

***New aid measures designed by the MISE to support
R&D projects within the framework of the National
Operational Programme on "Enterprises and
Competitiveness" 2014-2020 ERDF.***

Stefano Della Corte



UNIONE EUROPEA
Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale

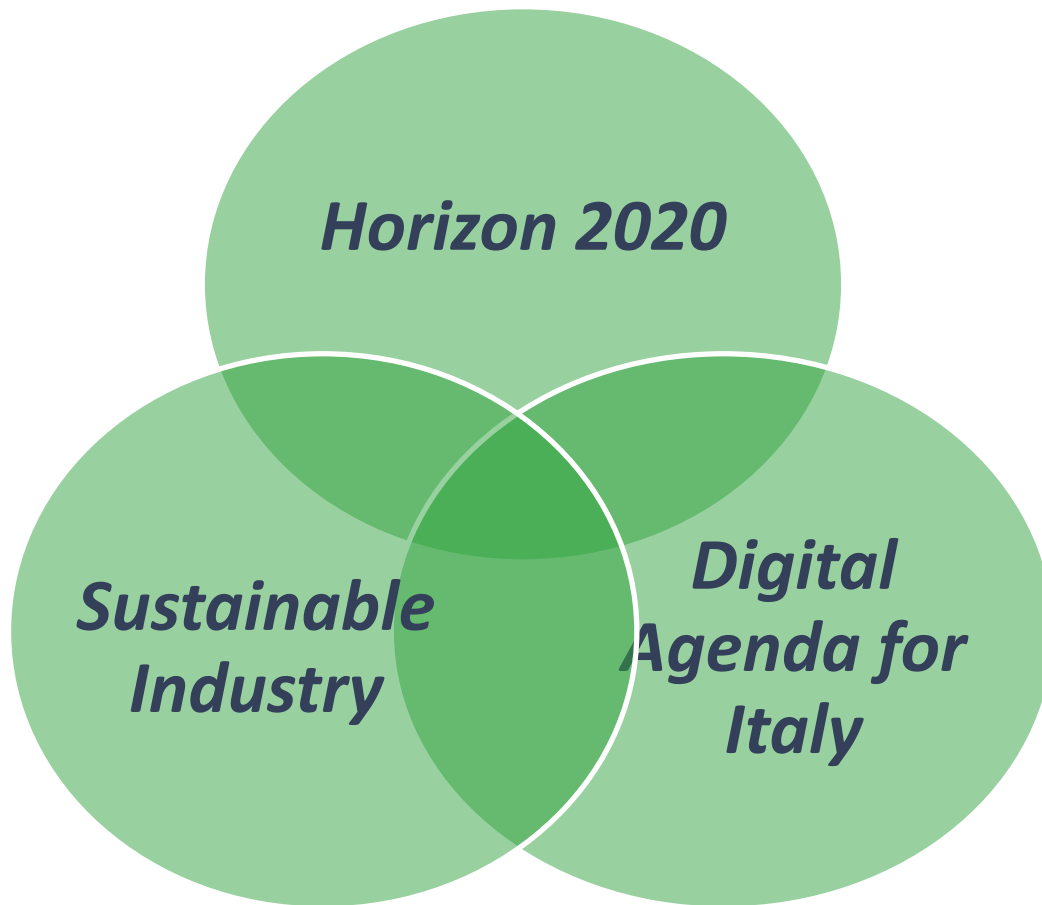
PON IMPRESE E
COMPETITIVITÀ
2014>20

Riaccendiamo lo sviluppo



Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.



New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

BUDGET

- **EUR 150 million** (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicilia);
- **EUR 30 million** (Abruzzo, Molise e Sardegna).

Horizon 2020
EUR 180 million



- Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicilia;
- **EUR 40 million** reserved for Digital Agenda.

Digital Agenda
Sustainable Industry
EUR 200 million



New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

BENEFICIARIES

- **Industrial enterprises**
- **Craft enterprises**
- **Agroindustrial enterprises**
- **Industrial service enterprises**
- **Research centres**

Only for joint projects (max. 3 entities for «Horizon 2020» and max. 5 entities for «Digital Agenda» and «Sustainable Industry» gathered together in Network Contract, Consortia, Partnership Agreements, etc.):

- **Research organisations;**
- **Liberal professionals;**
- **Spin-off companies** (with less than two approved financial statements and owned by a research organisations -- min. 30%);
- **Innovative start-up** ex D.L. 179/2012 (Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry).

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants shall meet the following requirements:

- be in an **ordinary accounting regime**
- have **two approved financial statements**
- have **capacity to repay** the soft loan
- not be a 'firm in difficulty' as explained in the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014

(not for Odr, Innovative Start-up, Spin-off and Liberal professionals)

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS



Eligible projects shall concern **industrial research and experimental development activities** aimed at realizing new products, processes or services or improving existing products, processes or services through the development of **specific enabling technologies** (Horizon 2020).



For all aid measures, eligible projects shall be realized in the **less developed Italian Regions** (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia e Sicilia). Only for Horizon 2020, eligible projects can also be realized in the **transition Regions** (Abruzzo, Molise e Sardegna).



Eligible projects shall be launched **after the submission of the application for aid** and, anyway, not later than 3 months from the date of the aid decision.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE COSTS AND EXPENDITURES



Horizon 2020 - The total amount of eligible costs and expenditures shall not be lower than EUR 800,000 and not exceed EUR 5 million.



Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry - The total amount of eligible costs and expenditures shall not be lower than EUR 5 million and not exceed EUR 40 million.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: HORIZON 2020


Eligible projects shall concern the development of the following technologies, in connection with the thematic areas identified by the **National Smart Specialization Strategy**:

- **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);**
- **Nanotechnology;**
- **Advanced Materials;**
- **Biotechnology;**
- **Advanced Manufacturing and Processing;**
- **Space;**
- **Technologies aiming at achieving some objectives of the priority "Societal challenges".**


New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: DIGITAL AGENDA

Eligible projects shall make use of the following **Key Enabling Technologies**:

- 
- nanoelectronics and photonics; innovation of optical and wireless communication systems; internet of things; innovation of platforms virtualization, infrastructures and digital services; big data; innovation of the creative industries, contents and social media, cybersecurity.

and shall have an appropriate and practical impact on the following **areas of applications**:

- 
- health services and medical care; training and social inclusion; culture and tourism; mobility and transport; energy and environment; land monitoring and security; modernisation of the State Administration; telecommunications; smart manufacturing.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

Eligible projects shall make use of the following **Key Enabling Technologies**:

- micro and nanoelectronics; nanotechnology; photonic; advanced materials; advanced production systems; industrial biotechnology.

and shall have an appropriate and practical impact on the following **areas of applications**:

- industrial processes and plant; surface and waterborne transport modes, aerospace telecommunications; energy technology; eco-sustainable building; environmental technologies.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible projects must have a duration of not less than 18 months (only for Horizon 2020) and not more than 36 months.

For joint projects each applicant must finance at least:

- (Horizon 2020) **10% of the eligible project costs;**
- (Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry) **10% of the eligible project costs** (large-sized enterprise) **or 5% of the eligible project costs** (small and medium-sized enterprises).



NORTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION (only for Horizon 2020)

Joint projects can also be realized (up to a maximum of 35% of the eligible project costs) in one or more production units that are located outside the eligible areas provided that such part of the eligible project costs is strictly needed in order to achieve the project goals and to boost innovation in the **less developed and transition Regions**.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

ELIGIBLE COSTS AND EXPENDITURES

- personnel costs;
- newly manufactured tools and equipment;
- consultancy services;
- overheads will be covered at 25% of direct eligible costs;
- materials used for carrying out the project.

Invoices lower than EUR 500 (excluding VAT) are not eligible for funding



- Beneficiaries must maintain either a separate project accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to the project;
- Research costs must be considered (and reported) separately from the costs relating to the experimental development.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

THE AID THAT MAY BE GRANTED

Maximum non-reimbursable grant amount*

- *Industrial research (costs and expenditures):*

small-sized enterprises 60%;
medium-sized enterprises 50%;
large-sized enterprises 40%;
research organisations 47% (only for Horizon 2020).

- *Experimental Development (costs and expenditures):*

small-sized enterprises 35%;
medium-sized enterprises 25%;
Large-sized enterprises 15%;
research organisations 22% (only for Horizon 2020).

* the effective grants depend on the project's score (only for Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry).

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

THE AID THAT MAY BE GRANTED

The grant can be raised by:

+ 10% related to at least one of the following conditions:

- (only for Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry) The project is realized with the assistance of at least one research organisation (in an amount of not less than 10% of eligible expenditure) and the research organization has the right to publish the results of its part of the research;
- (only for Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry) The project is partly realized through forms of international collaboration (effective and stable) between enterprises established in another Member State of the European Union or in the European Economic Area – EEA (these costs are not considered eligible project costs);
- the project is conducted jointly by independent enterprises (with at least one SME), although each of them shall not finance more than 70% of total eligible costs.

+ 5% project end date: no later than 31 December 2018.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

THE AID THAT MAY BE GRANTED

Soft loan (reimbursable grant):

- 20% of the eligible expenditures;
- Rate: 20% of the reference rate (currently approximately 0.2%);
- max duration: 3 years grace period;
- without real guarantees;
- chance of requesting for the full advanced payment (guaranteed by a bank guarantee or guarantee fund with enterprises support between 2-3% of the total amount).



For liberal professionals, spin-off companies, research organisations (only for Horizon 2020) and start-up (only for Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry), reimbursable grant is converted into a non-reimbursable grant increased by 3%.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Aid applications should be submitted within the time limit set in the Directorial Decrees via the IT platform (<https://fondocrescitasostenibile.mcc.it>).

(Only for Horizon 2020) The Directorial Decree of August 4, 2016 has already set the starting date for submitting applications (**October 17, 2016**).

All the IT platform functions will be available from October 3, 2016.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Managing Body evaluates grant applications by attributing points for each selection criterion addressed. In particular:

1. characteristics of the applicant legal entity;
2. quality of the project proposal;
3. impact of the project.

1. Characteristics of the applicant legal entity

Technician and organizational capacity	Capacity to complete the proposed R&D project with internal resources (skills, experience of the applicant within the project sector).
Quality in Collaborations	Quality in active collaborations , in particular with research organisations.
Economic and financial solidity	Capacity to repay the reimbursable grant $C_{flow}/(F_a/N)$ with: C_{flow} = profit/loss for the period+amortisation- extraordinary income+extraordinary costs; F_a = reimbursable grant; N = number of years to amortize.
	Financial coverage of fixed assets: $(MP+DML)/I$ with: MP = net equity; DML = medium/long term debts; I = fixed assets.
	Financial independence: MP/P con: MP = net equity; P = total liabilities.
	The impact of net financial charges on turnover: OF/F con: OF = financial charges; F =turnover.
	The impact of ordinary operations on turnover: MOL/F con: MOL = EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization); F = turnover.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

2. Quality of the project proposal

Technical feasibility	Technical feasibility of the project - to be assessed in respect of the adequacy of organisational and material resources, with regards to the adequacy and relevance of the costs and the project's expected time frame.
The importance of the expected results	The importance and the originality of the expected results compared with the national and international state of the art.
Degree of innovation	Degree of innovation - higher scores for projects with significant improvement in existing processes and products or for projects related to new processes or products.

3. Impact of the project

Industrial interest	Industrial interest - to be assessed with regard to the economic impact of the expected results.
Development potential	Development potential - to be assessed in relation to the reference sector and the ability to also generate significant impacts on other sectors.



There are minimum thresholds in the assessment grid, the exceeding of which shall constitute a necessary but not sufficient condition for being assessed positively.

New aid measures aimed at supporting R&D projects within the framework of the National Operational Programme on "Enterprises and Competitiveness" 2014-2020.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

(only for Digital Agenda and Sustainable Industry)

- **Negotiation process among Ministry, Enterprises and Managing Body** to reshape one or more aspects highlighted by Managing Body with the aim of:

- maximising the results of the project as compared with the objectives of the measure aid;
- strengthening the project's ability for influencing the country's technological development;

The negotiation process ends with the signing of an Agreement.

- **Final proposal** after taking into account the results of the negotiation process and the contents of the Agreement;

- **Granting of the aid.**