

A photograph of a coastal town in Puglia, Italy, built on a rocky cliff overlooking the sea. The town has white buildings and a prominent church tower. The foreground shows green olive trees.

Mini PIA Non-Refundable Grants in Puglia

A comprehensive guide to accessing substantial non-refundable grants for micro and small enterprises in Puglia under the Regional Programme 2021-2027.

Programme Overview

What is Mini PIA?

The Mini PIA (Pacchetti Integrati di Agevolazione) is one of Puglia's most significant business incentive schemes, offering substantial non-refundable grants to micro and small enterprises across various sectors.

Investment Range

Funding for investment projects ranging from €30,000 to €5 million, managed by Puglia Sviluppo S.p.A. under the Regional Programme 2021-2027.

Continuous Applications

The programme operates on a continuous basis with no fixed application deadlines, subject to fund availability.

Eligible Beneficiaries



Micro and Small Enterprises

As defined by the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) - Appendix I of EU Regulation n. 651/2014.



Freelance Professionals

Equipped to small enterprises as economic operators according to Article 12, Law 22 May 2017, no. 81.



Small Enterprises Classified as Medium-sized

Based exclusively on company participations.



Artisan Enterprises

That meet specific operational requirements.

Legal and Administrative Requirements

- Be regularly constituted and registered in the Business Register
- Freelancers must possess a VAT number and be registered with relevant professional associations where required
- Operate under simplified or ordinary accounting regimes
- Not be classified as enterprises in difficulty under EU regulations
- Maintain compliance with building, urban planning, labour, and environmental regulations
- Have not received illegal or incompatible State aid



Investment Parameters and Limits

€30K

Minimum Investment

The lowest eligible expenditure amount for Mini PIA projects.

€5M

Maximum Investment

The highest eligible expenditure amount for comprehensive projects.

90%

Capital Investment Limit

Maximum percentage of the overall integrated project value.

€1M

Innovation Investments

Maximum for both SME innovation and business process/organisational innovation.

Additional Investment Limits

€500K

Training Initiatives

Maximum eligible expenditure
for training programmes.

€3M

Environmental Protection

Maximum eligible expenditure
for environmental measures.

€500K

Business Consultancy

Maximum eligible expenditure
for consultancy services.

€500K

Internationalisation

Maximum eligible expenditure
for trade fair participation.

Operational Requirements

Projects must be carried out by enterprises either already located in Puglia or intending to establish operations within the region.

Beneficiaries are obligated to maintain their operations in Puglia for at least three years after completion of the investment project.

Enterprises cannot have relocated to the investment location in the two years preceding application and must commit to non-relocation for two years post-completion.

Eligible Economic Sectors

Manufacturing

Section C, with specific exclusions

Construction

Section F, with exclusions

Wholesale & Retail

Section G, with exclusions

Transportation

Section H, with exclusions

Additional Eligible Sectors

Information & Communication

Section J, with exclusions

Professional Services

Section M, with exclusions

Healthcare & Social

Section Q, with exclusions

Cultural & Entertainment

Section R, with exclusions

Innovation Focus Areas

Environmental Sustainability

Projects focusing on circular economy principles and sustainable resource management.



Information Technology

Digital solutions for industry and society, including automation and connectivity.

Blue Growth

Marine and coastal economy initiatives leveraging Puglia's Mediterranean position.



Life Sciences

Health technologies and biomedical innovations addressing healthcare challenges.

Project Integration Requirements

All Mini PIA projects must include integrated elements beyond basic capital investments:

- **Capital investments** for setting up new business units, expanding existing operations, business diversification, or fundamental process changes
- **Innovation investments** (mandatory integration)
- **Optional complementary investments** in training initiatives, environmental protection measures, business consultancy services, and international business promotion

Eligible Expenditure Categories

1

Tangible Assets

- Land purchase and construction works (including property acquisition)
- Machinery, production facilities, and office furniture
- Commercial vehicles and feasibility studies

2

Intangible Assets

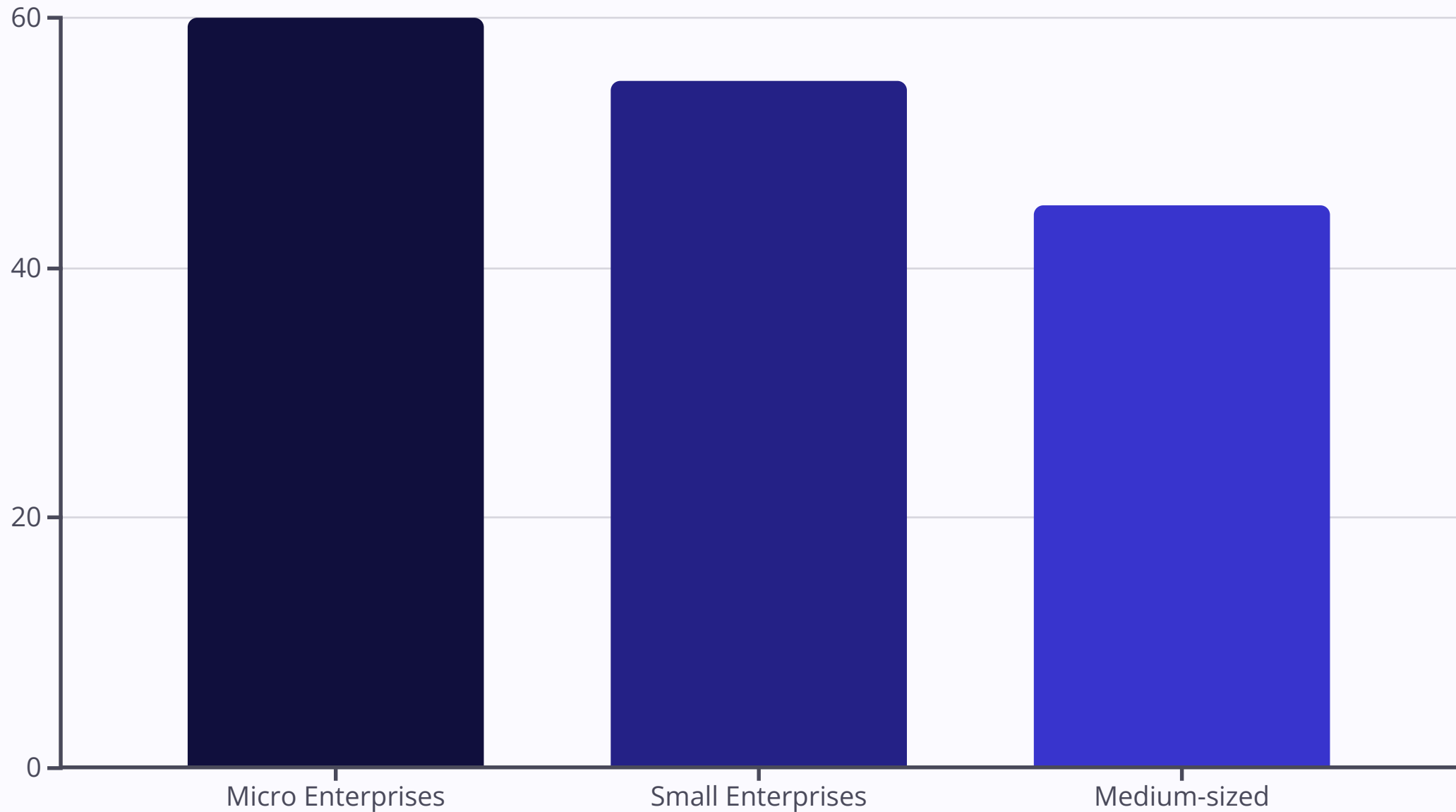
- Software licenses and development
- Operating licenses, patents, and know-how acquisition
- Technology transfers and technical knowledge

3

Operational Costs

- Employee salaries for two-year periods related to the investment project
- Training costs aligned with Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy
- Consultancy services for innovation, digitalization, and international business development

Funding Levels for Capital Investments

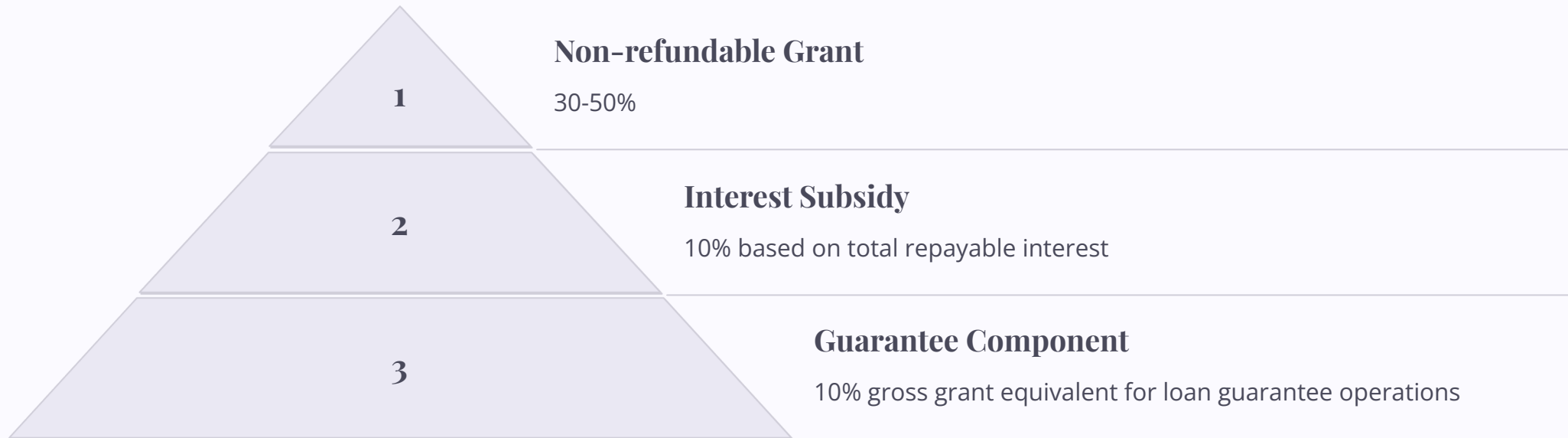


Grant percentages for capital investments vary based on enterprise size, with micro enterprises receiving the highest funding level at 60% of eligible costs.

Funding Levels for Other Investments

Investment Type	Micro/Small	Medium-sized
Innovation Investments	50%	50%
Training Initiatives	70%	60%
Environmental Protection	65%	55%
Business Consultancy	50%	50%
Internationalisation	50%	50%

Financial Instrument Components



The funding structure comprises three variable-intensity components that together form the comprehensive financial support package for eligible projects.

Application Process



Initial Application

Electronic submission through PugliaSemplice platform generates a protocol number and CUP (Unique Project Code).



Financial Review

Loan eligibility assessment by financial intermediary within six months. Minimum 50% of overall investment value required.



Project Assessment

Puglia Sviluppo evaluates the complete application package for eligibility and compliance.



Implementation

Project completion within specified timeframes with final documentation within three months of completion.



Property Requirements for Tourism Projects

For tourism development projects, properties must meet specific requirements to qualify for Mini PIA funding:

- Located within the territory of the Puglia Region
- Demonstrated property availability through ownership or documented arrangements
- Preference for properties with historical or cultural significance
- Support for recovery of abandoned buildings and unfinished structures

Heritage and Cultural Properties

Historic Masserias

Traditional Puglian farmhouses with architectural significance.

Traditional Villas and Palaces

Properties with heritage value that contribute to regional cultural identity.

Protected Buildings

Properties subject to Legislative Decree 42/2004 for historical or artistic interest.

Historic Center Buildings

Buildings in Zone A that have been abandoned for at least three years.

Rural Structures

Including trulli, towers, and fortifications with cultural significance.

Accommodation Facility Requirements

Minimum Room Standards

- **Tourist hotel facilities:** Minimum of 7 rooms for major hotel developments
- **Non-hotel accommodations:** Minimum of 5 rooms for facilities such as bed & breakfasts, tourist residences, and similar accommodations
- **Existing facilities:** Expansion and modernization projects for existing tourist facilities with established room capacity



Property Ownership Requirements

⊗ Critical Requirement

To qualify for Mini PIA grants in Puglia, you must either already own the property or be able to demonstrate its availability at the time of application.

If you do not yet own the property, you must present a **preliminary sale agreement (compromesso) with at least a 10% down payment on the purchase price** to prove that you have secured access to the property for the intended investment.

This requirement is part of the initial "access phase" of the application process. Without ownership or a valid preliminary agreement, the application will not be considered eligible for funding.

Building Compliance and Technical Requirements

1 Urban Planning Conformity

Properties must demonstrate conformity with urban planning and building regulations, with explicit reference to the proposed development intervention.

2 No Regulatory Obstacles

Applicants must provide evidence of no existing obstacles to obtaining necessary concessions and authorizations.

3 Building Code Compliance

Properties must comply with all relevant building codes and urban planning instruments.

4 Infrastructure Capacity

Properties must have adequate infrastructure capacity to support tourism development, including utilities, access roads, and compliance with accessibility requirements.



Ongoing Obligations and Restrictions

Beneficiaries must maintain strict compliance throughout the project lifecycle:

- **Operational Continuity:** Maintain operations in Puglia for minimum three years post-completion
- **Compliance Requirements:** Adherence to labour regulations, environmental standards, and collective bargaining agreements
- **Documentation Standards:** All invoices and administrative documentation must reference the assigned CUP code
- **Anti-Relocation Provisions:** No relocation for two years post-completion

Anti-Relocation Provisions

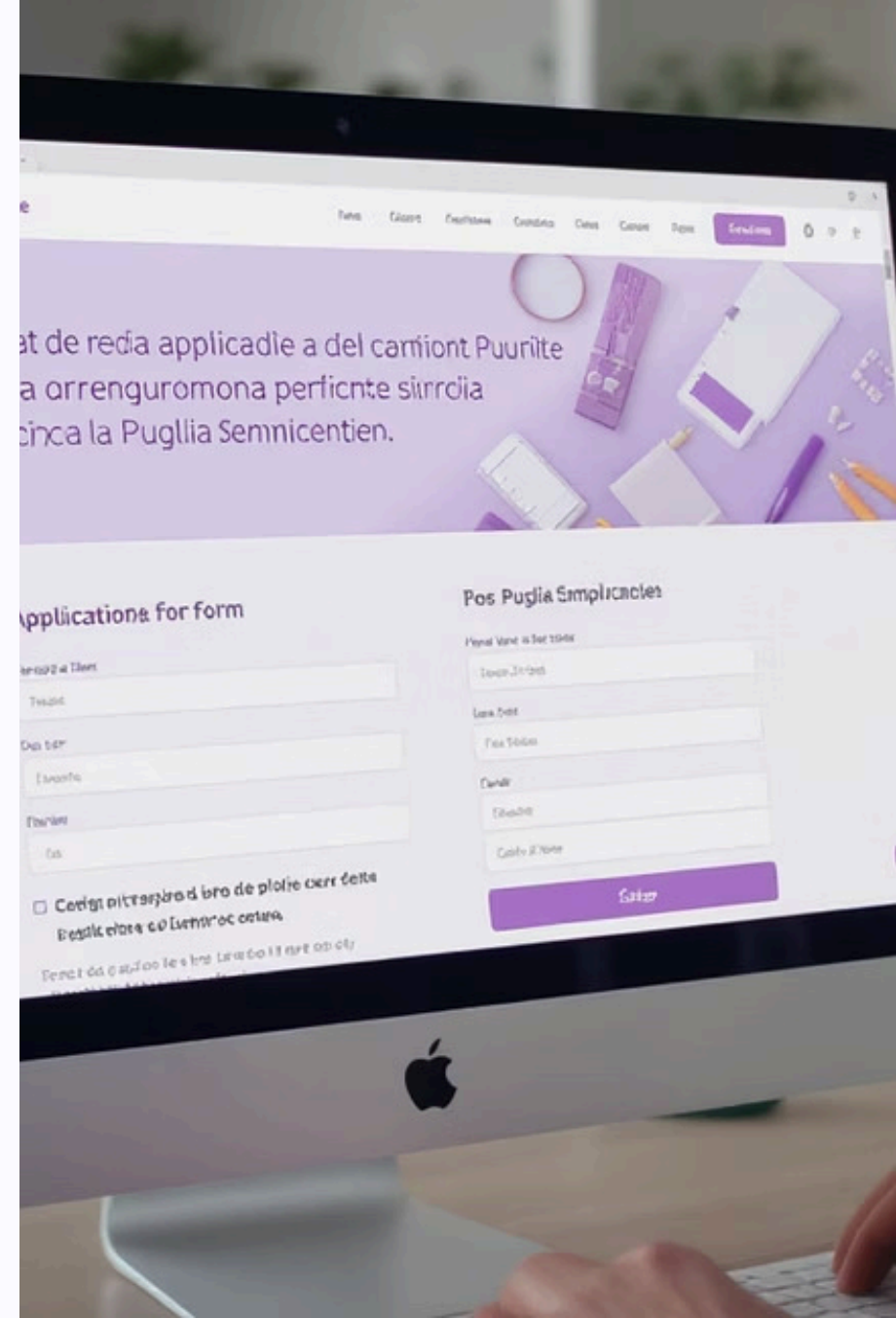


Application Platform

Applications must be submitted electronically through the PugliaSemplice platform:

<https://pugliasemplice.sistema.puglia.it>

All documentation must be in Italian language. The submission process is continuous with no fixed application deadlines, subject to fund availability under the 2021-2027 Regional Programme.



Key Takeaways

Substantial Funding

Non-refundable grants from €30,000 to €5 million for eligible projects.

Continuous Applications

No fixed deadlines, subject to fund availability under the 2021-2027 programme.



Eligible Beneficiaries

Micro and small enterprises, freelancers, and artisans meeting specific criteria.

Integrated Approach

Projects must combine capital investments with mandatory innovation components.

Property Requirements

Ownership or preliminary sale agreement with 10% down payment required.



Next Steps & Contact

Unlock the potential of your investment in Puglia with Mini PIA non-refundable grants. Our dedicated experts are here to guide you every step of the way.

Book Your Consultation Today

Connect with our specialists today to schedule a consultation and learn more about the available non-refundable grants:

Phone: +39 351 400 1402

Email: info@investiscope.net

For comprehensive information and investment tools, visit investiscope.net

We look forward to supporting your project in Puglia.