

ESPA 2021-2027

"EPIRUS" 2021 -- 2027

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Entrepreneur – Innovate in Epirus**

**SUMMARY OF ACTION**

The Action " **Entrepreneur – Innovate in Epirus** " is integrated into the Epirus Program 2021-2027 and specifically Priority 01 "Strengthening of the regional economy through the utilization of research and innovation" and the specific Objective RSO1.3: "Strengthening sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and creation of jobs in SMEs, among others through productive investments".

It concerns the **strengthening of existing small and medium-sized enterprises of the Region of Epirus**, promoting the **improvement of their competitiveness, productivity and extroversion**.

The objective of the action is the **utilization and integration of modern technologies, the development of innovative products or/and provided services**, rewarding actions which utilize modern technologies, infrastructures and best practices in matters of productive diversification, innovative technological and digital transformation, energy efficiency and circular economy.

The present action is implemented by the Special Service of Management of Epirus Program (EYD EPIRUS) with Intermediate Body the Intermediate Body of Operational Programs of Competitiveness & Entrepreneurship (EFEPAE).

**PRIORITY SECTORS**

Investment projects that are documented to be connected with at least one Priority of the Regional dimension of the National Strategy of Smart **Specialization (RIS3)** of the Region of Epirus are strengthened:

- **Materials - Construction and Industry**
- **Tourism - Culture - Creative Industries**
- **Agri-food Chain**
- **Environment - Circular Economy**
- **Biosciences - Health and Pharmaceuticals**
- **Sustainable Energy**
- **Digital Technologies**

**TOTAL BUDGET AND ALLOCATION**

The total Public Expenditure of the Action amounts to **15,000,000.00 €**, with possibility of increase up to 130% in case of exhaustion of available resources due to increased interest.

Additionally, the action is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and the National Resources.

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The financing is provided within the framework of the E.U. regulations governing state aids, giving the possibility of selecting one of the two following aid schemes:

- Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 -- **De minimis: 6,750,000 €**
- Regulation (EU) 651/2014 -- **General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER): 8,250,000 €**

### **BENEFICIARIES**

Beneficiaries who can receive public financing within the framework of the present call are existing small, very small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

### **TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

#### **Basic Conditions of Participation**

- The enterprise must operate in the Greek territory and **invest exclusively in the Region of Epirus**.
- Provision of at least two (2) full closed management years, with submission of forms E3 & N to the AADE.
- Activity in sectors of the National Strategy of Smart Specialization (NSES), with main or secondary NACE that is included in the eligible NACE codes (Annex III).
- Documented connection with priority of the Regional Dimension of the NSES (Annex II).
- The investment NACE must be eligible, while the enterprise must possess it before the first request for verification -- certification
- Submission of **one and unique application** per **V.A.T. number**.

#### **Financial Criteria**

- **The enterprise covers at least 25% of expenses with own or external capital.**
- **Must not be in bankruptcy, liquidation or compulsory administration.**
- **Must not have received or be pending rescue, restructuring aid or recovery of state aid.**

#### **Permitted Legal Forms**

- All forms of companies and cooperatives mentioned in the call (S.A., L.L.C., P.C., G.P., L.P., SOCCO, CO.S.P.E., Civil and Agricultural Cooperatives etc.).

#### **Accounting & Licensing Matters**

- Keeping of **single-entry or double-entry books** (law 4308/2014).
- **Legal operation** with license or documentation of exemption/commencement.
- Registration in the Registry of Beneficial Owners of article 20 of law 4557/2018 (A' 139) as in force before the date of submission of the financing application

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### Exclusion of Double Financing

- The expenses of the application must not have been financed or integrated in another program.
- Not permitted parallel or repeated submission of the same proposal to another action.

### Environmental & Social Commitments

- Compliance with **technical guidelines for resilience to climate change** (2021/C 373/01).
- Ensuring:
  - Fundamental rights (EU Charter)
  - Gender equality & prevention of discrimination
  - Transparency & accessibility for people with disabilities
  - Sustainable development & environmental compliance

### Access for People with Disabilities

- Obligation for **appropriate interventions** so that accessibility for people with disabilities is ensured in infrastructures, services and digital environments.

### Other Obligations

- The place of implementation **cannot be a residence** of the beneficiary.
- Submission of **electronic application** with complete supporting documents.
- Minimum **score 30** in the evaluation criteria

### CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

#### 1. De minimis Scheme (REG. EU 2023/2831)

##### Personnel Expenses

- Full payroll cost of **newly recruited personnel** (1--3 FTE)
- Up to **20%** of the subsidized budget
- Maximum amount **45,000 € in total** and **15,000 € per FTE**

##### Equipment, Transport Means & Instruments Expenses

In total up to **100%** of the subsidized budget. In detail:

- Environmental protection & energy saving equipment: **up to 60%**
- Other enterprise equipment: **up to 10%**
- Digital office equipment: **up to 10%**

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- Production & mechanical equipment: **up to 100%**
- Circular economy equipment: **up to 40%**
- Photovoltaics / self-production: **up to 40%**
- Electric transport means: **up to 40%** of budget, **up to 50,000 € per means** and **100,000 € in total**

#### **Expenses for Buildings, Land, Installations & Surrounding Space**

Up to **60%** of the subsidized budget. Specifically:

- Building interventions, energy upgrade & waste processing: **up to 60%**
- Buildings, installations & surrounding space: **up to 60%**

#### **Service Provision Expenses**

In total up to **20%** of the subsidized budget. Indicatively:

- Consulting support: **up to 4%** of budget and **up to 8,000 €**
- Installation / parameterization of software -- user training: **up to 10%**
- SaaS / cloud computing: **up to 20%**
- Packaging design -- label -- branding: **up to 5%** and **15,000 €**
- Technical studies connected with the project: **up to 5%** and **10,000 €**

#### **Software Expenses**

- Software and usage rights (licenses): **up to 30%** of the subsidized budget.

#### **Promotion, Advancement & Networking Expenses**

In total up to **20%** of the subsidized budget. Specifically:

- Website upgrade: **up to 2,500 €**
- New website creation: **up to 3,000 €**
- Participation in commercial exhibitions: **up to 5,000 € per exhibition**

#### **Indirect Expenses**

- Calculated as **7% on direct eligible expenses**, according to **article 25 of Reg. EU 1060/2021**

## **2. General Block Exemption Regulation Scheme (REG. EU 651/2014)**

#### **Equipment, Transport Means & Instruments Expenses**

In total up to **100%** of the subsidized budget. In detail:

- Environmental protection / energy saving equipment: **up to 60%**
- Other enterprise equipment: **up to 10%**

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- Digital office equipment: **up to 10%**
- Production & mechanical equipment: **up to 100%**
- Circular economy equipment: **up to 40%**
- Photovoltaics & energy storage: **up to 40%**
- Electric transport means: **up to 40% of budget, up to 50,000 € per means**

#### **Expenses for Buildings, Installations & Surrounding Space**

Up to **60%** of the subsidized budget. In detail:

- Building interventions: **up to 60%**
- Surrounding space & infrastructures: **up to 60%**

#### **Service Provision Expenses**

Up to **20%** of the subsidized budget. Specifically:

- Consulting support: **up to 4% and up to 10,000 €**
- Software installation/training: **up to 10%**
- Branding -- packaging -- label: **up to 5% and 20,000 €**
- Technical studies: **up to 5% and 10,000 €**

#### **Software Expenses**

- Software and usage rights: **up to 30%** of the subsidized budget.

#### **Promotion, Advancement & Networking Expenses**

In total up to **20%** of the subsidized budget. Specifically:

- Participation in commercial exhibitions: **up to 5,000 € per exhibition**

#### **START DATE OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

As start date of eligibility of expenses is defined the **date of electronic submission of the financing application**, regardless of the selected aid scheme.

#### **BUDGET**

Financing applications of the following amounts (subsidized budget) are strengthened:

- From **100,000 € to 500,000 €** for the **De minimis scheme (REG. EU 2023/2831)**
- From **200,000 € to 800,000 €** for the **GBER scheme (REG. EU 651/2014)**

The subsidized budget cannot exceed the highest turnover increased by 40% in one of the two last closed years.

According to the **De minimis Regulation (EU 2023/2831)**, the Public Financing amounts to:

- **60%** for **very small and small enterprises**,

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- **50% for medium-sized enterprises.**

Under the **GBER Scheme (EU 651/2014)** differentiations are applied in the following expense categories:

- **Energy storage system installation expenses:** 50% for very small and small enterprises, 40% for medium-sized.
- **Service provision expenses:** 50% for very small and small enterprises, excluding the subcategory of installation services, parameterization of Software/Applications - User training
- **Promotion and networking expenses:** 50% for very small and small enterprises.

#### **DURATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INVESTMENT PROJECT**

The time duration of implementation of the physical and economic object of the investment project is set at **twenty-four (24) months** from the date of electronic notification of the final approval of the financing application (evaluation result or evaluation result of objection).

Within 12 months from the date of electronic notification of the final approval of the financing application the beneficiary submits a certification -- verification request, which includes implementation of at least 30% of the subsidized physical and economic object.

#### **START / END DATE OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

- **Start of submission of applications:** November 4, 2025, time 13:00
- **End of submission of applications:** January 27, 2026, time 15:00

The financing application is submitted **compulsorily electronically** through the **Integrated Information System of State Aids (OOPSKE)**. The **evaluation of applications** will be **comparative**.