

# Funding opportunities 2014-2020 for structural and cohesion funds

# Investment priorities and financial allocation

**The Partnership Agreement** sets out **4 major directions** in the private sector for the next programming period:

- Increasing private companies competitiveness
- Energy production/transport and energy efficiency
- Research, technological development and innovation
- ICT

**Financial allocations** on operational programs are:

- **Regional Operational Programme: Eur 6.2 bn** (ERDF)
- **Competitiveness Operational Programme: Eur 1.3 bn** (ERDF)
- **Large Infrastructure Operational Programme: approx. Eur 11.8 bn** (Cohesion Fund, ERDF and state budget)
- **Human Capital Operational Programme: Eur 5 bn** (ESF and state budget)
- **National Rural Development Programme: Eur 8 bn** (European Union and Romanian Government)

# Research, technological development and innovation (I)

The Competitiveness Operational Program aims to strengthen RDI sector through:

Investments to develop the enterprises' research and development (R&D) departments:

- Setting-up new R&D departments (laboratories/centres) and mandatorily their endowment with research equipment and tools
- Upgrading, extension, consolidation and change of destination of actual R&D departments and mandatorily their endowment with equipment and research tools
- Procurement of research equipment and tools
- **Eligible applicants:** companies performing R&D activities
- **State aid intensity:** **50%**, excepting West and Ilfov regions (**35%**) and Bucharest (**15%**)
- **Grant value:** **EUR 1 - 20 million**

# Research, technological development and innovation (II)

## Investment projects for innovation clusters:

- Investments in R&D cluster facilities: land acquisition, construction/expansion of buildings intended for R&D institutes/centers/laboratories, purchase of tangible assets: buildings and/or facilities, research equipment and tools, purchase of intangible assets
- Clusters innovation activities: acquisition, validation and protection of patents and other intangible assets belonging to the cluster; highly qualified staff detachment within the cluster; acquisition of innovation advisory and support services
- Support activities for clusters development: cluster animation and advertising, training programs, workshops and conferences development, transnational cooperation
- **Eligible applicants: innovative start-ups/SMEs** or organizations of research and knowledge dissemination/non-profit operators managing and exploiting the innovation cluster
- **Maximum grant intensity: 55%** in Bucharest-Ilfov region and **65%** in other regions (max. **50%** for projects of support activities and max. **50%** for innovation activities developed by SMEs)
- **Maximum grant value: LEI 4.5 million - 30 million** (up to **LEI 20 million** if the project involves cluster innovation activities)

# Research, technological development and innovation (III)

## Investments for innovative start-ups and spin-offs

- Products development and significant improvement of new processes/technologies for manufacturing and trading
- **Eligible applicants:**
  - **Start-ups:** enterprise set-up by Law 31/1990, recording maximum 3 years of activity in the year of project submission
  - **Spin-offs:** enterprises to be set-up on the basis of a result achieved within public research organizations (RD or higher education institutions)
- **Maximum grant value:** **LEI 840,000** (the LEI equivalent of **EUR 200,000**); for companies in the road transport sector - **LEI 420,000** (the LEI equivalent of **EUR 100,000**)
- **Aid intensity:** maximum **90%** of the total project eligible costs

# Information and communication technologies - ICT

**Competitiveness Operational Programme** aims to develop ICT products/services through:

- Investments in tangible and intangible assets for an initial investment
- Investments in industrial research and experimental development
- Investments in innovation projects of SMEs
- Investments in process innovation and organizational projects
- **Eligible applicants:**
  - Companies (SMEs), inclusively within clusters centered on ICT or consortia (partnerships) of companies within clusters centered on ICT, operating in Romania
- **Eligible areas:**
  - Manufacture of electronic components (modules) - NACE 2611; Manufacture of other electronic components - NACE 2612; Manufacture of communication equipment - NACE 2630; Activities of information technology services - NACE 620; Research and development on natural sciences and engineering - NACE 721
- **Grant value: max. LEI 3,240,000**

# Energy production/transport and energy efficiency (I)

The following types of interventions will be funded under **Operational Program for Large Infrastructure**:

- Setting-up and/or upgrading **electricity and/or heat production capacities in biomass and biogas plants**
- Setting-up and/or upgrading **heat production capacities in geothermal plants**
  - **Eligible applicants:** private companies operating in energy production/trading
  - **Eligible activities:**
    - setting-up new production facilities, where there were not so far
    - works at an actual installation, to create additional production capacity (considered as a new installation)
  - **Grant value: EUR 15,000,000** (the total project cost, including VAT, can not exceed the limit of **EUR 50,000,000**)
  - **State aid intensity** (percentage of total eligible costs):
    - **80%** - micro and small companies, **70%** - middle companies, **60%** - large companies

## Note:

- Projects implemented in Bucharest-Ilfov region are not eligible

# Energy production/transport and energy efficiency (II)

- Implementing **smart energy consumption monitoring systems for industrial companies**
  - **Eligible applicants:** industrial enterprises, consuming more than 1,000 toe/year (defined as major energy consumers) for which consumption monitoring systems should be implemented to identify quick solutions to reduce consumption and for which a powerful tool to measure the positive effects of increasing energy efficiency actions is needed and which activates within mining and manufacturing industries (according to NACE code)
  - **Eligible activities:**
    - facilities/equipment for monitoring energy consumption
    - monitoring systems (hardware and software): sensors/measuring instruments and control devices for industrial process data
    - data selection unit, data communication system, station
    - master station; automated system of data processing and solutions optimizing; other equipment
  - **Grant value:** max. **EUR 200,000** (EUR **100,000 euro** for linked companies activating in the sector of road freight transport)
  - **State aid intensity:** **100%** (aid granted under minimis aid rules)

## Note:

- Projects implemented in Bucharest-Ilfov region are not eligible



# Energy production/transport and energy efficiency (III)

- **Setting-up/upgrading cogeneration high efficiency power plants (8MWe) on natural gas and biomass for intern consumption**
- **Setting-up/upgrading cogeneration high efficiency plants using waste gases** resulted from industrial processes for intern consumption
  - **Eligible applicants:** industrial companies/industrial parks (park administrator or park energy distributor), with recorded consumptions of over 200 toe/year, that can prove a heat need of minimum 4,000 hours/year for industrial processes completion; activating in mining and manufacturing industries, class B and C (according to NACE codes)
  - **Eligible activities:**
    - purchase of facilities/equipment for construction/modernization of high efficiency cogeneration units of industrial enterprises
    - constructions related to the industrial process subject to the project of producing energy from cogeneration
  - **Grant value:** max. **EUR 6,000,000** (the total project cost, including VAT, can not exceed the limit of **EUR 50,000,000**)
  - **State aid intensity:** **80%** - small enterprises, **70%** - middle enterprises, **60%** - large enterprises

## Note:

- Projects implemented in Bucharest-Ilfov region are not eligible

# Human capital development

**Human Capital Operational Programme** finances the following investment priorities:

- Improving skills for Neets (young people not in employment, education or training) and increasing their occupancy
- Training programs for inactive (unemployed, older workers, people with disabilities etc.)
- Support for SMEs already set up (with a minimum one year activity) to create new jobs
- Improved levels of knowledge/skills/abilities of the employees in primary economic sectors/areas identified within Competitiveness National Strategy and Innovation, Development and Research Strategy
- Coaching/training for managers/entrepreneurs in businesses
- Outplacement of workers to be dismissed/redundant , with the support of consultancy companies
- Improvement of human resources management in companies
- Usage of flexible forms of employment (e.g. work at home, teleworking, flexible working hours)
- Organization/development of learning programs at work (internship/traineeship, apprenticeships etc.), addressed to students in higher education institutions

# Development of food processing industry

Businesses operating in **food processing industry** can benefit from the following investments under the **National Rural Development Programme**:

- Investments in **processing/trading and/or development of agricultural products**:
  - setting-up and/or modernization of processing and trading units
  - usage of new technologies to develop new products and processes
  - environmental protection measures including lowering energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
  
- Investments in **processing/marketing of fruit growing sector**:
  - setting-up and modernization of processing units
  - usage of new technologies to develop new products and processes
  - improving internal control quality
  - decreasing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

# Increasing private companies competitiveness (I)

## The State Aid Scheme for major investments (GD no. 807/2014) funds:

- Projects on **initial investments exceeding EUR 10 million**, developed in the same area: setting-up a new plant, extension of manufacturing capacity, diversification of products portfolio, fundamental changes in production process
- Eligible expenditures:
  - **Tangible assets:** buildings of any type, acquisition of installations, machinery and equipments, rental of buildings related to the initial investment
  - **Intangible assets:** licenses, know-how or other intellectual property rights
- Eligible applicants:
  - **Operating companies** with the return on turnover  $>0$  and equity  $>0$  in the last financial year
  - **Start-ups** with subscribed and paid-in capital of at least Lei 100,000 which do not belong to shareholders who hold or have held in the past two years another business with similar activities to those for which financing is requested
- State aid intensity: **50%**, excepting West and Ilfov regions (**35%**) and Bucharest (**15%**)

# Increasing private companies competitiveness (II)

State aid scheme for supporting investments promoting regional development through new job creation (GD no. 332/2014) funds:

- Projects on initial investments that create, for each investment location, at least **10 new jobs** (of which minimum three jobs for disadvantaged people)
- Eligible expenditures: wage costs (up to the value of average gross wage in the economy) recorded over a period of **2 consecutive years**
- Eligible applicants: **large enterprises** and **SMEs (including start-ups)**
- State aid intensity: **50%**, excepting West and Ilfov regions (**35%**) and Bucharest (**15%**)