

FINANCE, MANUFACTURING AND CRAFTS MANSHIP DEPARTMENT



**FINANCIAL SUPPORT SCHEME
TO SUPPORT THE ATTRACTION OF NON RESIDENT
RESEARCHERS AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED WORKERS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
ARTICLE 1 – Aims	3
ARTICLE 2 – Definitions.....	3
ARTICLE 3 – Beneficiaries.....	4
ARTICLE 4 – Technological fields	5
ARTICLE 5 – Characteristics and intensity of the grant	7
ARTICLE 6 – Presentation of applications	7
ARTICLE 7 – Evaluation of applications.....	7
ARTICLE 8 – Commitments of the beneficiaries	9
ARTICLE 9 – Method of payment of the grant.....	10
ARTICLE 10 – Revocation of the grant	10
ARTICLE 11 – Information and communication	11
ARTICLE 12 – Privacy Policy	12
ARTICLE 13 – Responsibilities	12
ARTICLE 14 – Resources and time schedule	12
ARTICLE 15 – Applicable standards	12
ARTICLE 16 – Responsible for the procedure.....	13
ARTICLE 17 – Method of appeal.....	13

INTRODUCTION

In application of article 15bis of the Regional Law n. 84/1993 - in order to increase the innovativeness and competitiveness of companies and research centers - the Aosta Valley Region promotes the *House & Work* financial scheme to attract non resident researchers and highly qualified workers who decide to settle in Aosta Valley to take part in research projects developed by local industrial companies, Centers of excellence, research organizations that have a local unit operating in Aosta Valley. For this purpose the Region will grant to the beneficiaries a contribution to partially cover accommodation costs.

ARTICLE 1 – Aims

1. Beneficiaries of the grant are Researchers and highly qualified workers engaged in research and development projects aimed at the production of innovative technological products, processes or services, who will be supported for their initial settling in the Region in order to promote positive effects on the territory in terms of impact on employment, on the competitiveness of the production system, on the quality of the research system, thus strengthening local economy.

ARTICLE 2 – Definitions

1. According to Article 2 of Regulation (EU) n. 651 of the Commission of 17th June 2014, published in the Official Journal of the European Union series L 187/1 of 26th June 2014, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- a. *industrial research*: planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It includes the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation;
- b. *experimental development*: acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services.

Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.

Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements;

2. *Highly qualified workers* are defined as workers with a professional qualification included in the levels 1, 2, 3 of the Istat classification of CP 2011 professions:

- level 1: legislators, entrepreneurs and senior management;
 - level 2: intellectual, scientific and highly specialized professions;
 - level 3: technical professions.
3. *Industrial enterprises* are defined as enterprises that carry out activities relating to the production of goods and services and their transformation. For the purposes of this initiative, companies that carry out an economic activity identified in the following sections of the "*Classification of economic activities Ateco Istat 2007*" are considered industrial: section B (extraction of minerals from quarries and mines); section C (manufacturing activities); section D (electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply); section E (water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities); section F (construction); section J (information and communication services); section M (professional, scientific and technical activities) limited to classes 71.2 and 72.1; section Q (health and social assistance) limited to category 86.
 4. *Centers of excellence* are defined as the entities indicated in the resolution of the Regional Council n. 1972 of July 16th, 2010:
 - ARPA VDA - Aosta Valley Regional Agency for Environmental Protection;
 - Courmayeur Mont Blanc Foundation;
 - CERVIM - Center of Excellence, Studies and Enhancement for Mountain Viticulture;
 - Safe Mountain Foundation - Fondation Montagne Sûre;
 - Foundation for Biotechnologies (no longer in operation);
 - IAR - Institut Agricole Régional
 - Experimental Zoophylactic Institute of Piedmont, Liguria and Aosta Valley;
 - Regional Museum of Natural Sciences;
 - Astronomical Observatory of the Aosta Valley Region;
 - Gran Paradiso National Park;
 - Mont Avic Natural Park;
 - Angelo Mosso Scientific Institute (no longer in operation);
 - Scientific Analysis Laboratory of the Aosta Valley Region.
 5. The European Commission Communication 2006/C 323/01 defines *research organization* as "an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organized under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it".
 6. The *scholarship for research purposes* is a direct instrument for the recruitment of personnel interested in participating in research groups or projects. The scholarship for research purposes does not in any way constitute a subordinate or productive employment relationship of any other type of income and the remuneration must be aimed at supporting the training activity in scientific research.

7. A *local operating unit* is a structure, also divided into several physically separate properties, but close to each other's and functionally connected, aimed at carrying out the business of the enterprise or of the entity, with technical, organizational, functional and managerial autonomy.

ARTICLE 3 – Beneficiaries

1. May apply for the grant individuals, including non-EU citizens, with the skills and any experience necessary to actively participate in industrial research and experimental development projects, who have received an permanent or fixed term employment offer as highly qualified full-time employees at industrial companies or centers of excellence or research organisations in local units operating in Aosta Valley.
2. May also apply for the grant unemployed individuals , including non-EU citizens, with the skills and any experience necessary to actively participate in industrial research and experimental development projects, as holder of a scholarship for research purposes in centers of excellence or research organizations having local units operating in Aosta Valley.
3. May apply for the grant individuals referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, who have obtained a master's / specialist degree or an equivalent foreign qualification, which allows to carry out research activities in the technological fields indicated in the following article,
4. May apply for the grant individuals who, at the time of the application and for the entire previous calendar year, are not resident and have not been resident or domiciled in the regional territory during the last 12 months and do not own a property located in Aosta Valley.

ARTICLE 4 – Technological fields

1. The research activity that the beneficiaries of the initiative will have to carry out in companies, centers of excellence, research organizations must be included into at least one of the following technological areas identified by the Aosta Valley Smart Specialization Strategy:

GREEN MOUNTAIN	
Power	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications and systems for distributed generation, cogeneration / tri-generation of energy, especially in the field of biomass and mini and micro-hydro for the sustainable management of natural resources • Technologies for the distribution and storage of energy • Bio-processes for biomass pre-treatment and for energy production (production of biofuels) • Creation and management of advanced technological systems for reducing the energy intensity of production activities • Energy management services • Technologies for the self-configuration of systems 	
Agriculture / Tourism Integration	
Networks between agro-food and tourism companies	
Sustainable building and green building	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for sustainable construction, the construction of low consumption energy buildings and the renovation of buildings with techniques aimed at saving energy and energy efficiency • Bio-building, bio-climatic architecture and new materials 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building automation • Intelligent system for installation and configuration of services
<p align="center">"Green" productions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovations in agro-food production quality, networks between producers • Networks between producers and accommodation facilities
<p align="center">Environment and ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies for the protection of air, water, soil and fauna • Advanced technological systems for environmental protection in relation to production activities • Technologies for the redevelopment and conversion of contaminated industrial sites and compromised urban areas • Technologies for waste treatment • Technologies for the treatment of animal waste
<p align="center">Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies for preventive and predictive medicine • Technologies for mountain medicine

EXCELLENCE MOUNTAIN
<p align="center">Specialized productions for the mountain</p> <p>Specialized production for the mountains (equipment, clothing, new materials)</p>
<p align="center">Consolidation / relaunch of existing industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special steels • Mechanics • Automotive • Electronics • ITC systems
<p align="center">Ski areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems and Applications for ticketing and access control on smart-phones • Mobile-Apps specialized for information and reservations on the ski areas • Networked systems among operators
<p align="center">High Mountain Paths / Refuges System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized mobile apps for hikers (maps, information, augmented reality, booking systems, security / positioning, networks among operators) • Applications for control and protection of naturalistic areas

SMART MOUNTAIN
<p align="center">Territory Safety and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring networks and sensor or biosensor systems • Technologies for the automated collection of data and information and for the processing of remote sensing data • Diagnostic techniques for the control of infrastructures and sensor networks • Wireless communication networks for secure communications • Early-warnings systems
<p align="center">The Digital Mountain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband network infrastructure (VDA Broad business)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIFI network infrastructure • Systems and applications of public digital services (Public Administration and Health)
<p style="text-align: center;">Networking/Smart Cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public WIFI networks • Network on existing networks • BBCC system • Public lighting for management and supply of new services

ARTICLE 5 – Characteristics and intensity of the grant

1. Beneficiaries will be awarded a grant, corresponding to 75% of the cost of rent indicated in the lease contract, located in Aosta Valley, for the hiring period indicated in the employment contract or for the duration of the scholarship for research purposes.
2. The employment contract or scholarship for research purposes at the local Aosta Valley operating unit and the lease agreement for a property located in the Aosta Valley must have a duration of at least 6 months.
3. In any case, the grant cannot be paid for a period exceeding 3 years.
4. The grant cannot exceed the following amounts:

Beneficiary	Maximum grant (monthly)	Maximum grant (3 years)
Single person or couple	€ 450,00	€ 16.200,00
Single person or couple with child or children	€ 550,00	€ 19.800,00

5. The grant will not increase the income tax base of the beneficiary.

ARTICLE 6 – Presentation of applications

1. The grant application must:
 - be presented with stamp duty no later than 3 months from the start of the activity, using the forms available on the Aosta Valley Region official website;
 - be sent via certified e-mail to the following address: industry_artigianato_energia@pec.regione.vda.it or sent by registered letter with return receipt, or delivered personally to the Department of Finance, Production Activities and Crafts - Research, innovation, internationalization and quality structure, indicated below as "Competent structure" - Piazza della Repubblica, 15 - 11100 Aosta.
2. The applicant must attach to the grant application:
 - in case the applicant has received an offer for a subordinate job as a highly qualified full-time employee in industrial companies or centers of excellence or research organisations with a local unit operating in Aosta Valley, the declaration of the company / centre of excellence / research organization that:

- a. has hired or undertakes to employ the full-time beneficiary as a highly qualified employee;
- b. indicates the type of employment contract, the place of work, the effective date, the duration and the assigned qualification;
- in the event that the applicant actively participates in industrial research and experimental development projects, as holder of a scholarship for research purposes at centers of excellence or research organisations with a local operating unit in the Aosta Valley, the declaration of being the holder of a scholarship for research purposes;
- the description of the possessed skills, the research and development activity that will be carried out, the correspondence between the skills possessed and the activities to be performed;
- the declaration of residence outside Aosta Valley region;
- the declaration of the state of unemployment;
- the Curriculum vitae drawn up in Europass format, duly signed and dated;
- if required, the declaration of possession of a master's / specialist degree or equivalent qualification that allows carrying out the research activity identified in the technological fields described above (in case of a foreign qualification, documentation certifying its equivalence to a corresponding Italian title must be attached);
- the amount of the requested contribution.

ARTICLE 7 – Evaluation of the applications

1. The evaluation of the requests will be carried out at the end of each quarter by the competent structure. The first deadline is set on 30th September 2020.
2. The competent structure will carry out the investigation of the applications by:
 - checking and verifying the completeness of the documentation and statements made;
 - evaluating the formal admissibility of the application according to the following requirements:

<i>Eligibility requirements</i>	<i>yes/no</i>
The applicant is the holder of a scholarship for research purposes or has received a job offer from an industrial company, from a center of excellence, from a research organisation with a local operating unit in Aosta Valley, in order to carry out research and development activities	-
The applicant is highly qualified and holds a master's degree or a specialist degree or an equivalent foreign qualification	-
The applicant is not resident in Aosta Valley nor he has been resident or domiciled in Aosta Valley for the entire previous calendar year and he is not the owner, even in a non-exclusive way, of a real right of enjoyment of a property located in Aosta Valley	-
The technological scope of the research activity in which the applicant will be engaged is included among those provided for by Aosta Valley Smart Specialization Strategy	-

3. In case of non-admissibility of the application, the competent structure will arrange for the filing of the application and will notify the applicant in writing within 30 days of the expiry date of the quarter for submitting the application.

4. In case of formal admissibility of the application, the technical evaluation will be carried out according to the following criteria, with the attribution of a score:

<i>Evaluation criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>
Quality of skills possessed by the applicant	0-30
Technological and innovative content of research and development activity	0-30
Correspondence between skills possessed by the applicant and activities to be carried out	0-40
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>100</i>

5. The evaluation of the applications will be positive if the overall score is at least 60 points.
6. For the technical evaluation of the applications, the competent structure may avail itself of an expert.
7. With the same score among several applicants, preference will be given to applicants engaged in research and development projects funded by Aosta Valley Region in response to tenders issued by it.
8. For each evaluation deadline, applications will be funded according to the order of the ranking until the funds made available are exhausted.
9. The last application may, therefore, be financed even only partially. In this case the applicant can accept or refuse within 10 days of the communication. In case of refusal, the procedure will be repeated for the next applicant usefully placed in the ranking.
10. Applicants, whose applications will be positively evaluated, must submit the following documentation to the competent structure within 15 days from the notification of acceptance of the grant application:
- a copy of the lease agreement for the property located in Aosta Valley in the name or joint name of the applicant, duly registered;
 - the substitutive declaration certifying the names of any other people who reside in the property, if not already indicated in the lease agreement, in relation to the members of the family unit or other people present in cohabitation;
 - a copy of the letter of employment or the start of the fellowship activity for research purposes.
11. Applications assessed positively and integrated with the provisions of the previous paragraph will be approved, within 75 days from the expiry of the quarter of presentation, with the provision of the executive of the competent structure, who will award the relative grant.
12. The competent structure will inform applicants of the relative outcome within 15 days from the date of the provision for awarding the grant.
13. In the event of a negative assessment of the application, the competent structure will dispose, within 30 days of the completion of the evaluation, the provision for refusal of the grant.

ARTICLE 8 – Commitments of the beneficiaries

1. The beneficiaries of the grant undertake to:
- communicate to the competent structure the start and end date of the research activity;
 - take up residence in the leased property with the contract presented within 30 days of the communication of the granting of the grant, together with any declared family members;

- pay each month's rent respecting the relative deadlines and send a copy to the competent structure;
- receive invitations to participate in promotional events, at the request of the competent structure, in particular those organised by Aosta Valley Region as part of the territorial animation activities with economic nature;
- in case of abandonment of the activity, send due motivation to the competent structure, with explicit indication of the renunciation of the grant awarded;
- submit:
 - a. the six months short report on the activity carried out at the company or the center of excellence or the research organisation with the relative evaluation, duly signed and dated by the manager of the company or the center of excellence or the research organisation;
 - b. the final report of all the activities carried out at the company or center of excellence or research organisation with the relative evaluation, duly signed and dated by the manager of the company or center of excellence or research organisation;
- allow employees in charge of the competent structure access to the leased property to verify the conformity and correctness of what is documented in the lease.

ARTICLE 9 – Method of payment of the grant

1. The payment of the grant will be done by the competent structure at the end of each semester of work.
2. The amount to be paid will be calculated to the extent of 75% of the rent actually paid within the limits set out in Article 5, paragraph 4.
3. In the case of cohabitation with third parties, excluding family members and unless otherwise certified, the presence of roommates will be taken into account for the determination of the grant, therefore the grant will be reduced proportionally based on the number of roommates.
4. The grant will be paid upon presentation:
 - of copies of regular rental payment receipts. Payments are only accepted through:
 - a. bank or postal transfer with the relative account statement;
 - b. non-transferable check with the related bank statement;
 - c. credit card with statement.
 Cash payments are not allowed under any circumstances.
 - of the half-yearly and final reports on research and development carried out activity, with positive evaluation by the company or the center of excellence or the research organisation.

ARTICLE 10 – Revocation of the grant

1. The grant will be revoked in the following cases:
 - unjustified interruption of the research activity by the beneficiary;
 - untruthfulness of the content of the substitutive declarations of the deed of notoriety, which entails the forfeiture of the benefits consequent to the provision issued on the basis of the untruthful declaration, as required by the regional law of Aosta Valley 6th August 2007, n. 19;
 - failure to pay even just one month's rent or termination of the rental contract;
 - failure to comply with the commitments referred to in Article 8.

2. In the event of cessation / interruption of the activity of the company or of the center of excellence or of the research organisation or in the event of the termination of the employment relationship or of the scholarship, the grant will not be revoked, but the disbursement of the grant will be interrupted.

ARTICLE 11 – Information and communication

1. By submitting applications, applicants must declare that they are aware of the following paragraphs, pursuant to Article 13 of European Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR):

Contact details of the data controller.

The data controller is the public administration Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, in the person of the pro tempore legal representative, based in Piazza Deffeyes, n. 1 - 11100 Aosta, who can be contacted at the certified email address: segretario_generale@pec.regione.vda.it.

In this capacity, it is responsible for ensuring the application of the necessary organisational and technical measures, adequate for the protection of your data.

Contact details of the data protection manager.

The data protection officer (DPO) of the public administration Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, in charge of ensuring compliance with the rules for the protection of your privacy, can be reached at the following addresses:

- PEC: privacy@pec.regione.vda.it (for holders of a certified e-mail address);
- PEI: privacy@regione.vda.it;

with a communication with the following header:

"To the attention of the DPO of the public administration Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste".

Personal data processing purpose and legal basis.

All personal data provided will be processed in accordance with current legislation on privacy and data protection and will be used as part of the procedures necessary for the completion of the investigation concerning the application presented for access to the relative House & Work initiative: the granting of a grant to support the attraction of highly qualified researchers and workers pursuant to art. 15bis of the l.r. 84/1993.

Data processing recipients.

Personal data is processed by staff employed by the public administration Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, which acts on the basis of specific instructions regarding the purposes and methods of the processing itself, as well as on the basis of appropriate obligations regarding data protection through operating instructions aimed at guaranteeing the confidentiality and the security of data.

Personal data retention period

The data retention period will be the one suggested by the current legislation, also for archiving purposes, about the conservation of administrative documents and, in any case, of compliance with the principles of lawfulness, necessity, proportionality, as well as the purposes for which the data are been collected.

Rights of the data owner

The interested party may at any time exercise the rights referred to in Articles 15 et seq. of the Regulation. In particular, he may request the rectification or cancellation of personal data or the limitation of the processing of personal data or oppose this processing of the cases provided for therein, by sending the request to the DPO of the public administration Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, reachable to the addresses indicated in this information.

Complaint to the Data Protection Authority

If the interested party considers that the processing of personal data has occurred in violation of the provisions of Reg. (EU) 2016/679, he has the right to lodge a complaint with the Guarantor for the protection of personal data, pursuant to Article 77 of the Regulation, using the contact details available on the site: www.garanteprivacy.it.

ARTICLE 12 – Privacy Policy

1. The employees of the competent structure and anyone else who has access to the documents filed regarding the projects and research activities within the scope of this notice, are required to ensure the utmost confidentiality on the topics and data relating to the projects or activities themselves.
2. In particular, the employees of the competent structure are required to adopt adequate and reasonable security measures to protect the confidentiality of personal data and information, of which they may be made known, and not to disclose them to anyone without the explicit consent of the beneficiaries.
3. The commitment to confidentiality on every aspect of the projects and research activities of the beneficiaries does not stop at the end of the evaluation activity, but it remains over time in correlation with the need to protect the rights of the beneficiaries as well as of Region public administration and of other interested parties.

ARTICLE 13 – Responsibilities

1. The Region cannot, under any circumstances, be held responsible for acts or omissions and any damage done by the beneficiaries or third parties in the property they run.
2. The beneficiaries undertake to indemnify and hold harmless the Region from any request in this regard.

ARTICLE 14 – Resources and time schedule

1. A total amount of € 324,000.00 has been allocated to finance the House & Work initiative.
2. Upon reaching the full use of the financial resources provided for the House & Work initiative, the public administration will close the initiative, with the provision of the competent manager, notifying it on the regional institutional website.
3. Faced with additional resources available, at any time, the regional public administration reserves the right to finance applications that are accepted but not funded, and / or to reactivate the initiative.

ARTICLE 15 – Applicable standards

1. For anything not expressly provided for in this regulation, reference will be made to the Community, state and regional legislation in force.

ARTICLE 16 – Responsible for the procedure

1. The competent regional structure is the Research, innovation, internationalization and quality structure.
2. The person in charge of the procedure is the manager of the Research, Innovation, Internationalization and Quality Department, Fabrizio Clermont e-mail: f.clermont@regione.vda.it
3. The contact administrative officer is Giorgio D'Andrea, tel. 0165/274594, email: g.dandrea@regione.vda.it.

ARTICLE 17 – Method of appeal

1. Pursuant to article 3 of the regional law of 6th August 2007, no. 19, it is possible to appeal:
 - within 60 days of receipt of the denial, to the Regional Administrative Court of Aosta;
 - within 120 days of receipt of the denial, to the President of the Italian Republic.