

“ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOW CARBON ECONOMY” PROGRAM

Small Grants Scheme # 2 - Projects for the Development of Standards in the Construction Sector that Promote the Circular Economy

Dotação total disponível: 1.000.000€

Montante mínimo de financiamento de cada projeto: 20.000€

Montante máximo de financiamento de cada projeto: 50.000€

Total allocation available: € 1.000.000

Minimum amount of financing for each project: € 20.000

Maximum amount of funding for each project: € 50.000

Legal framework:

“De minimis” aid under the terms of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013, of 18 December, rectified by the Rectification of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013, of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to “de minimis” aid.

In fact, the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Support is provided by the State or comes from state resources;
- The intervention is liable to affect trade between MS (affects tradable goods or services);

- The intervention confers an advantage on the beneficiary (the support to be granted constitutes an economic advantage for those who receive state aid compared to other competitors, that is, it could not be obtained on the market);
- It was assigned on a selective basis (i.e. it is a discretionary act unlike general measures);
- Competition has been or is likely to be distorted, which presupposes that there is a competitive market.

This tender is intended to:

Priority areas

Development of standards for the construction sector that promote the circularity of materials and processes.

In particular:

- Issuance of materials passports;
- Material efficiency labeling;
- Environmental declarations for products or materials already developed with a view to increasing market demand;
- Platforms for calculating economic and environmental benefits associated with the process of selective deconstruction and reuse.
- Development of guides, methodologies, best practices and standards from the perspective of Circular Economy and the life cycle centered approach in the construction sector including Construction and Demolition Waste.

In the case under analysis, the support comes from state resources; the intervention focuses on tradable goods or services; the support to be granted constitutes an economic advantage for those who receive state aid over other competitors, that is, it could not be obtained on the market; was allocated on a selective basis; and competition is likely to be distorted in the context of a competitive market.

However, the financing in question constitutes, in fact, low-value aid granted and is therefore not likely to significantly affect trade and competition between Member States, falling below the threshold of "de minimis" aid.

It should be noted that under Regulation 1407/2013, of the Commission, of December 18, rectified by the Rectification of Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of the Commission, of December 18, 201, a company cannot receive more than € 200 000 over a period of three financial years (the financial year in question and the two previous financial years); it is necessary that through the central register, the assessment of the aid accumulation limit is made, considering the total amount of "de minimis" aid granted to the company, over a period of three financial years, that is, taking into account the "de minimis" aid granted to the tax number of the company to which it is intended to grant new aid.

Control of "de minimis" aid

Therefore, the accumulation of aid granted under the “de minimis” Regulation should be monitored, under the responsibility of the entity granting the aid, by registering in a central register of all these supports.

It is the Agency for Development and Cohesion, IP, as established in Decree-Law no. 140/2013, of 18 October, that defines and keeps updated the "de minimis" aid central register and exercises the control of the accumulation of financial and tax support granted in this context.

To this end, it is necessary to accredit the aid scheme and the entity responsible for granting / communicating the support;