating licenses or patented or unpatented technologies and know-how.

Eligible operating costs are related to the following categories:

- salaries of employees;
- rental costs for business premises;
- utilities;
- insurance policies;
- fees and subscription costs for access to databases, software services, "cloud" services, information services, Internet domain registration and housing, Web marketing campaigns (search engine

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- positioning, advertising spaces, keywords advertising), Social marketing campaigns for enhancing brand awareness and reputation;
- personalised website development services;
 - consultancy services for innovation;
 - innovation support services;
 - consultancy services for the first-time introduction of an environmental management system, of product quality certification, of corporate social responsibility management and ethical and social reporting, based on international standards;
 - exhibition space and stand build-up costs for the first-time participation in a trade fair.

Levels of funding available

The **TECNONIDI** scheme provides overall funding of up to €280,000.00 for eligible investment projects, based on the following levels of funding:

- 80% of eligible **investment costs**, for a maximum amount of funding of up to €200,000.00, equally divided into one-part subsidy grant (40% of eligible investment costs) and one-part repayable loan (40% of eligible investment costs);
- 80% of eligible **operating costs**, in the form of a subsidy grant, for a maximum amount of funding of up to €80,000.00.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted online, in Italian, following the procedure in the dedicated section “**TECNONIDI**” of the following website:

www.sistema.puglia.it/portal/page/portal/SistemaPuglia/tecnonidi

The application for funding is preceded by a preliminary application to be submitted online, together with the supporting documentation required.

The preliminary application, including a description of the innovative content of the investment project, the financial prospects and the proposing company’s profile and research activities will be assessed by Puglia Sviluppo and verified by an independent expert with high level technical-scientific skills, in order to evaluate the levels of innovation and technological maturity of the products and solutions identified in the project.

The assessment outcome will be formally communicated to the proposing company and, for successful preliminary applications, an interview will be arranged, during which the proposing company will be required to present a business pitch of the investment project.

At the end of the interview, a copy of the final draft of the application for funding and the minutes of the interview will be released to the proposing company which must then present the additional documentation required within 15 days, in order to complete the application for funding.

*A protocol number and CUP (Unique Project Code) will be assigned to the application. The CUP must be quoted in all of the invoices and administrative documentation related to costs and expenses for investments included in the **TECNONIDI** project.*

The application for funding and supporting documentation will be evaluated by Puglia Sviluppo in order to determine the eligibility of the project proposal and, for successful applications, eligible funding levels.

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*Puglia Sviluppo will deliberate the overall provisional funding assigned to the project and set out the terms for the disbursement of the repayable loan and the grant payments to beneficiaries, based on the procedures and methods indicated in the **TECNOIDI public notice**.*

Where to find the public notice

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

<https://www.sistema.puglia.it/portal/page/portal/SistemaPuglia/tecnonidi>

Deadline for applications

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

For additional information

www.pugliasviluppo.eu - www.regione.puglia.it

E-mail: fdi@pugliasviluppo.regione.puglia.it