

2. Support for Micro and Small Businesses (non-agricultural) and Farm Diversification

Funds under this priority will be used to provide grants for:

- Developing or starting rural micro and small businesses; and
- Farm diversification projects for example, contracting services

Who can apply?

- Micro & small businesses based in rural locations, including social enterprises
- People who want to start a business that is in a rural area
- Farming businesses that want to diversify (expand into non-farming activities)

Grant limits

The maximum grant amount under state aid de-minimis is €200,000.

The maximum grant rate is up to 40% of a project's eligible costs for commercial projects or up to 100% for non-profit making investments

What is eligible?

- Starting a new business
- Construction costs or establishment costs for of workshops, factories, premises and facilities
- Purchase of equipment (not consumables)
- Processing and marketing of non-agricultural products
- Processing and marketing of agricultural products
- Social service provision
- Development of craft and handcraft activities
- Setting up an IT business
- Leisure, recreational and sport activities

Costs could include

- the costs of construction, acquisition (including leasing) or improvement to immovable property
- the purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment (including second hand equipment)
- general costs such as architect, engineer and consultation fees (limited to a maximum of 15% of the project's total eligible costs)
- intangible investments including, acquisition or development of computer software
- acquisition of patents, licences, copyrights, trademarks.

Ineligible costs in addition to the general costs

- None