

SCHEME OF "GENERAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP" OF THE DEVELOPMENT LAW 4399/2016

TARGET

The objective of the "General Entrepreneurship" scheme is to provide development aid (subsidy) to businesses entities of all types.

CONTENT OF THE INVESTMENT PLAN - INITIAL INVESTMENT

- Creation of a new Business Entity
- Expansion of the capacity of an existing Business Entity
- Diversification of the production of a Business Entity
- Fundamental change in the entire production process of an existing Business Entity
- Acquisition of the entire assets of a closed Business Entity

WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE SUBSIDISED AND WHICH BUSINESSES CAN APPLY

The specific scheme is addressed to all businesses and is the key framework for subsidizing the investment costs of **existing businesses**.

Business size / time of life of businesses

There are no general restrictions on the size and the time of life of the business.

The size of the operator of the investment plan is determined on the basis of the corporate composition which is stated to exist at the time of the start of the investment plan.

Legal form

It is possible to virtually enclose in the law all legal forms of business entities, whether existing or under formation.

Sectors of activity

Sectors in manufacturing and several internationally traded services and products sectors, provided they are compatible with the **General State Archives**

THE AID SCHEMES OF THE PRESENT LAW DO NOT APPLY TO:

A. According to the provisions of the **General State Archives the following sectors:**

- Steel
- Synthetic fibers
- Carbon
- Shipbuilding (exception must be requested)
- Transport and related infrastructure

B. Based on **code of business activities indicatively:** Commerce, Scientific research, Catering, Education, Construction

MINIMUM INVESTMENT THRESHOLD

- € 50,000 for the **Social Cooperative Enterprise**
- € 100,000 for micro companies
- € 150,000 for small companies
- € 250,000 for medium companies and for clusters
- € 500,000 for large companies

PERCENTAGE OF AID TO INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Determined on the basis of the **Regional Aid Map** (Region where the Implementation of the Investment will take place and Size of the Operator) and the **Conditions for application of increased incentives**

CONDITIONS TO PROVIDE INCREASED INCENTIVES

Criteria group I: geographical criteria

- Business entities of which the undergoing investment plan is implemented in **organized receptors** (Industrial and Business Areas, Business Parks, etc.) and do not concern the modernization or the extension of existing structures of the subsidized business,
- Business entities of which the investment plan is implemented in **Special Areas**:
 - Mountainous
 - Borderland: at a 30 km distance from a border, as well as at the islands of the North Aegean Region, the island of Samothraki in the Prefectures of Evros and the Dodecanese
 - Islands with a population of less than 3,100 inhabitants
 - Areas with a permanent population decline of > 30%, 2001-2011
 - Business entities of which the investment plan is implemented in areas with primarily high migration flows and in particular: Agathonisi, Kalymnos, Kastelorizo, Kos, Leros, Lesbos, Samos, Symi, Chios.

Criteria group II: form / performance criteria

1. **Extrovert**: small and medium companies that increased their extroversion (ie the rate of value of their exports to their turnover) > 10% in the last 3 years prior to submitting their application for subsidy, > 5% for > 70% (rate of exports to turnover),
2. **Innovative**: small and medium companies of which the research and development costs > 10 % over their total operating costs, for at least 1 year out of the last 3 years prior to submitting the application for subsidy,
3. **Independent small and medium companies that are merging** after the date of publication of this law,
4. **Companies demonstrating an increase in their employment rate** > 10% in the last 3 years prior to submitting the application for subsidy,
5. Cooperatives, Social Cooperative Societies and Producers Groups and Rural Partnership Agreements,

6. Sectors of Information Technology (ICT) and Agribusiness
7. Companies that achieve **increased value-added**, relative to their industry average

EXPECTED EXPENDITURE

(a) Regional aid expenditure

- **expenditure on tangible assets:**
 - a. construction, extension, modernization of building facilities and special and auxiliary facilities and constructions to ensure accessibility to people with disabilities, as well as landscaping,
 - b. purchase of all existing fixed assets (buildings, machinery and other equipment) or even a part of the assets of a production unit, concerning a SME applying for subsidy, directly linked to a production unit (subject to conditions),
 - c. purchase and installation of new modern machinery and other equipment, including technical installations and vehicles moving within the premises of the business applying for subsidy,
 - d. leasing installments for new modern machinery and other equipment of which the use under lease is agreed,
 - e. expenditure on the modernization of special installations (not related to buildings) and of mechanical installations.
- **expenditure on intangible assets:**
 - a. transfer of knowhow through the purchase of intellectual property rights, licenses, patents, know-how and non-patented technical knowledge (under conditions)
 - b. quality assurance and quality control systems, certifications, procurement and installation of software and systems for organizing the business (under conditions).
- **the wage costs of new jobs** created as a result of the implementation of the investment plan calculated for a period of two (2) years from the creation of each post (it is an eligible expenditure for aid only on an autonomous basis and not in conjunction with cases a and/or b)

(b) Expenditure outside the regional aid

In addition to regional aid, expenditure (is subsidized) on:

- Studies and fees of SME consultants
- Startup expenses for the small and micro businesses under establishment,
- Expenses for measures of energy efficiency,
- Expenses for energy self-production from RES
- Expenses to restore contaminated sites

(c) Expenditure for RES excluding regional aid

The investment projects for the production or co-generation of energy from RES are aided only for the corresponding costs laying outside regional aid.

TYPES OF SUBSIDY

- tax exemption, or
- leasing, or
- wage cost,
- aid on investment projects fulfilling the requirements of the Special Category of Subsidy

SIZE OF AID

(a) for regional aid: up to the rate determined for each region and the size of the business according to Regional Aid Map (from 10% up to 55%);

and

(b) for expenditure outside the regional aid: up to the amount determined for each expenditure on the basis of the Call.

PARTICIPATION OF THE OPERATOR IN COSTS

The participation of the operator in the cost of the investment plan can be made either **through equity** or **by external financing**, provided that the twenty five percent (25%) of the total investment cost does not contain any State aid, public support or facility

EVALUATION

Applications are evaluated using the benchmarking (comparative) process