

Regione Autonoma
Valle d'Aosta



Autonomous Region
Valle d'Aosta

Assessorato attività produttive, energia,
politiche del lavoro e ambiente

Department for Production Activities,
Energy, Labour Policies and environment

Creating an enterprise in Valle d'Aosta

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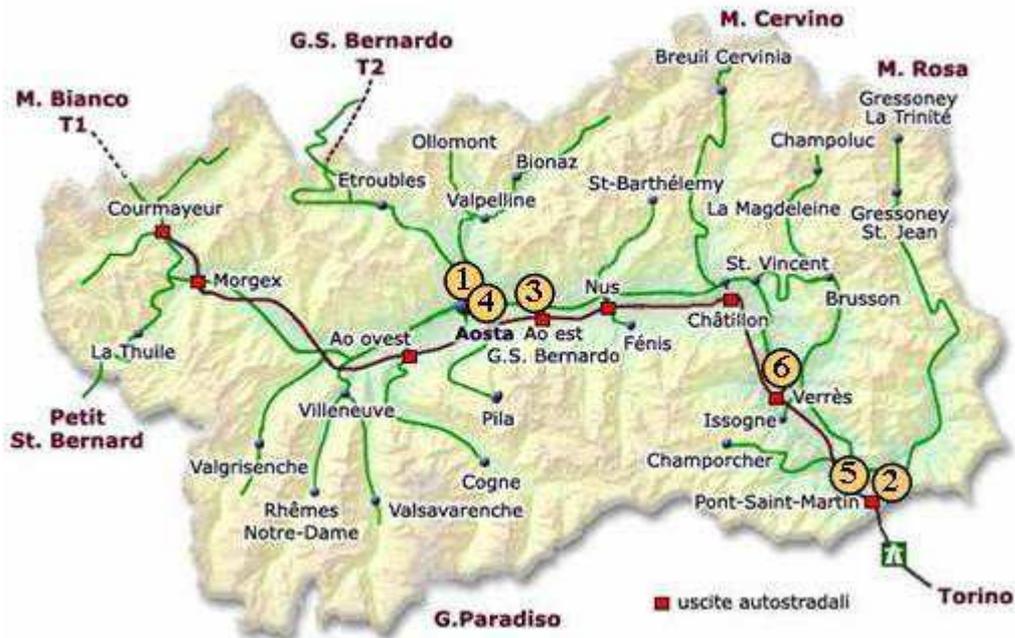
1. Introduction

After a careful survey, this initial phase of work has identified all the facilitating tools that the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta has put in place in service to businesses.

These supports include financial aid, services and simplifications of authorisation processes.

2. Localisation opportunities in Valle d'Aosta

The Regional Administration offers to companies a wide range of real estate options, which are managed by its own company, Struttura Valle d'Aosta s.r.l., with the tasks of managing, leasing, selling and building industrial/handicraft facilities. The geographical distribution of properties on the regional territory is summarised in the following figure:



	AREA	LOCATION	TYPE
1	Espace Aosta Industrial Park	Aosta	INDUSTRIAL PARK
			BUSINESS INCUBATOR
2	Ex-Ilssa Viola Industrial Park	Pont-Saint-Martin	INDUSTRIAL PARK
			BUSINESS INCUBATOR
3	Freight Terminal	Pollein	LOGISTIC AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE
4	Other high and medium valley industrial areas	Villeneuve, Saint-Pierre, Gignod, Gressan, Saint-Marcel, Verrayes, Chambave, Châtillon, Saint-Vincent, Verrès	SINGLE INDUSTRIAL UNITS
5	Other low valley industrial areas	Arnad, Hône, Donnas, Pont-Saint-Martin	SINGLE INDUSTRIAL UNITS
6	Verrès Technology Centre	Verres	TECHNOLOGICAL CENTRE

For more information about localisation opportunities in Valle d'Aosta, please visit the regional institutional site at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Avvio_impresa_e_insedimento/Processo_insediativo/default_i.aspx

or contact directly the company Struttura Valle d'Aosta s.r.l, visiting its site at the following link:

<http://new.svda.it>

2.1. Settlement process

The authorisation procedure differs depending on whether the chosen area falls within the business incubators located in the two industrial areas of Aosta and Pont-Saint-Martin, or in other existing production facilities in the region.

2.1.1. Settlement process in the Pépinières

The Pépinières d'Entreprises allow young, innovative and technologically advanced companies to successfully manage the delicate start-up phase of their business. The main objective is to support all those who are planning to implement a new business idea in Valle d'Aosta, facilitating, on the one hand, the creation of new generations of start-up companies, and on the other innovation processes of existing companies through the creation of "corporate or university spin-offs". Both actions include providing business support and a host of centralised services, with significant cost savings.

There are two Pépinières in the Region. The one in Aosta, which has been operating since 2004, is located in the industrial park area *Espace Aosta*, just minutes from the city centre, while the Pépinière of Pont-Saint-Martin, which has been operating since 1997, is located in the *ex-Ilssa Viola* industrial area.

Entities who can request the settlement

Settlement in the Pépinières is reserved for new businesses, i.e. those companies established no more than five years ago and characterised by a strong innovative content.

Settlement application

Applications are submitted directly to RTI Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini - Lattanzio Advisory S.p.A. and, following a positive evaluation, the contract with Struttura Valle d'Aosta Srl can be concluded.

Benefits for businesses located in the Pépinières

Businesses settling in a Pépinière can benefit from an affordable rental fee equal to 50% of the standard cost.

For further information, please visit the Pépinières institutional site at the following link:

<http://www.pepinieresvda.eu>

2.1.2. Settlement process in regional facilities

Settlement in regional production facilities is governed by an authorisation procedure that was established by Regional Government Decree no. 1883 of December 18, 2015. In summary, the process is subdivided into four main stages that, in addition to the applicant, involve the Department for production activities, energy and labour policies, in its role of supervisor of the proceedings, and companies owned by the Region

such as Finaosta S.p.A. and Struttura Valle d'Aosta S.r.l., which collaborate with the Department in the various stages.

Entities who can request the settlement

Settlement requests can be submitted by both industrial/craft companies and companies operating in the business services sector having specific and defined ATECO codes. The authorisation procedures are different in content but have in common the following steps:

First Contact information phase

This phase is mainly driven by the timing of the interested enterprises and their level of consolidation with regard to the new initiative; the content of this stage is characterised by defined roles, timing and transparency for preliminary information activities.

Preliminary agreement phase

During this phase, still preliminary to the formal settlement application, the company contacts Struttura Valle d'Aosta S.r.l., which provides details of its real estate portfolio available for settlement based on an up-to-date list, including through specific surveys on site. If an agreement is reached on the future settlement at one of the proposed facilities, a joint report is drawn up between the parties, which summarises the factual circumstances of the property identified for the settlement, the works deemed necessary and their predictable timing, any required installations and characterisations and the related agreements, as well as the standard contractual and economic conditions for the lease.

Formal settlement application

In addition to a settlement application, complete with all the documentation required for the related inquiry, a simplified form for initiatives by micro-enterprises is also envisaged, if the required space is up to 400 square meters.

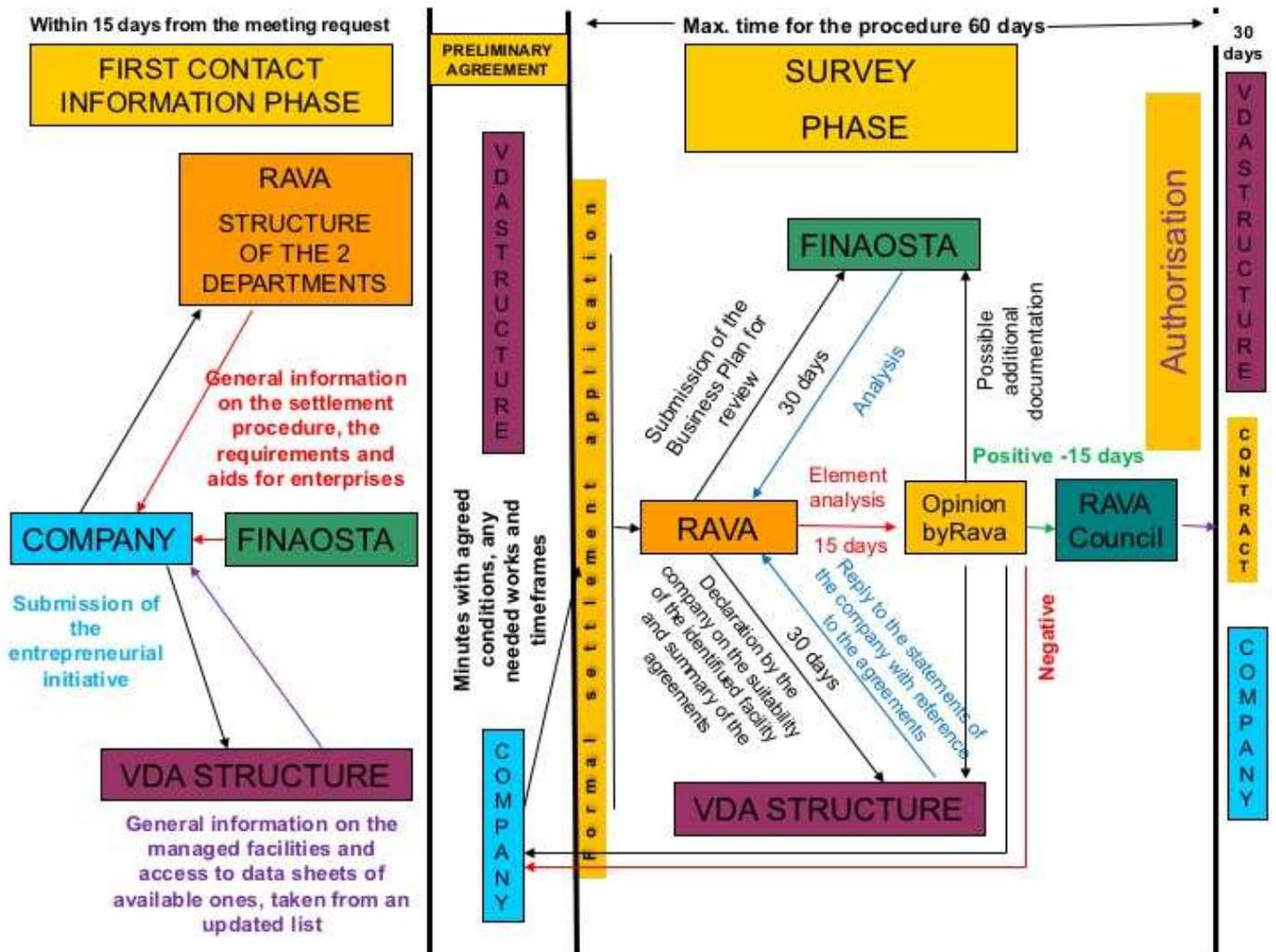
Inquiry, Authorisation and Contract

As soon as the requesting party submits a formal application for settlement, together with the required annexes, the preliminary phase of the inquiry is initiated and, if favourable, will be concluded with the settlement authorisation and the lease contract.

Assessment of the settlement application

The settlement in the regional facilities owned by Struttura Valle d'Aosta s.r.l. is subject to the approval of the Regional Government, based on some criteria that the Region has adopted on the possible settlement, first of all the eligible ATECO code. Different procedures have been identified, depending on whether the settlement concerns production activities proposed by small and medium-sized enterprises or micro-enterprises. In addition, the settlement in predefined facilities of certain categories of activity related to the tertiary sector was envisaged. All related information is contained in Regional Government Decree no. 1883 of December 18, 2015, to which reference should be made for any further clarification.

The table and the diagram below show the procedural flows that guide the settlement process, with the related timing.



PHASE PRECEDING THE SETTLEMENT APPLICATION

Valle d'Aosta Region – Struttura Sviluppo Economico (Economic development Structure)	Information to the requesting entity regarding the settlement process, delivery of the documentation, illustration of the main support tools put in place by the Regional Administration.
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PHASE OF PRELIMINARY PROPERTY AGREEMENT

Struttura Valle d'Aosta (Valle d'Aosta Structure)	On site surveys with the requesting entity in the available facilities that can potentially meet the settlement needs. In the event of an agreement regarding the future settlement in one of the proposed facilities, drafting of a joint report on the condition of the property.
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FORMAL SUBMITTANCE OF THE SETTLEMENT APPLICATION

- ✓ Structure responsible for the overall process and for the final procedure:
Struttura sviluppo economico e generi contingentati – Piazza della Repubblica 15 – 11100 Aosta
Email: industria_artigianato_energiapec.regione.vda.it
- ✓ Terms¹ and procedures:

Competent body	Action	Maximum terms	Effective date
Valle d'Aosta Region – Struttura Sviluppo Economico (Economic development Structure)	Submission by the enterprise of the settlement application to the Department, on the specific forms, including the annexes: ➤ Business Plan ➤ Property needs for the submitted project	–	–
Valle d'Aosta Region – Struttura Sviluppo Economico (Economic development Structure)	Verification of the completeness of the application and forwarding of the same to Finaosta and Struttura Valle d'Aosta of the relevant documentation	5 days	From the application submission date



Finaosta	Internal survey: Opinion regarding the economic and financial aspects of the business plan	30 days	From the submission of the business plan
Struttura Valle d'Aosta (Valle d'Aosta Structure)	Internal survey: Opinion regarding the settlement needs with reference to the facilities		From the submission of the settlement needs



Valle d'Aosta Region Struttura Sviluppo Economico (Economic development Structure)	Analysis of the evaluations transmitted by Finaosta and Struttura Valle d'Aosta and issuance of the settlement opinion	10 days	From the receipt of both the evaluations from Finaosta and Struttura Valle d'Aosta
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Valle d'Aosta Region Regional Government	Resolution authorising the settlement	15 days	From the issuance of the opinion, if positive
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¹ Term for the conclusion of the process through the adoption of a Regional Government Decree 60 days from the submission of the application, with the exception of any possible suspensions and interruptions in each individual procedure

For further information and for the relevant forms, please visit the regional institutional site at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impres/Avvio_impresa_e_insediamento/

3. Financial support

3.1. Regional measures for the development of industrial and craft enterprises (Regional Law no. 6 of March 31, 2003)

With Regional Law no. 6/2003, the Region intends to facilitate the consolidation and development of companies operating in Valle d'Aosta in fields of industry and crafts, in compliance with Community rules on State aid: the measures aim to promote production investment and internationalisation initiatives by industrial and artisan companies, single and associated.

Beneficiaries

Small, medium and large enterprises with an operating unit in Valle d'Aosta.

3.1.1. Production investments

With regard to production investments, the facilitation measures are granted through:

1. Capital contributions.
2. Subsidised loans.

Object of the measure

- a) Construction works, including technical installations and design, management and testing costs.
- b) Purchase of real estate or other related assets functionally connected with the business activity.
- c) Purchase of machinery, furnishings, equipment, vehicles and other goods strictly necessary for the business activity, brand new.
- d) Purchase of computer programs, patents, exploitation and technical knowledge licenses, patented and unpatented.
- e) Adoption of environmental protection measures related to the operation of production facilities.

Contributions for innovative investments

- Minimum eligible expenditure of € 15,000, except in the case of environmental protection measures related to the operation of production facilities and the adoption of measures for the rational use of energy, for which the minimum eligible expenditure is € 5,000.
- Maximum eligible expenditure over a three-year period of € 2,500,000 for small and medium-sized enterprises and € 10,000,000 for large enterprises.

Contributions may be granted, for real estate investment, exclusively to enterprises meeting one of the following requirements:

1. Enterprises with investment projects aimed at product or process innovation or projects whose implementation significantly contributes to the development and pre-industrialisation of one or more patented and unpatented licenses or technical knowledge.
2. Enterprises with investment programs involving collaborations with public research entities or universities, or start-ups from the same research entities or universities (so-called spin-offs) for the industrial exploitation of the results

- provided by research projects.
3. Enterprises with investment projects aimed at the adoption of environmental protection measures related to the operation of production facilities.

Aid intensity varies depending on the initiative, up to the maximum 50% of eligible expenditure.

For enterprises meeting one of the above-mentioned requirements, the maximum grant limit for each single application is:

- € 80,000 for small enterprises and related consortia or consortium companies.
- € 150,000 for medium-sized enterprises.
- € 300,000 for large companies.

For further information on this measure and for the relevant forms, please visit the regional institutional site at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/contributi/

Subsidised loans

The minimum eligible expenditure is € 15,000.

The maximum permissible expenditure over a three - year period is € 2,500,000 for small and medium enterprises and €10,000,000 for large companies. The maximum term of the loan is fifteen years, of which three are pre-amortised.

Participating loans

The amount of the loan cannot be less than € 150,000 and above € 1,000,000.

How to submit an application

Applications are submitted to the Structure dealing with production activities and cooperation.

Evaluation

Applications are subject to an automatic inquiry if the eligible expenditure amounts to less than € 50,000 and to an assessment if the eligible expenditure amounts to more than € 50,000

The interventions subject to evaluation procedures are granted only to initiatives put in place after the submission of the related application.

It is possible to submit one application only over a period of twelve months.

For further information on this measure and for the relevant forms, please visit the regional institutional site at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/finanziamenti/

3.1.2. Internationalisation

The Region promotes the internationalisation of the regional production system through grants to individual or associated industrial and artisan enterprises.

Object of the measure

- a) Studies related to marketing strategies aimed at the internationalisation of businesses.
- b) Participation in fairs and promotional events: all exhibitions abroad and those considered of international significance by the State-Regions Conference taking place on the national territory are included.
- c) Design and implementation of new advertising campaigns.

Contributions

For each individual initiative the minimum eligible spending limit is € 2,500, the maximum spending limit is € 50,000.

The intervention percentages vary depending on the initiative that can be financed up to a maximum of 60% of the eligible expenditure.

Facilitation requests with reference to the expenses incurred in the twelve months prior to the submission of the application can only be granted under the *de minimis* scheme.

How to submit an application

Applications are submitted to the Structure dealing with production activities and cooperation.

For further information on the measure as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/internazionalizzazione/default_i.aspx

Measures in support of consortia of companies

The Region promotes associations among companies by granting land rights and interventions to consortia and consortium companies between small industrial companies, artisan companies, or small industrial companies and craft enterprises: consortia and consortium companies must be made up of at least five companies.

Object of the measure

- a) Construction works, including technical installations and design, management and testing costs.
- b) Purchase of real estate or other related assets functionally connected with the business activity.
- c) Purchase of machinery, furnishings, equipment, vehicles and other goods strictly necessary for the business activity, brand new.
- d) Purchase of computer programs, patents, exploitation and technical knowledge licenses, patented and unpatented.
- e) Adoption of environmental protection measures related to the operation of production facilities.

Subsidised loans

The minimum eligible expenditure is € 15,000.

The maximum permissible expenditure over a three - year period is € 10,000,000.

The maximum duration of the loan is twenty years, including three pre-amortization annuities.

Summary tables of incentives pursuant to Regional Law 6/2003:

<i>Small enterprises</i>	<i>Innovative investments Capital contributions</i>	<i>Non-innovative investments Subsidised loans</i>
Zones in derogation Annex 1 Point 1.4, letter c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 40% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 50% if ISO 9000) or • up to 30% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014 max contribution € 80,000 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 25% (up to 30% if ISO 9000)
Zones not in derogation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 40% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 50% if ISO 9000) or • up to 20% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014 max contribution € 80,000 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 25% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 30% if ISO 9000) or • up to 20% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014
<i>Medium-sized enterprises</i>	<i>Innovative investments Capital contributions</i>	<i>Non-innovative investments Subsidised loans</i>
Zones in derogation Annex 1 Point 1.4, letter c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 40% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 50% if ISO 9000) or • up to 20% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014 max contribution € 150,000 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 25% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 30% if ISO 9000) or • up to 20% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014
Zones not in derogation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 40% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 50% if ISO 9000) or • up to 10% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014 max contribution € 150,000 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 25% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 30% if ISO 9000) or • up to 10% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014
<i>Large enterprises</i>	<i>Innovative investments Capital contributions</i>	<i>Non-innovative investments Subsidised loans</i>
Zones in derogation Annex 1 Point 1.4, letter c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 40% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 50% if ISO 9000) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 10% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014 max contribution € 300,000 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 25% (up to 30% if ISO 9000) <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 10% in ESL (Gross Subsidy Equivalent) Reg. 651/2014
Zones not in derogation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 40% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 50% if ISO 9000) max contribution € 200,000 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 25% under <i>de minimis</i> (up to 30% if ISO 9000)

How to submit an application

Applications are submitted to the Structure dealing with production activities and cooperation.

For further information on this measure and for the relevant forms, please visit the regional institutional site at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impres/Sostegno_alle_impres/finanziamenti/mutui_impres_e_consorzi/

3.2. Regional measures for the development of young entrepreneurship (Regional Law no. 3 of January 23, 2009,)

With regional law no. 3 of January 23, 2009, the Region financially supports small and medium-sized enterprises with operational headquarters in Valle d'Aosta made up of young people between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five by providing capital grants to cover part of the investment costs incurred to start the business activity.

Beneficiaries

- a) New individual companies whose owners are between eighteen and thirty-five.
- b) New companies and cooperatives with 70% of shareholders between eighteen and thirty-five, or whose share capital is held for at least 70% by persons belonging to the previously mentioned age group.

New companies are defined as those constituted no more than one year from the date of submission of the application.

Object of the measure

- a) Renovation of buildings, up to a limit of 50% of the total investment.
- b) Design and construction management, up to a limit of 5% of the total investment.
- c) Purchase of plants, machinery, equipment and vehicles.
- d) Purchase of patents and licenses.
- e) Purchase of software.
- f) Market surveys.
- g) Consultancy for business organisation.
- h) Notary deed for the incorporation of companies.

Contributions

Non-refundable contributions are provided for a maximum of 30% of the eligible expenditure and for a maximum amount of € 60,000.

The minimum eligible expenditure is € 15,000.

How to submit an application

The application for a contribution is submitted to the production activities and cooperation Structure.

Expenses incurred before the date of submission of the subsidy application are not eligible for contribution, except for the expenses related to the notary deed of incorporation.

The contributions provided for by this law are granted according to the conditions of the *de minimis* aids, in compliance with the applicable Community legislation.

For further information on Regional law 3/2009 and for the relevant forms, please visit the regional institutional site at the following link:

www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/contributi/impreditoria_giovanile_i.aspx

3.3. Support to innovation

The "Aid for innovation" measure has been conceived and designed to support the innovative capacity and competitiveness of the Valle d'Aosta industrial and artisan SMEs.

In particular, the measure provides for the granting of aid to industrial and artisanal SMEs located in Valle d'Aosta for the acquisition of high-end assistance and consultancy services, under the management and technology standpoints.

Beneficiaries

Small and medium-sized industrial and craft enterprises with operational headquarters located on the regional territory. The interventions must be located in Valle d'Aosta.

Object of the measure

The measure envisions non-repayable grants to SMEs, up to a maximum of 50%, for the acquisition of the following advisory services from specialised suppliers:

- **Support for technological due diligence:** Assessment of the state of the technology used by the beneficiaries (technological check-up) and consequent consultancy aimed at identifying the technological needs and/or at providing support for the assessment of the level of innovation and competitiveness of the technologies used, compared with those that can be acquired on the market, with the perspective of activating an entrepreneurial, an innovation or a technology transfer project in specific innovative application sectors.
- **Support to business evaluation:** Consultancy activity provided to beneficiaries and aimed at providing support for an economic-financial evaluation in the context of innovation or technology transfer projects.
- **Support for specialised technical-scientific research** through the collaborative relationships aimed at preparatory activities of research and innovation programs, such as feasibility studies, cost-benefit analysis, preparation of research, innovation and technology transfer projects.

- **Patenting assistance:** Patenting assistance activities aimed at filing national patents and/or extending them internationally.
- **Support for initiatives related to energy saving, renewable energy sources and cogeneration of electricity and heating:** Consultancy activity aimed at the study and planning of interventions in the energy saving sector (thermal insulation of buildings, insulation and reduction of energy consumption in production processes), renewable sources (exploitation of wind, solar, hydraulic, geothermal, biogas and biomass energy), cogeneration of electricity and heating.
- **Participation in innovation centres** with which the Region has signed collaboration agreements in the field of research and innovation in order to have the availability of infrastructures and services with high added value and support for interpreting the technological needs of companies.

Explanatory table of available facilities:

Type of measure	Description of eligible costs	Max admissible cost	Max contribution %
Business organisation	Costs for consulting and assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 20,000	50%
Strategic marketing	Costs for consulting and assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 20,000	50%
Production and logistics	Costs for consulting and assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 20,000	50%
Technological due diligence	Costs for consultancy and assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 10,000	50%
Business evaluation	Costs for consultancy and assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 10,000	50%
Support for technical-scientific research	Costs for consulting and Assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 20,000	50%
Assistance for national patenting	Patenting assistance provided by the specialised supplier only if directly related to the patent application procedure; direct costs of filing the patent application; translation costs for the extension of a national patent at an international level; costs do not include the maintenance of the patent.	€ 12,000	50%
Assistance for international patenting		€ 20,000	50%
Energy saving	Costs for consulting and assistance provided by a specialised supplier in favour of the beneficiary	€ 20,000	50%
Participation in innovation centres	Membership costs	€ 4,000	50%

Contributions

The contribution is granted up to a limit of 50% of the expenditure considered eligible (as per EC Regulation no. 651/2014 or EC Regulation no. 1407/2013, *de minimis*) and until funds run out.

Expenses incurred before the date of submission of the subsidy application are not eligible for contribution.

The contribution will be paid by Finaosta S.p.A. in a single payment after completion and after the beneficiary submits the final expense documentation and the report drafted by the consultant on the consultancy activities carried out.

How to submit an application

The subjects interested in obtaining the contribution must submit an application to the regional structure for production activities and cooperation of the Department of production activities, energy and labour policies via certified email to: industria_artigianato_energia@pec.regione.vda.it.

Only one subsidy application may be submitted over the twelve-month period for each SME.

For further information on the measure as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/contributi/aiuto_innovazione_i.aspx

3.4. Regional measures in favour of research and development (Regional Law no. 84 of December 7, 1993)

With regional law no. 84 of December 7, 1993, the Region intends to promote research and development of new products, production processes or services in industrial companies.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries include:

- Industrial companies with minimum ten employees.
- Research consortia of industrial companies with minimum five employees.
- Research centres with minimum five employees and whose capital is held by industrial companies for at least 70%.
- Business networks, made up of at least three companies, operating in research and development.

The beneficiaries must have their operational headquarters in Valle d'Aosta.

A significant part of the research activity must be carried out in Valle d'Aosta.

The productive effects of research in the regional territory must be specified in the project.

Object of the measure

The eligible costs are those incurred for:

- Research staff employed for the research project.

- Newly purchased tools and equipment to the extent and for the period in which they are used for the research project.
- Research materials.
- Research consultancy, contract research, technical skills and patents.
- Additional overhead costs arising directly from the research project.

Contributions

The maximum percentages of the contribution are defined by the individual calls. The maximum amount of contribution that can be granted to each company for each project is:

- € 500,000 for large companies.
- € 250,000 for medium-sized enterprises.
- € 125.000 for small enterprises.

For enterprises based in the *Espace Aoste area* of the regional capital and in the *ex Ilssa Viola area* of Pont-Saint-Martin, the maximum contribution that can be granted to each company for each project is:

- € 600,000 for large companies.
- € 400,000 for medium-sized enterprises.
- € 250.000 for small enterprises.

The duration of the research project cannot exceed 3 years and cannot be less than one year.

How to submit an application

Applications must be submitted in response to specific calls to the research, innovation and quality Structure.

Evaluation

The projects are subjected to the evaluation of a specific technical commission, after a technical-scientific investigation.

For more information on Regional Law 84/1993 as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/contributi/legge84_i.aspx

3.5. Regional measures for new innovative companies (Regional Law no. 14 of June 14, 2011)

With regional law no. 14 of June 14, 2011, the Region intends to facilitate the establishment and growth of new innovative companies that exploit research results at a production level.

Beneficiaries

New innovative companies classified as small and micro enterprises, according to the current Community definition of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as freelancers who, for the measures referred to in Regional Law 14/2011, are equated to SMEs. 14/2011, are equated to SMEs.

Innovative companies are those that can alternatively prove:

- That the costs of research and experimental development are at least 10% of the total operating costs in at least one of the three years preceding the grant.
- With an evaluation carried out by an external expert, will develop new or significantly improved products, services or processes that involve a risk of technological or industrial failure.

In the case of start-ups without any financial background, innovative companies are those that can prove that their expenses for research and development are at least 10% of the total operating expenses, referring to a period of at least a half-year, in the audit of their current tax period, as certified by an external auditor.

The beneficiaries must be established for no more than 5 years, must have been operational for no less than 6 months and must have their operational headquarters in the regional territory.

The funded activity must be carried out for at least 70% in the Valle d'Aosta operating facility.

Object of the measure

The eligible costs are those incurred for the implementation of development plans that identify the company's growth objectives and show the feasibility of their achievement and their financial sustainability, and are related to:

- a) Employees, seconded personnel and collaborators.
- b) Specialist advice.
- c) New plants, machinery and technological equipment, functional to the implementation of the development plan.
- d) Materials (raw materials, components, semi-finished products, specific consumables) used exclusively for the implementation of the development plan.
- e) Licenses and rights to use industrial property and software licenses.
- f) Business incubation services.

The development plans must involve only expenses related to activities qualifying as industrial research, experimental development, introduction of process and/or product innovation, prototyping, engineering and industrialisation.

The development plans must be initiated after the application assessment date and have a duration of not less than one year and not more than three years.

Expenses may be incurred from the start date and within the duration of the development plan.

Contributions

Contributions are granted in the minimum amount of 40% up to a maximum of 60% of the eligible expenses for the implementation of business development plans and within the limits of the maximum variable amount from € 50,000 to € 150,000, depending on the sector in which the company operates. For each year, the contributions are disbursed by annual progress reports that cannot exceed the annual amount per company that may vary from € 25,000 to €75,000 depending on the sector in which the company operates.

How to submit an application

The applications for the granting of the contributions are submitted, subject to stamp duty, to the research, innovation and quality Structure before the implementation of the related interventions, on the specific forms.

The application must prove the compliance with the requirements of article 2 of law 14/2011, contain the development plan, identify the quantified objectives of company growth and demonstrate their feasibility as well as their financial sustainability, include the expenditure forecasts and indicate the duration of the plan expressed in months.

Evaluation

The grants are awarded following an administrative investigation of the competent structure, and through the acquisition of an economic-financial opinion from Finaosta S.p.A. regarding the sustainability and adequacy of the development plan and an opinion on the innovative nature of the development plan by experts. The Technical Scientific Committee, referred to in Article 12 of the Regional Law of 7 December 1993, n. 84 (Regional interventions in favour of research and development), will monitor the approved plans.

For more information on Regional Law 14/2011 as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/contributi/legge14_i.aspx

3.6. Regional measures for initiatives in favour of quality, environment, safety and social responsibility (Regional Law no. 31 of November 12, 2001)

With Regional Law no. 31 of November 12, 2001, the Region intends to facilitate the introduction in small and medium enterprises of methodologies and systems aimed at improving and guaranteeing quality, environmental protection, workers' safety and social responsibility.

Beneficiaries

Small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as freelancers who, for the interventions referred to in Law no. 31/2001, are equated to SMEs, with production units located in Valle d'Aosta and operating in the sectors of industrial production, crafts, tourist accommodation, commerce, public establishments and services.

Object of the measure

Evaluation studies: Eligible expenses are those for external consultancy regarding evaluation studies for the introduction of quality systems, environmental management systems, safety systems and systems for managing social responsibility.

Implementation of systems: Eligible expenses are those for the implementation of quality systems, environmental management systems, safety systems and social responsibility management systems, incurred for: external consultancy; purchase of capital goods for tests and controls; training cost; interventions by external laboratories; purchase of specific computer programs; purchase of technical standards.

Compliance certification of systems: eligible expenses are those for the issuance of the certification as well as for the maintenance of the certification for the first 3 years

after obtaining the certification, incurred for the intervention of accredited certification bodies.

Certification of products: the costs incurred for the work of accredited certification bodies and interventions by external laboratories are eligible for the certification of product conformity.

Contributions

The contributions cannot exceed, for each enterprise, the following amount limits:

- a) € 6,000 for the implementation of evaluation studies.
- b) € 30,000 for the adoption of management systems.
- c) € 6,000 for the certification of compliance of management systems.
- d) € 3,000 each year for the maintenance of the certification of compliance of management systems.
- e) € 6,000 for the certification of conformity of company products with respect to national, EU and international standards.

How to submit an application

The applications for the granting of contributions must be submitted before the start of the initiatives to which the applications refer, using the appropriate forms. Expenses incurred prior to the submission of the application cannot be eligible for contribution. Contributions are determined by applying to each type of expenditure the percentage established by community regulations.

For more information on Regional Law 31/2001 as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/contributi/legge31_i.aspx

3.7. Regional measures in favour of cooperatives (Regional Law no. 27 of May 5, 1998)

The Region facilitates, with appropriate incentives in the form of non-repayable contributions, the establishment and development of cooperative companies within the territory of Valle d'Aosta.

Object of the measure

- a) Acquisition of areas necessary for the exercise of the statutory activities, including the purchase of business complexes and business units, acquisition, construction, transformation, expansion or modernisation of facilities necessary for the exercise of the statutory activity.
- b) Acquisition of machinery, plants, equipment, furnishings, vehicles, brands and patents.
- c) Acquisition of computer programs commensurate with production, administrative and management needs, including user licenses.
- d) Projects of technological innovation and sharing of technological networks, including the creation of web sites and portals.

Contributions

Contributions for start-up investment, for expenses incurred or undertaken in the two years following the date of registration in the relevant registers of cooperative companies, up to a maximum of 50% of the eligible expenditure and up to a maximum amount of € 42,000.

Contributions for new investment, for expenses incurred or undertaken after at least two years following the date of registration in the relevant registers of cooperative companies, up to a maximum of 50% of the eligible expenditure and up to a maximum amount of € 62,000.

Contributions for business organisation expenses, up to a maximum amount of € 15,000, for expenses related to:

- a) Establishment of the cooperative body.
- b) Participation of members and employees in training courses aimed at strengthening the skills strictly necessary for the activity carried out by the cooperative.
- c) Advice and technical assistance for the development and implementation of projects commensurate with the production and management needs of the cooperative.

Contributions to capitalisation, on capital account, up to a maximum amount of € 30,000, for business development projects in relation to initial capitalisation operations, subsequent increases in share capital or increases in equity, determined by the allocation of retained earnings.

How to submit an application

The application for a contribution is submitted to the production activities and cooperation Structure.

For more information on Regional Law 27/1998 as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/cooperazione/default_i.aspx

3.8. Regional measures in support of employment and training

The Region envisages interventions in the form of both financial support and advice, technical assistance and training for employment and self-employment.

The main measures have the following purposes:

- Raising the quality of human resources.
- Encouraging the use of instruments supporting lifelong learning.
- Contributing to a more effective competitiveness of the company and fostering its technological and organisational innovation.
- Facilitating the establishment of permanent employment relationships, providing financial incentives for the recruitment of workers belonging to specific categories.
- Stimulating the vocation to entrepreneurship, supporting business creation and development.
- Supporting the creation of networks between universities, research centres, production companies and institutions.

- Supporting the growth of human resources in the research sector and developing skills related to the technology transfer.

The Regional Labour Agency provides grants for the training of workers through European and national funds.

The "Employment" Operative Plan finances training measures aimed at increasing the competitiveness of companies and strengthening the professional and occupational status of workers.

The companies are provided with various tools for:

- Presenting training plans based on specific needs (**Business training**).
- Submitting requests for funding related to training initiatives provided by external parties and available on the market (**Individual training from a catalogue**).
- Participating in training initiatives provided directly by regional training organisations (**Inter-company training**).

The training initiatives financed by the Region through the granting of non-repayable contributions must be presented in response to specific calls issued by the Regional Labour Agency.

For further information on professional training as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Lavoro_e_formazione/default_i.aspx

3.8.1. Incentives for recruitment

The 2012/2014 Work Policy Plan, still in force, is the main tool for regional labour policies. The tools provided by the Plan are intended to counter the serious employment crisis and to create development and innovation in the territory through the integration of education, vocational training and employment policies, with the use of various funding sources.

Object of the measure

The recipients of incentive contributions and the conditions that must be met for the admission to benefits are listed below.

- Private employers are eligible for the incentive contribution, if:
 - They are established and active at the time of application.
 - Operate in the territory of the Valle d'Aosta Region.
 - Belong to one of the following categories involved in economic activities and holders of VAT number: enterprises, cooperatives, associations, foundations, subjects exercising freelance professions in individual, associate or company forms, and autonomous workers.
 - Hire staff belonging to the categories indicated in the following points with a permanent or fixed-term contract, not an intermittent one.

The worker must be resident in Valle d'Aosta at the time of the employment for which the funding is requested. It is not sufficient to have submitted the request for residence to the local Municipality. In the event that the worker moves his/her residence outside Valle d'Aosta

after being hired, the contribution remains valid for the period concerned.

The funding does not cover hires made with an apprenticeship contract.

- b) For the purposes of admission to benefits, the employer must not have made redundancies, due to staff reduction or any objective and justified reason, of personnel with the same professional qualification or having duties similar to those of the worker who is the subject of the request for funding, in the twelve months preceding the employment date. During the same period, the employer must not have personnel with the same professional qualification, or having duties similar to those of the worker who is the subject of the request for funding, covered by lay-off or redundancy schemes (“mobilità” or “cassa integrazione guadagni straordinaria”).
- c) Companies cannot access the incentives for employment of the following people: spouses, relatives within the 3rd degree or in-laws within the 2nd degree of the owner or legal representative, as well as of any company shareholders (in the case of partnership companies).
- d) Employers must comply with the contractual provisions established by current legislation and with the contribution and insurance obligations, as well as with the monthly payment of salaries.
- e) The subjects for whom the funding is requested must not have had permanent employment contracts with the applicant company in the twelve months prior to the funded hiring.
- f) The subjects for whom the funding is requested must not have had fixed-term employment contracts with the applicant company in the six months prior to the funded permanent hiring. It is specified that the fixed-term employment relationships mentioned above are only those that involve the subordination element.
- g) The incentives in favour of an employer who is admitted to funding and who makes transfers of employees (due to change of the company name, merger, company transformation or transfer) over the course of a two-year period, are transferred to the new employer in proportion to the working period accrued. The transfer of the funding will take place upon presentation of a written notice of the transfer, together with a copy of the agreement between the parties and the unions, or suitable documentation (e.g. copy of the notary deed of reference). This provision also applies in the case of a company being transferred to a third party: in this case, the new employer acquires the contribution for the remaining period.
- h) In the event that a new employer takes over the management of an enterprise (or the legal form or the name of the company is changed), the personnel already working in the previous company is not eligible for funding, except as provided for in the preceding point g).
- i) The submission of the application by cooperatives, also of social nature, regularly enrolled in the regional register of cooperatives, for the employment of a partner-worker, is allowed only in the case in which the person is hired as an employee.
- j) Employers must not be in difficult conditions in accordance with the European Commission Communication 2004/C 244/02 on "Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty" and art. 1, paragraph 7 of Regulation 800/200816.

Contributions

The types of incentive for hiring are shown in the following tables.

It should be noted, however, that since October 5, 2013, the Regional Government has suspended the admission of requests for hiring contributions, pursuant to Regional Decree 1606/2013.

For further information as well as for the related forms, please contact the Department of Labour and Training Policies - Loc. Grand Chemin n. 34 - Saint Christophe (Ao) - Employment incentives office - tel. 0165 272970 - 272935 or visit the regional institutional website at the following links:

http://www.regione.vda.it/lavoro/pianopoliticalavoro/default_i.aspx

http://www.regione.vda.it/lavoro/Imprese/incentivi_assunzione_i.aspx

Recipients of the contribution	Persons subject to work placement	Incentive granted for	Type of grant	Aid intensity up to	Max duration of the benefit
DISADVANTAGED worker					
Private employers	Without a regularly paid job for at least 6 months	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men)	3 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (women)	
	Not holding a high school or professional diploma (ISCED 3)	Permanent contract Working relationship transformation From Fixed-t. To Perm.	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men)	3 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (women)	
	Worker over 50	Permanent contract Working relationship transformation From Fixed-t. To Perm.	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men)	3 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (women)	
	Adult living alone with one or more dependents	Permanent contract Working relationship transformation From Fixed-t. To Perm.	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men)	3 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (women)	
HIGHLY DISADVANTAGED Worker					
Private employers	Worker without a job for at least 24 months	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men)	3 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (women)	
Worker with DISABILITIES					
Private employers	Physically disabled with civil disability between 46-79% or work related disability of 33-60%	Permanent or fixed-term contract	in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008 or under regime under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) 1998/2006 (EC) 1998/2006	55% of the gross wage cost (men and women)	3 years
	Physically disabled with civil disability > 79% or work related disability > 60%			65% if of age > 45 years	
	With psychic or sensorial disability > 45%			65% of the gross wage cost (men and women) - 75% if of age > 45 years	
				75% of the gross wage cost (men and women)	

Recipients of the contribution	Persons subject to work placement	Incentive granted for	Type of grant	Aid intensity up to	Maximum duration of the benefit
Other categories					
Private employers	Researcher	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (THERE IS) 1998/2006	40% of the gross wage cost (men and women)	2 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	20% of the gross wage cost (men and women) in the case of small enterprises	
				10% of the gross wage cost (men and women) in the case of medium-sized enterprises	
Private employers	Young person between 18 and 32 years old with a diploma or degree	Permanent contract (also following a 6 month internship)	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men) 50% of the gross wage cost (women)	3 years
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (men and women - disadvantaged)	1 year
			in exemption pursuant Reg. (EC) 800/2008 (EC) 800/2008	50% of the gross wage cost (men and women - highly disadvantaged)	2 years
Private employers	Worker who is missing no more than 5 years to meet the requirements for retirement seniority or old age	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	65% of the gross wage cost (men and women)	5 years
	Apprentice	Transformation of an apprenticeship contract before the deadline	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men) 50% of the gross wage cost (women)	3 years
	Worker who has reached the age of 45 and has lost his/her job	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men) 50% of the gross wage cost (women)	3 years
	Worker on the redundancy list ("mobilità")	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men) 50% of the gross wage cost (women)	3 years
	Workers benefiting from unemployment allowances ("mobilità in deroga")	Permanent contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost (men) 50% of the gross wage cost (women)	3 years
	Workers suspended at zero hours ("Cigs" or "Cig" "in deroga")			50% of the gross wage cost (men) 50% of the gross wage cost (women)	3 years
Mountain communities of the Municipality of Aosta	LUS - Social utility worker	Fixed-term contract	no applicable aid scheme	100% of the gross wage cost (men and women) 50% of the gross wage cost (men and women) in the case of socially useful works for the accompaniment to retirement. Each worker can take up to 3 recruitments in projects of social benefit or for a maximum of 5 years in case he/she must be accompanied until reaching the requirements for retirement	5 years (accompaniment to retirement)
Private employers	Person in a situation of social hardship	Permanent or fixed-term contract	under the "de minimis" regime pursuant to Reg. (EC) (EC) 1998/2006	50% of the gross wage cost for hiring with Fixed-t. (men and women)	3 years
				50% of the gross wage cost for hiring with Ind. (men and women)	

3.8.2. IRAP tax relief (Employment Increase) (Regional Law no. 30 of December 13, 2011- Article 2 - paragraph 3)

Among the benefits envisaged for increasing employment, companies can obtain IRAP reliefs for staff recruitment.

This is a concession for taxpayers who increase by at least 2.5 per cent the net workforce with a permanent contract, by reducing the IRAP rate to 2.98% for 3 tax periods starting from that of the increase.

Interested parties can verify the compulsory hiring, in order to access the benefit, through the use of the spreadsheet provided on the institutional website, at the address below.

Users must enter:

- The type of contract applied by the company.
- The weekly hours provided for by the contract (for instance 40 hours per week).
- The total number of permanent employees on the closing date of the tax period preceding the one concerned by the subsidy, subdivided according to the weekly contract hours (e.g. 2 full-time people, 2 people with 20 hours per week, 3 people with 30 hours per week).

The spreadsheet will automatically return the number of full-time employees and the number of employees to be hired on a part-time basis; for the latter, the minimum contractual weekly hours will be indicated.

Regional Government deliberation no.164 of 13/02/2015 approved the new application rules of the IRAP reduction for the new hiring have, in implementation of article 2, paragraph 3 of Regional Law n. 30 of 2011, starting from January 1, 2014.

How to submit an application

Those wishing to benefit from the subsidy are required to submit, within 4 months from the end of the tax period related to the benefit, the employment increase notification to the structure in charge of labour policies.

For further information as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/finanze/tributi/tributi_reg_prov/irap/quanto_paga_a4_i.asp

3.8.3. Training vouchers

Training vouchers are aimed at expanding people's access to training opportunities to improve and increase employability. They will be co-funded by the European Union through the Program *Investments in favour of growth and employment 2014/20 (ESF)*, which proposes a line of funding dedicated exclusively to Higher Education.

The investment in Higher Education and Research plays a central role in the economic and employment development of the Region and allows the Administration to intervene in the programming of Universities and Research Centres and connect it

more strongly to the needs of regional development. The involvement of universities, research centres and companies is an essential factor to attract, through the financing of projects, investments by entrepreneurial subjects, in thematic areas of interest for the production system and in coherence with the *Smart Specialisation Strategy* and with the other program lines of the Region, which will also facilitate the employability of young researchers outside the academic context.

The resources available will therefore be concentrated for the funding of programs that are part of research projects, consistent with the territorial context and able to involve a plurality of public and private entities (companies, universities, and research centres). From this standpoint, the financing of Winter and/or Summer Schools, can on the one hand, increase the opportunities for Valle d'Aosta students and, on the other, attract deserving students and researchers from the national and international territory.

The management methods will be different from those adopted in the 2007-2013 European Social Fund program.

Funding will no longer be made through the provision of vouchers or other forms of contribution to individuals. The main objective of the investment will be to finance a range of programs (Masters, Winter and/or Summer Schools) for the strengthening of the university and research system, tightening the relationships between universities, research centres and companies, through the development of human resources involved in the joint design and implementation of research and innovation projects for the benefit of competitiveness of businesses and territorial development.

The total amount allocated amounts to around 1 million euro.

To date, the call for funding for this line is not yet active.

For further information as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/lavoro/cittadini/formazione/buoni_formativi_i.aspx

3.8.4. Placement/re-placement internship

The internship consists of a period of orientation and training in the company, aimed at orienting careers, encouraging socialisation and training at work, supporting companies in the permanent inclusion of new human resources.

The traineeship has a maximum duration of six months, does not constitute a working relationship, cannot be used to replace staff with temporary contracts or absent for other reasons.

Requirements

Requirements of the hosting entity:

- Have a registered office and/or production unit in the regional territory.

- Be in compliance with the legislation on health and safety in the workplace (Legislative Decree 81/2008) and with Law 68/1999.
- Not having made redundancies of personnel if not for cause or justified subjective reason in the 6 months preceding the submission of the application in the organisational unit object of the placement.
- Not having in place any authorised ordinary or extraordinary CIG procedures in the same organisational unit.

Requirements of the trainee:

- Be over 16 years of age.
- Be enrolled in the registry of the Employment Centre of reference.

Reference legislation

- Law 92/2012.
- Agreement between Government, Regions and Autonomous Provinces on the "Guidelines on Traineeships", signed on January 24, 2013.
- Resolution of the Regional Government no. 2190 of 31/12/2013 "Rules on the subject of traineeships".

Possible planned expenditure

There are no preliminary investigation costs.

The hosting company must provide for the payment of a compensation to the trainee and cover the insurance costs.

How to submit an application

The application can be submitted at any time of the year and must contain:

- Proposal to activate the internship by the company.
- Training project.

For further information as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/lavoro/Imprese/tirocini/default_i.aspx

3.8.5. Craft workshops ("Botteghe di Mestiere")

Italia Lavoro promotes a system of "*Workshops of Craft and Innovation*" ("Botteghe di Mestiere e dell'Innovazione") for the activation of 395 internships in workshops in different Regions, of which 40 in Valle d'Aosta.

The Workshops are a group of companies able to facilitate the transmission of specialised skills to the new generations, the generational turnover and the birth of new entrepreneurship, processes of innovation and internationalisation, as well as the development of local networks.

The Call can be answered by groupings (established or to be established) formed by a Promoter and one or more Hosting Subjects (maximum ten) constituted in one of the following forms: Consortium - Temporary Association of Enterprises or Special-Purpose Consortia (ATI/ ATS); Network contract; Partnership; Other regulated forms.

Object of the measure

Types of workshops

The Workshops, in possession of the specific Ateco Codes indicated in the Appendix of the Notice, can host from a minimum of seven to a maximum of ten trainees per workshop and can be:

- "*Sectoral*": Involving companies that operate on the same stage of a production cycle in one of the eight sectors provided for by the Notice (Clothing-Fashion, Food and Wine-Catering, Artistic Crafts, Large Organised Distribution, Wood-Furnishing, Mechanical, Naval, Printing).
- "*Supply chain related*": Involving companies that operate throughout the entire life cycle of a product, in one of the three supply chains provided for by the Notice (Clothing-Fashion, Agri-Food-Food-Dining-Catering, Wood-Furnishing).
- *Operating in Digital Crafts*: Using digital technologies for the manufacture of new products or for the development of unconventional production processes, in particular: 3D modelling and printing; advanced electronic prototyping tools and dynamic software; "open hardware" technologies; digital processing such as laser cutting and numerical control milling.

Types of traineeships

Traineeships have a six-month duration, are governed by the National Guidelines and by the regional regulations of reference and qualify as work placement/reintegration programs. They must be completed by 31/03/2017 and involve a trainee's commitment of not less than 25 hours per week. They are divided into:

- Traineeships carried out in the Region of residence of the young person.
- Traineeships carried out in national geographical mobility, i.e. in a Region other than that of the trainee's residence.

The Hosting Subjects of the Workshops, with headquarters/business unit in one of the EU or Member States or in Switzerland, will be able to activate, within the aforementioned programs, experiences of transnational geographical mobility lasting 1, 2 or 3 months each.

The professional profiles for which traineeships can be activated are those indicated in the Appendix of the Notice, in relation to each type of Workshop.

Contributions

Promoters

Maximum contribution of € 500.00 for the management activities of the traineeships for each program lasting 6 months. The entitlement to the grant will accrue in the amount of 50% at the completion of half of the traineeship and to the extent of 100% at the completion of the entire program.

Hosting Subjects

Monthly contribution of € 250.00 for individual tutoring activities carried out in favour of each trainee.

Trainees

- Compensation of € 500.00 per month for traineeships carried out in the Region of residence.
- Participation allowance of € 500.00 per month plus a mobility allowance for internships with national geographic mobility (maximum 140 national geographic mobility programs are eligible).

- Mobility allowances, for the months of internships with transnational geographical mobility (maximum 224 months can be funded in transnational geographical mobility).

For further information as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/lavoro/cittadini/tirocini/botteghe_mestiere_i.aspx

3.9. Regional measures for easier access to credit (Regional Law no. 75 of November 27, 1990)

Guarantees on loans

In order to improve access to credit for industrial and artisanal businesses of Valle d'Aosta, there are two collective credit guarantee consortia in the region, Confidi Valle d'Aosta and Valfidi: these consortia intervene in favour of companies, guaranteeing, in part, loans and other forms of credit from credit institutions, leasing and factoring companies and regional financial institutions.

Investment measures

The Region, in accordance with Regional Law 75/1990, intervenes financially with grants to companies belonging to the Valle d'Aosta Guarantee Consortia, reducing the interest rates charged by affiliated banks on loans for investment transactions, up to a maximum of 75% of the interest rate.

Investment transactions include the following:

- a) Expenses for the purchase, expansion, renovation and modernisation of buildings, expenses for the purchase of equipment, plants, furniture and infrastructure, including those relating to energy saving and pollution reduction.
- b) Expenses for the purchase and establishment of companies, expenses related to the promotion and distribution of company products as well as costs related to research and purchase of patents.

Advances on sales of commercial credit

The Region intervenes financially by lowering the interest rates charged for advances on commercial credit transfers (*factoring*) carried out by the companies belonging to Valle d'Aosta Guarantee Consortia, up to a maximum of 75% of the interest rate.

The facilities provided for by Regional Law 75/1990 are granted under the *de minimis* regime, in accordance with current Community legislation.

For more information on regional access to credit and the related forms, please visit the sites www.confidivalledaosta.it and www.valfidi.it

4. Services to Enterprises

4.1. Pépinières d'entreprises of Aosta and Pont-Saint-Martin

The Valle d'Aosta Region, through its two business incubators in Aosta and Pont-Saint-Martin, offers interesting opportunities for development in an innovative and dynamic environment, as well as prospects for cross-border collaboration.

The incubators, called *pépinières d'entreprises*, are industrial buildings built under Community programs, thanks to the co-financing of the European Regional Development Fund, the State Revolving Fund and regional resources. Within the Regional Operational Program ERDF 2014/20, the measure "Interventions of support for the creation of new businesses through direct incentives, through the offer of services, and through micro-financing" provides for the granting of non-refundable contributions in the amount of 50% for the acquisition of incubation and tutoring services to small and medium-sized new companies that settle in the *pépinières d'entreprises* of Aosta and Pont-Saint-Martin.

The SMEs incubated in the lots available at the *pépinières*, of different sizes from 50 square meters to 350 square meters, will be provided with logistics and innovative services such as, for instance, conference and videoconference room, meeting rooms, e-learning room, EDP centre, management tutoring, web hosting, server farm, VOIP, and broadband connectivity. The *pépinières d'entreprises*, which, for their philosophy and methods of intervention, are part of the network of over one hundred European Business and Innovation Centres (Centres Européens d'Entreprise et d'Innovation) promoted by the European Commission, operate within innovative architectural complexes located in the main industrial areas of Valle d'Aosta: Espace Aosta and ex-Illsa Viola of Pont-Saint-Martin.

The enterprises, immersed in the enchanting alpine atmosphere of the Region, have the possibility to operate in a pleasant environment, proposing to their staff high standards of quality of life. Thanks to the proximity to the main industrial districts and technology parks of the northwestern regions, Lombardy and the neighbouring regions of France and Switzerland, the companies can leverage a geographically strategic area able to offer wide and interesting business prospects.

The *pépinières d'entreprises* allow young, innovative and technologically advanced companies to successfully manage the delicate start-up phase of their activities. The main objective is to support all those who intend to start a new enterprise in Valle d'Aosta, favouring on the one hand the creation of new generations of "innovative start-ups", on the other the innovation processes of existing companies through the creation of "business or university spin offs", by providing business assistance and a series of centralised services with a significant reduction in costs.

How to submit an application

The application for the facility must be submitted to the regional structure for production activities and cooperation of the Department of production activities, energy and labour policies

via certified email to: industria_artigianato_energia@pec.regione.vda.it.

The forms and the conditions and methods of settlement are available on the websites of the Region (www.regione.vda.it) and of Struttura Valle d'Aosta S.r.l. (www.svda.it).



Pépinière of Aosta



Pépinière of Pont-Saint-Martin

4.2. Investment promotion (Regional Law no. 8 of June 13, 2016)

The Region, in order to increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of the economic system of Valle d'Aosta, contributing to the implementation of the European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth:

- Promotes the strengthening, qualification, innovation and specialisation of companies.
- Enhances research and development projects, investments and technology transfer, as well as professional qualification and retraining projects for human resources.
- Facilitates the inflow of domestic and foreign investments in the regional territory.

Settlement and development agreements

The Region promotes the conclusion of Settlement and Development Agreements, concerning new production facilities, projects for the growth of existing companies and production reconversion programs, which are characterised by the granting of subsidies to companies, pursuant to the limits established by the current European legislation on state aid and within the financial resources allocated to regional sectoral laws.

In order to guarantee a level playing field and transparency, the Regional Government approves, with its own resolution, a specific call for tenders for the definition and conclusion of the Agreements.

The criteria for the identification of the investments of regional interest, the identification of available financial resources and the beneficiaries, the procedures for submitting and evaluating applications, the type of investments that can be financed, the aid intensity and the methods of disbursement are contained in the call.

Enterprise networks

In order to enhance the contribution of industrial companies, artisanal enterprises and cooperatives to the qualification of the production sector and to the increase in employment, the Region promotes the establishment of enterprise networks aimed, in particular, at the implementation of research and development, marketing and internationalisation, qualification and consolidation of subcontracting and supply chain relationships and the development of higher quality standards, within the limits of the financial resources allocated to the regional sectoral laws.

Enhancement of the territory, promotion of investments and internationalisation

In order to promote the development of the territory, the Region concludes collaboration agreements with other Regions and with international institutions, coordinates its promotion policy on foreign markets, attracts investment implementing National and European strategies and collaborates with other public and private entities operating in the regional territory with the same purposes.

Measures to combat production relocations

To counteract production relocations, which take place within three years from the granting of capital contributions from regional finances, from a regional site to a non-EU state, with a consequent reduction in

personnel of at least 50%, the Region will forfeit the beneficiary companies from the benefit granted, with the obligation to repay the contributions received.

For further information as well as for the related forms, please visit the regional institutional website at the following link:

http://www.regione.vda.it/Portale_impresa/Sostegno_alle_impresa/insediamento_e_sviluppo_i.aspx