PRESENTATION OF PROCEDURE
BG16RFPR001-2.003 "Introduction of Green Technologies in SMEs"

"Competitiveness and Innovation in Enterprises" Programme 2021–2027

PROCEDURE OBJECTIVE:

To encourage investment in the introduction of green technologies within enterprises and thereby contribute to accelerating the transition to a circular economy.

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE PROCEDURE:
82 995 277 €

SIZE AND INTENSITY OF GRANT FUNDING:

Size of grant funding:

Minimum size of the requested grant funding	Maximum size of the requested grant funding, depending on the category of the applicant enterprise and the chosen aid regime under Element I.
77 000 €	**If the "de minimis " regime is selected:** Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises: 300 000 €
	If the "regional investment aid" regime is selected: Micro enterprises: 300 000 € Small enterprises: 350 000 € Medium-sized enterprises: 450 000 €

Eligible activities and costs are structured into two components: Element I (mandatory) and Element II (optional). Under the mandatory Element I of the procedure, the following two aid regimes are eligible: **"regional investment aid" or "de minimis" regime.**

For the mandatory Element I, applicants must select only ONE of the two eligible regimes, depending on their needs and the specifics of the project proposal. For the optional Element II, ONLY the "de minimis" regime is eligible.

In addition, the maximum amount of the requested grant for an individual project must NOT exceed:

- for micro enterprises: 100% of the average annual net sales revenue for the three-year period of 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- for small enterprises: 60% of the average annual net sales revenue for the three-year period of 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- for medium-sized enterprises: 40% of the average annual net sales revenue for the three-year period of 2023, 2024, and 2025.

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Intensity of grant funding:

1. "Regional Investment Aid" regime:

Enterprise category	Max intensity of grant funding for activities outside the SWR (South-West Region)	Max intensity of grand funding for activities in the SWR (South-West Region)
Micro and small enterprises	70%	Sofia city (capital): 35% Sofia region: 65% Blagoevgrad Region: 65% Pernik Region: 40% Kyustendil Region: 40%
Medium-sized enterprises	60%	Sofia city (capital): 25% Sofia Region: 55% Blagoevgrad Region: 55% Pernik Region: 30% Kyustendil Region: 30%

2. "De Minimis Aid" regime:

Enterprise category:	Max intensity of grant aid:
Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	**70%**

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

1. **Traders within the meaning of the Commercial Act or the Cooperatives Act**
2. **Registered no later than 31.12.2023**
3. **Micro, small, or medium-sized enterprises**
4. **Must have achieved average annual net sales revenues for 2023, 2024, and 2025 as follows:**

Enterprise category:	Average annual net sales revenue for 2023, 2024 and 2025:
Micro enterprise	≥ 200 000 BGN
Small enterprise	≥ 300 000 BGN
Medium-sized enterprise	≥ 800 000 BGN

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

ELEMENT I (mandatory):

1. **Activity 1. Introduction of green technologies in enterprises for the implementation of circular production and consumption models. The activity**

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shall ensure the introduction of green technologies for the implementation of one or more circular models in the following areas:

- **Area 1) Improvement of waste management:**
  - preparation for reuse and/or recycling, and/or other waste processing activities and their subsequent incorporation as raw material into production or service provision processes, and/or
  - reduction in the quantity of waste generated per unit of existing product/service produced or provided, and/or
  - reduction in the quantity of wastewater generated per unit of existing product/service produced or provided.

- **Area 2) Optimizing the use of raw materials, including water:**
  - incorporating residual raw materials and/or recycled raw materials into the production/provision of products/services, and/or
  - incorporating bio-based raw materials (e.g., substituting synthetic or fossil-based materials with bio-based ones), including the production of products made entirely from bio-based raw materials, and/or
  - reducing the raw materials (including plastic) used for the production/provision of a unit of an existing product/service (the quantity of raw materials input for the production/provision of a unit of an existing product/service), and/or
  - substituting or reducing the use of hazardous substances (including raw materials containing hazardous substances) through the use of alternative raw materials, and/or
  - reducing the volume of water consumed for the production/provision of a unit of an existing product/service.

- **Area 3) Limiting the use of packaging:**
  - eliminating or reducing the use of packaging (including plastic) or replacing packaging (including plastic) with more eco-friendly options (biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, reusable, or other types of "green" packaging).

- **Area 4) Production/provision of sustainable products/services:**
  - enabling product reuse or multiple use, including through full functional refurbishment of products after the end of their use or through the introduction of the "product-as-a-service" model, etc., and/or
  - enabling modernization/repair—repairing/replacing damaged parts and/or components, etc.—to extend the product's service life, and/or
  - increasing disassembly capabilities at the end of the product lifecycle to facilitate recycling or the utilization of waste from products/services after their use has ceased, and/or
  - replacing plastic products—including single-use ones—with alternative products (i.e., products not made wholly or partially of plastic), such as reusable, biodegradable, compostable, or bio-based items.

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ELEMENT II (optional):

2. **Activity 2. Achieving compliance with environmental standards, including the EU Ecolabel:**
   - The activity involves the implementation of the following environmental standards:
     - EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme);
     - BDS EN ISO 14001 (Environmental management systems);
     - BDS EN ISO 14006 (Environmental management systems – Guidelines for incorporating ecodesign);
     - The EU Ecolabel.

   - Activities under Element II are implemented **ONLY** subject to the conditions and thresholds for "de minimis" regime.
   - Applicants for grant funding may submit project proposals comprising either solely Activity 1 under Element I or a combination of Activities 1 and 2 across both elements of the procedure; however, the inclusion of Activity 1 under Element I is mandatory. Including only Activity 2 under Element II in the project is not permitted.

ELIGIBLE COSTS:

Eligible costs under ELEMENT I (mandatory):

1. Costs for the acquisition of machinery, facilities, and equipment constituting tangible fixed assets (TFAs) necessary for the introduction of green technologies to implement circular models within the enterprise;
2. Costs for the acquisition of intangible fixed assets (IFAs)—including software, patents, utility models, industrial designs, and licenses—necessary for the introduction of green technologies to implement circular models within the enterprise.
   - The eligible amount of costs for software acquisition—including via a contract for use over a specific period (license, SaaS, etc.)—is up to EUR 90,000 (inclusive of the grant and the applicant's own co-financing).

Eligible costs under ELEMENT II (optional):

3. Costs for services to achieve compliance with environmental standards, including the EU Ecolabel – up to EUR 15,000.
   - Eligible costs include consultancy services for the implementation and certification of the following environmental standards, including the EU Ecolabel:
     - EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme);
     - BDS EN ISO 14001 (Environmental management systems);
     - BDS EN ISO 14006 (Environmental management systems – Guidelines for incorporating ecodesign);
     - EU Ecolabel.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

12 months

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

10 November 2026

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