

MINISTERIAL ORDER ECO/202/2023, of August 1, approving the regulatory bases for a grant to develop a financial hub to promote, revitalise and enhance the competitiveness of the financial services required to foster technology, sustainable finance and entrepreneurial investment in Catalonia.

The Catalan Ministry of Economy and Finance has decided to encourage the development of a financial hub to promote, revitalise and enhance the competitiveness of the financial services required to foster technology, sustainable finance and entrepreneurial investment in Catalonia.

In order to boost the Catalan economy, it is considered essential to promote innovative projects to create a strong impact and added value, such as the establishment of a financial hub to develop the financial sector in various strategic segments with a view to creating a pole for attracting talent, entrepreneurial initiative, investment and new economic activity.

A strong financial sector is crucial to fostering a dynamic economy and promoting quality economic development. Some of the key reasons for this include:

- 1) Mobilisation of capital for companies and projects, which permits expansion and the generation of employment.
- 2) Financial intermediation, which channels savings towards productive investments.
- 3) Stability and resilience in the face of economic and financial crises.
- 4) Stimulation of financial innovation, which can increase regional competitiveness.
- 5) To facilitate foreign trade and the internationalisation of local companies.
- 6) To help with the financing of infrastructure and strategic projects.
- 7) Contribution to financial inclusion, providing economic opportunities for the less favoured sections of the population.

In short, a strong financial sector provides the necessary foundations for sustainable economic growth and a prosperous regional economy. The promotion of the development of such a sector is therefore considered to be an objective of public interest.

A financial hub can be established through collaboration between the public and private sectors to create economic activity both by extracting the maximum benefit from existing assets and by building up new ones. The Government of Catalonia intends to foster the creation of an operator to pursue in the public interest the development of the financial sector in Catalonia.

There is a need to strengthen the segments in which it is considered that Catalonia can have the best opportunities of differentiating its competitive profile in an international context and to enhance the competitiveness of its financial services ecosystem by focusing on

technology, sustainable finance and entrepreneurial investment, thus providing an innovative vision of the future of the financial sector.

These segments represent the full range of activities that need to be promoted as part of the latest stage of post-COVID-19 economic recovery, since they are destined to play a vital role in both the continuing digitisation of the economy and the ecological transition towards a low-carbon economy and a sustainable society.

The establishment of a financial hub is a strategic project that is considered vital for the fulfilment and realisation of the objectives assigned to the Catalan Ministry of Economy and Finance, whose General Secretariat is responsible for preparing and coordinating financial policy.

The financial hub will be located in the ministerial building at Passeig de Gràcia, No.19, on floors 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, according to the description and conditions of use that have been established.

Locating the financial hub at this address in Barcelona's Passeig de Gràcia should help maximise its chances of successfully revitalising the financial ecosystem in Catalonia. The building currently houses the headquarters of the historic Barcelona Stock Exchange, which forms part of the Spanish stock market operator, Bolsas y Mercados Españoles (BME) Group.

In addition, the building also houses the headquarters of the Barcelona European Financial Centre Association (BCFE), which promotes the financial sector in Catalonia and includes a specialised section, BCFE4S, which seeks to position Barcelona as a relevant international centre of sustainable finance and investment with an ESG (environment, social and governance) focus.

This location at the Passeig de Gràcia, 19 address can be considered a unique opportunity thanks to the synergies and economies of scale that can be generated by concentrating specialised activities of high added value in such close proximity.

It is therefore planned to authorise a formal grant to allow for the use of this space for this purpose.

Given the reports of the Legal Affairs Department and the Delegated Advisers of the Department of Economy and Finance, and given Articles 87 *et seq.* of the revised text of the Catalan Public Finances Law, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December; the basic precepts of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, concerning General Subsidies; Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July, approving the Regulation of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, concerning General Subsidies; and Order VEH/79/2020, of 9 June, amending Ministerial Order ECO/172/2015, of 3 June, concerning Methods for the Justification of Subsidies;

In exercise of the powers attributed to me by Article 12 of Law 13/1989, of 14 December, concerning the Organisation, Procedures and Legal Structure of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia;

I hereby order as follows:

Sole Article

To approve and publicise the regulatory bases for authorising a grant to develop a financial hub to promote, revitalise and enhance the competitiveness of the financial services required to foster technology, sustainable finance and entrepreneurial investment in Catalonia, the said bases being included in the Annexe to this Order.

Final provision

This Order comes into force the day after its publication in the *Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia (DOGC)*.

Against this Order, which completes all required administrative procedures, the interested parties may file an administrative appeal before the Administrative Litigation Chamber of the High Court of Justice of Catalonia, within two months, starting from the day after the date of its publication, in accordance with the provisions of Article 46.1 of Law 29/1998, of 13 July, regulating Administrative Litigation Jurisdiction.

They may also optionally file an internal appeal prior to the administrative litigation appeal before the same body that has now issued this order, within a period of one month, starting from the day after it is published in the DOGC, in accordance with Articles 77 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, concerning the Legal Structure and Procedures of the Public Administrations of Catalonia and Articles 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, concerning the Common Procedures of the Public Administrations, or any other appeal that may be considered appropriate for the defence of its interests.

Barcelona,

Natàlia Mas i Guix
Minister of Economy and Finance

Annexe

Regulatory bases for awarding a grant to develop a financial hub to promote, revitalise and enhance the competitiveness of the financial services required to foster technology, sustainable finance and entrepreneurial investment in Catalonia.

1 Object, purpose and requirements

1.1 The purpose of the grant is to develop a financial hub that will promote, revitalise and enhance the competitiveness of the financial services required to foster technology, sustainable finance and entrepreneurial investment in Catalonia.

The annual cost of the use of this asset in market terms is EUR 648,000.

1.2 The purpose of the grant is the promotion and development of projects linked to the following segments of financial activity:

- a) Technological finance: FinTech and InsurTech.
- b) Sustainable finance.
- c) Venture capital and investment capital: early stage financing, private equity (venture capital, business angels, capital development).
- d) Other segments of financial activity and collateral in the financial industry: crowdfunding, crowdlending, other investment platforms, investment services, managers, investment funds, neobanks, digital payment systems, cyber security, big data, Legaltech, etc.

1.3 Requirements for receipt of the grant

1.3.1 Objectives. The financial hub must achieve the following strategic objectives:

- 1) The attraction of financial companies from outside Catalonia.
- 2) The installation of innovation zones to cater for established companies in the financial sector.
- 3) The provision of support for start-ups and scale-ups and their subsequent development.

Specifically, the following actions must be carried out:

- The financial hub must include a minimum of 12 new projects per year involving start-ups, developing or consolidated companies.
- To carry out a minimum of three annual joint training and/or revitalisation events for the financial hub.
- To organise at least two annual events to put entrepreneurs in contact with investors who can assess their interest in the projects and offer them financing.

- To achieve a level of user satisfaction with the services received by the financial hub of at least 75%.

1.3.2 Location of the project: the activities that are the object of the grant must be carried out in the facilities located on the 5th to 9th floors of the building at Passeig de Gràcia, No.19 in Barcelona, owned by the Government of Catalonia. For this purpose, it will be necessary to formalise the corresponding occupation conditions of the property. The registration information and the design drawing of these facilities can be consulted on the procedures portal of the Government of Catalonia (tramits.gencat.cat).

1.3.3 Period of duration: the project's period of duration will be for six years, covering the years 2024 to 2029.

At the end of the period of duration, the beneficiary must return the occupied property in perfect condition. For this reason, any work carried out to improve the premises will remain in place for the benefit of the property, without the beneficiary having the right to remove it or to receive any compensation in this respect.

1.3.4 Feasibility of the project: to assess the appropriateness of the object of the grant and the viability of the project, the applicant must provide an economic and financial plan that includes a balanced income and expenditure budget for the project, in accordance with what is established in base 6.3.

2 Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries may be entrepreneurs or individual professional practitioners, or companies or groups of companies that are legally incorporated at the time of submitting the application and which carry out an economic activity related to the purpose for which the grant is awarded.

3 Procedure

3.1 In compliance with Article 18.2 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November 2003 concerning General Subsidies, in relation to Article 96 *bis* of the revised text of the Catalan Public Finances Law, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002 of 24 December 2002, and the Government Agreement of 28 February 2017 approving the Comprehensive Model for the Management of Grants and Aid from the Government of Catalonia, the full text of the call to tender is published in the *Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia* (DOGC).

3.2 The procedure for awarding the grant is that of a competitive competition.

3.3 The processing of applications corresponds to the office of the Director General of Financial Policy, Insurance and Treasury, as the regulating authority for the procedure, and the final awarding decision lies with the person responsible at the Catalan Ministry of Economy and Finance.

3.4 The awarding of the grant is notified through publication on the Electronic Dashboard of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia ([e-tauler](https://e-tauler.gencat.cat)), although recourse to other electronic means is not excluded. This publication supersedes individual notification and has the same effect.

4 Requirements for applicant entities

The grant may be awarded to applicant entities that meet the following requirements:

a) They must have an annual volume of business that must be at least one and a half times the estimated cost of managing the financial hub. In other words, they must have had a minimum revenue of EUR 820,507.78 in one of the last three financial years.

b) They must have developed, within at least the last three years, a project for the creation and management of hubs, innovation centres, accelerators or incubators for technology-based or digital projects, together with the required support in the form of advisory and mentoring programmes for entrepreneurial projects, the organisation of training for entrepreneurs, or other similar functions.

The project concerned must have earned in its year of best performance an annual revenue equal to or greater than the estimated cost of managing the financial hub, i.e., EUR 547,005.19 in any of the last three financial years.

c) They must present a description of the technical team assigned to the project which must be made up of at least the following members:

- A project manager, who will lead the team.
- A senior technician.
- A technician.

The team assigned to the implementation of the object of the grant must meet the following minimum requirements:

c.1) The project manager and one of the two technicians that make up the minimum work team must accredit qualifications corresponding to a first degree course equivalent to at least 240 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits, with at least one member of the team holding the said qualification specifically in Economic Sciences, Economics, Business Administration and Management, Engineering or a similar subject.

c.2) The project manager and one of the two project technicians must have a level of English equivalent to B2 in the European reference framework.

c.3) The project manager and one of the two technicians who make up the minimum work team must demonstrate a minimum experience of 1 year within the last three years in the management of clusters, hubs or equivalent incubator projects, or in the development of similar projects to the object of this grant.

The work team must be accredited by a self-declaration completed by the person representing the candidate company, indicating the full names and positions of the persons proposed, their degrees, the indication of the two persons who meet the minimum required level of English and a statement of compliance with the experience requirement (without specifying their total number of years of experience) in similar projects for the project

manager and the project technicians, included with a view to complying with the language and/or minimum experience requirement required in these bases.

d) Applicant companies must certify that they have no interests that could conflict with the management and advisory services forming the object of this grant, and must provide a copy of a public deed stating the entity's corporate purpose and a statement specifying that there are no circumstances that could lead to possible conflicts of interest, signed by a person with sufficient legal powers for the purpose.

e) Applicant entities may not infringe any of the requirements established by Article 13 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, concerning General Subsidies.

f) Applicant entities must comply with the relevant intellectual property regulations in accordance with the provisions of Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996, of 12 April, enacting the revised text of the Intellectual Property Law, which regularises, clarifies and harmonises the legal provisions in force on the matter.

g) Applicants must adhere to the code of ethics that appears as an annexe to the standard model of regulatory bases of Agreement GOV/85/2016, of 28 June, and which is also included as Annexe 2 with these bases.

h) Applicants must respect the stipulations of Law 17/2015, of 21 July, concerning the Equality of Treatment of Women and Men.

i) Compliance with all requirements must be certified by means of a self-declaration including the application form, without prejudice to the fact that documentation certifying compliance with the requirements of letters (a) to (c) may be requested subsequently.

j) An entity may not be awarded a grant if it is subject to a pending Recovery Order after a previous decision by the European Commission declaring the aid granted by the same Member State to be illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

k) An entity in crisis cannot be awarded a grant, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.18 of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of the Commission, of 17 June, by which certain categories of aid are declared compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJEU L.187 of 26/6/2014), except for companies that were not in crisis on 31 December 2019, but became so in the period between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021.

5 Submission of applications

5.1 Application forms must be submitted duly completed by electronic means through the Company Channel (<https://canalempresa.gencat.cat>) or the Procedures section of the website of the Government of Catalonia (<https://tramits.gencat.cat>).

5.2 Applications must be submitted exclusively by electronic means and signed electronically, through the identification and electronic signature systems supported by the appropriate website, in accordance with the criteria established by Order VPD/93/2022 of 28 April 2022 approving the Catalogue of Identification and Electronic Signature Systems for the Administration of the Government of Catalonia, and Order PRE/158/2022 of 30 June 2022,

which approves the Guide for the Use of Identification and Electronic Signature Systems for the Administration of the Government of Catalonia. All the above corresponds to the terms provided for in Article 58 of Decree 76/2020, of 4 August, concerning Digital Administration.

5.3 Representatives acting on behalf of the applicant companies may use the following identification and electronic signature systems:

- Certificates for physical individuals that prove their status as a representative of a legal entity or an entity without a defined legal status.
- Certificates for physical individuals. In this case, the representation must be proven by any means permitted by law or by registering the representation in the electronic register of representation of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia (<https://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/com-tramitar-en-linia/registre-electronic-de-representacio/>).
- Any other system of identification and signature of a physical individual. In this case, the representation must be proven by any means permitted by law or by registering the representation in the electronic register of representation of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia (<https://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/com-tramitar-en-linia/registre-electronic-de-representacio/>).

The identification and electronic signature systems accepted for processing with the Administration of the Government of Catalonia may be consulted in the Catalogue of Identification and Electronic Signature Systems (https://web.gencat.cat/ca/seu-electronica/certificats-i-signatures-electroniques/cataleg_identificacio_signatura/).

5.4 The deadline for submitting applications is that established in the text of the call for tender.

6 Documentation to be submitted with the application form

6.1 Proposed actions to be carried out for the various segments of financial activity mentioned in base 1.2, and which must include at least the following:

6.1.1 The design, launch and comprehensive management of an incubator for digital or technology-based innovative projects, or those related to entrepreneurship, sustainable finance or other fields.

For this purpose, an incubator is understood to be the provision of a package of services made available to a limited number of previously selected business projects, in accordance with the criteria defined in Section 3 below.

6.1.2 To launch at least one annual public call for tender to publicise and attract projects to the financial hub, without prejudice to having a permanent call for tender open to include projects at any time, according to the availability of the hub concerned.

6.1.3 To select projects to be incubated, to be accelerated, or simply to be present in a financial hub, in accordance with the following conditions:

- That there are projects by entrepreneurs, newly created companies and established companies.
- That there are companies or entrepreneurs based in Catalonia or established in Catalonia.
- That there are projects presented by corporations that promote Open Innovation projects.

6.1.4 To provide the following main services to the aforementioned projects:

- i. To create priority sectoral spaces (Fintech, Insurtech, Legaltech, etc.) aimed at sectoral transformation through technology.
- ii. To offer office spaces: both open spaces (for co-working) and closed spaces (as private offices).
- iii. To offer showrooms, i.e., temporary exhibition spaces intended to display the technological solutions that, once developed, can benefit the entire sector (and not only the members of the financial hub).
- iv. To offer presentation and interaction spaces: the spaces concerned must have multifunctional rooms that operate as both auditoriums and training classrooms.
- v. To offer support services, either in-house or through partners, to the organisations that form part of the hub. These services may be of a legal or financial nature, or be related to the fields of incubation, acceleration, business development, training, mentoring, etc.
- vi. To provide a service for organising visits (mainly of international stakeholders to the shared spaces and to the established companies).
- vii. To offer international contact services, either in terms of talent, the attracting of start-up companies, of other corporations and/or investors, or in terms of international mentoring.

6.1.5. To carry out the necessary activities for the effective development of the project, and as a minimum those services indicated below:

- To transmit and publicise the activities of the financial hub, while also carrying out dissemination campaigns for project recruitment.
- To organise calls for tender concerning a specific challenge, problem to be solved, topic, process or service to be improved, or a vertical sector in which to provide solutions, all of which arouses the interest of, and attracts, emerging companies in the financial sector that may become a source of project attraction.
- To offer training in business management and the various different types of financing adapted to each stage of companies' growth, and to assist and advise the people who participate in defining the business model, designing a commercial strategy for the proposed product or service, preparing a business plan and working on different project presentation strategies (elevator pitch or others).

- To organise working seminars for each project, with mentors with proven experience who are responsible for monitoring the project and helping entrepreneurs to resolve specific doubts and difficulties regarding the development of their projects.
- To organise events to put entrepreneurs in contact with funding sources and investors who can assess their projects.
- To organise informative sessions that incorporate open innovation activities into their agendas, so as to promote the exchange of information concerning business challenges and the development of solutions to these challenges by entrepreneurs and emerging companies.

6.2 A base document that regulates in a public, clear, transparent and objective manner the criteria, access requirements and conditions of use of the services of the financial hub, together with an application form to access the financial hub.

6.3 An economic and financial plan that includes a balanced income and expenditure budget which must include the value of the space ceded by the Government of Catalonia and the cost of the project to be developed, which must include a breakdown of the direct and indirect costs, including the cost of adapting the spaces required for the project's operations and other expenses arising from the use of the building, including insurance of the areas to be occupied, together with costs for the maintenance of the building and any property tax to be paid, all identified as costs to be assumed by the beneficiary.

6.4 An operational plan for any construction work that may be anticipated for the project, if any. In order to produce this, applicants are required to visit the property in order to be able to gather sufficient information. To arrange visits for this purpose, please contact the General Directorate of Property Management of the Government of Catalonia, via the email address sdgpatrimoni@gencat.cat.

The visit to the building must be documented, with a certificate that will be issued ex officio by the General Directorate of Movable and Immovable Assets of the General Directorate of Property Management of the Government of Catalonia.

6.5 Annual accounts approved and deposited in the official register in which the applicant company must be registered in order to meet the requirement established in base article 4(a). Individual entrepreneurs must meet this requirement by showing their inventory records and annual accounts duly legalised by the Commercial Register.

6.6 The companies must meet the requirements of the base 6.1 project by providing declarations or certificates issued by the participating entities, indicating the object, amount, dates, place of execution and recipient.

6.7 If the application does not meet the established requirements or the aforementioned documents are not attached, the regulatory authority must require the interested parties to correct these defects or transmit the relevant documents within ten working days, advising them that, if they do not do so, they will be considered to have withdrawn from the application.

6.8 The submission of applications entails the acceptance of the regulatory bases and implicitly authorises the regulatory authority to check ex officio all the data detailed therein.

7 Assessment of applications

In order to assess the projects presented, an Assessment Committee is set up, consisting of the following members:

- Director of Financial Policy, Insurance and Treasury, who acts as the Chair.
- Director General of Property Management of the Government of Catalonia, who acts as the Chair in the absence of the permanent Chair.
- Deputy Director General of Public Debt and Financial Operations.
- Head of the Stock Market.
- Head of the Technical Service.
- An architect assigned to the General Directorate of Property Management of the Government of Catalonia.

8 Assessment criteria

8.1 In accordance with Annexe 1, grant applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

- The payment made by the beneficiary to the Government of Catalonia.
- Technical report.
- Suitability of the work team.
- Experience of the work team.
- Deadline for opening the financial hub.
- Community mentorship for the projects participating in the incubation programme.

8.2 Annexe 1 details the documents referring to the assessment criteria.

9 Non-admission and withdrawal

9.1 Failure to comply with the non-amendable requirements or the deadline for submitting applications according to these regulatory bases will result in the application not being accepted.

9.2 The failure to present any of the documents provided for in base 6 or the failure to amend the amendable requirements, within a period of 10 working days and with the prior request, entails the withdrawal of the application.

9.3 Before awarding the grant, the regulatory authority must decide on the admission or withdrawal of the applications, and must transmit the decision concerning non-admission or withdrawal to the interested persons by publishing the decision on the Electronic Dashboard

of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia (e-tauler), although it may additionally use other electronic means.

10 Resolution and publication

10.1 The final decision and publication will take place once the submitted projects have been assessed, in accordance with the assessment criteria established in base 8 and in Annexe 1.

10.2 The regulatory authority, within two months, must issue the provisional proposed decision, in accordance with the report drawn up by the assessment committee.

10.3 The competent body must issue the final decision in line with the provisional proposed decision, within a period of one month. This three-month period may be extended due to exceptional circumstances duly appreciated by the authority responsible for issuing the final decision for the awarding of the grant.

10.4 The decision to award or deny the grant completes all required administrative procedures and the interested parties may file, as an option, an appeal with the head of the Catalan Ministry of Economy and Finance within one month, in accordance with the provisions of Article 77 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, concerning the Legal Structure and Procedure of the Public Administrations of Catalonia, and Articles 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, concerning the Common Administrative Procedure for the Public Administrations; or may alternatively file a direct Administrative Litigation Appeal before the Administrative Litigation Chamber of the High Court of Justice of Catalonia, within two months from the day after publication, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10.1(a), 14 and 46.1 of Law 29/1998, of 13 July, regulating Administrative Litigation jurisdiction, or any other appeal that they may consider appropriate for the defence of their interests.

11 Justification of the grant

11.1 Before 31 July of each financial year, the beneficiary must justify the actions carried out and the expenditure incurred in the previous year, using a supporting account together with an audit report, as well as the presentation of the following documentation:

- An annual report explaining the fulfilment of the purpose of the action, activity or subsidised project, indicating the activities carried out and the results obtained in accordance with the objectives established in base 1.2, including an assessment of the fulfilment of the management objectives established in base 7. As a minimum requirement, this should include the number of participating projects completed and/or of companies founded, the level of satisfaction of the participants, the training events and revitalising initiatives of the financial hub, the indicators and results of the satisfaction surveys conducted with participants, trainers and mentors, and proposals for any adjustments and improvements to be implemented.
- An abbreviated economic report that, as a minimum requirement, must contain a detailed statement of the income and expenses of the subsidised activity, duly grouped together by concept and in accordance with the accepted budget.

11.2 Regardless of the stipulations of the previous section, the beneficiary must submit a half-yearly report on the state of execution of the incubation programme, together with training and revitalisation activities, including the measurement of monitoring indicators.

12 Revocation

12.1 The awarding body, after the prior processing of the legally established procedure, must fully or partially revoke the grants granted, in the cases provided for in the revised text of the Catalan Public Finances Law, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, and in Law 38/2003, of 17 November, concerning General Subsidies.

12.2 The reasons for revoking the grant are as follows:

- a) The lack of achievement of the objectives set out in the awarding decision, accredited in accordance with base 8.
- b) The use of the facilities for a purpose other than that established as the purpose of the subsidy.
- c) The failure to present supporting documentation in accordance with the agreed terms.
- d) In the case of Article 94.1 of the Catalan Public Finances Law, excess expenditure over and above the estimated cost of the subsidised activity.
- e) Any other cause established in the applicable regulations.

12.3 In the event that any of the causes of revocation are incurred, the occupation of the spaces entailed by the awarding of the grant will be declared null and void.

In such a case, the beneficiary must return the premises occupied in perfect condition within a maximum period of 3 months from the date of notification of the revocation decision. Any refurbishment of the premises will be for the benefit of the property, without the beneficiary having the right to remove them or to receive any compensation.

In all cases, the amount to be repaid will be calculated on the basis of the estimated value of the transfer of the occupied spaces, together with the corresponding late payment interest.

13 Applicable regulations

In relation to any aspect that is not expressly regulated in these bases, the provisions of Chapter IX of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, enacting the revised text of the Catalan Public Finances Law shall apply, together with those of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, concerning General Subsidies.

This aid is subject to Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of the Commission, of 17 June 2014, by which certain categories of aid are declared compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJEU L.187 of 26/6/2014).

-14 Compatibility of the grants

This grant is compatible with other grants, aid, income or resources intended for the same purpose and awarded by any administration or any public or private, domestic, European Union or international bodies.

Annexe 1

Assessment criteria

Among the criteria and their weighting, as a minimum requirement the following will be taken into account: the interest of the projects in terms of criteria such as the technical or financial viability of the project, the degree of innovation, its capacity or potential for growth, its forecast for job creation, the profile of the promoters, the scope of the projects and any other considerations that may be considered appropriate.

Document number 1. Payment by the beneficiary to the Government of Catalonia (up to 28 points)

The beneficiary must pay the Government of Catalonia a minimum amount of EUR 84,240 per year. However, candidates may offer to pay an amount higher than that indicated in accordance with the following sections:

1. For an increase of EUR 20,000: 4 points.
2. For an increase of EUR 40,000: 8 points.
3. For an increase of EUR 60,000: 12 points.
4. For an increase of EUR 80,000: 16 points.
5. For an increase of EUR 100,000: 20 points.
6. For an increase of EUR 120,000: 24 points.
7. For an increase of EUR 140,000: 28 points.

Document number 2. Technical report (up to 24 points)

A report of a maximum length of 30 pages will be assessed, including any appendices. All numbered correctly and in Arial 11 font format. Memoranda of a longer length, or a different format that harms the principle of equality of the different candidates, will not be accepted.

Aspects to assess:

- a) The model of the project incubation, acceleration and implementation programme, methodology, tools and activities for project evaluation and selection and that the project presented should be an integrative project with an overall vision (up to 8 points).

Compatibility with the objectives of the financial hub in terms of:

- The contents of the incubation programme, both as an individual project and for a group, together with support for the creation, incubation and acceleration of companies.
- Financing access mechanisms and networks of investors and business angels, together with any other actions to attract investments.
- Follow-up plan and mentoring.
- The creation of spaces with a multi-disciplinary organisation and content, on condition that they are related to the field of new technologies and digitisation.

The model of the incubation, acceleration and implementation programme proposed will be evaluated taking into account whether the methodology, tools, activities, mechanisms, monitoring and mentoring plans, proposed priority sector spaces and the control of deviations are directed towards the requirements and objectives established in these bases, developing all the essential aspects in a clear and concise manner, with an overall vision, and according to the value of the proposed solution in terms of the degree of guarantee of coverage of the needs of the services of the financial hub that proposes the quality of the answer concerned.

Depending on the elements described above, the proposed solution will be rated as excellent (8 points), good (6 points), average (4 points), basic (2 points) or of no value (0 points).

b) The model of the training programme (up to 8 points).

The model proposed for the different types of training and promotion of talent will be evaluated:

- Proposal of training programmes.
- Programmes for the promotion of talent, or other programmes and actions.
- Actions to be taken to attract attendees, and also, when the course ends, to incorporate participating projects in successive editions of the incubator and other services.

The model of the training program will be evaluated taking into account whether the methodology, tools and training activities foresee the requirements and objectives established in these bases, develop all the essential aspects in a clear and concise way, and according to the value of the solution proposed in terms of the degree of guarantee of coverage of training needs offered by the quality of the response.

Depending on the elements described above, the proposed solution will be rated as excellent (8 points), good (6 points), average (4 points), basic (2 points) or of no value (0 points).

c) Community and connections programme model (up to 5 points).

It will be assessed on the following bases:

- Actions to create and revitalise the community linked to the hub, to connect it with other key players, such as investors, corporates, sector associations or other hubs or local and international ecosystems.
- Events and work methodology for the organisation of open innovation sessions, proposals for corporate challenges and organisation and tools for the organisation of talks and different events in a non-face-to-face format.
- A willingness to play a relevant role in the international arena.

The model of the community and connections programme will be assessed on the basis of whether the methodology, tools and revitalisation activities anticipate the requirements and objectives established in these bases, develop all the essential aspects in a clear and concise manner, and according to the value of the proposed solution in terms of the degree of guarantee of coverage of local and international connection requirements offered by the quality of the response.

Depending on the elements described above, the proposed solution will be qualified as excellent (5 points), good (3.75 points), average (2.5 points), basic (1.25 points) or of no value (0 points).

d) Communication plan (up to 3 points).

Dissemination detailing the strategy to be followed to ensure adequate publicising and projection of the project, communication campaigns, image projection, etc. will be assessed with a view to publicising the equipment and attracting the target audience, as well as promoting new companies and managing the content of the hub's website.

The model of the communication programme will be assessed taking into account whether the methodology, tools and dissemination and communication activities foresee the requirements and objectives established in these bases, develop all the essential aspects in a clear and concise manner, and according to the value of the solution proposed in terms of the degree of guarantee of coverage of the dissemination needs offered by the quality of the response.

Depending on the elements described above, the proposed solution will be qualified as excellent (3 points), good (2.25 points), average (1.5 points), basic (0.75 points) or of no value (0 points).

Document number 3. Suitability of the work team (up to 11 points)

The following aspects will be assessed:

a) To better achieve the objectives of the grant, through its own means or through collaborators, in terms of offering technical services in different areas such as legal and financial aspects, business development, training, mentoring, etc., and in order to select and assess highly technical projects, it is recommended that the people who make up the minimum team have a higher education and, for this reason, that the suitability of the three people proposed as part of the minimum work team should be assessed in the following way:

- To have a university degree of at least 240 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits, a bachelor's degree or its equivalent: 2 points.

This section will be assessed with a maximum of 6 points.

b) To better achieve the implementation objectives of this grant, in terms of offering international connections, with interactions between local and international agents, and given that English is the language of business and the financial world, the knowledge of the technical person of the minimum assigned team that has not been included to meet the language requirement will be assessed as follows:

- Having a level of English equivalent to B2 in the European reference framework: 1 point.

c) To better achieve the implementation objectives of this grant, through its own means or through collaborators, in terms of accompanying and advising the people who participate in defining the business model, commercial strategies, financial estimates of prices and profitability, business plans and project presentation strategies, a specialised professional qualification of one of the people in the assigned team is recommended and, for this reason, the post-university knowledge of one of the three people forming the minimum work team is recommended as follows:

- For having completed a master's degree, accredited in the field of business administration, economics, marketing or similar: 3 points.

d) It will be an assessment criterion that gender parity is met between the members of the work team. In the event that the director or project manager or the senior technical person is a woman and, therefore, gender parity is met between the two managers of the work team: 1 point.

Supporting documentation: a statement from the person representing the company specifying the name and surname of each proposed person, the position assigned and their academic qualifications.

Document number 4. Work team experience (up to 20 points)

Due to the nature, complexity and specificity of the services to be provided in terms of coordinating, organising events and seminars for the revitalisation of the hub that allow for the exchange of agents, the entry, monitoring and evolution of technological sustainability and other financial projects and technical advice in rounds of negotiations to obtain financing and better achieve the objectives of the subsidy, it is recommended that they have a high degree of expertise so that the quality of the assigned staff can significantly affect the best performance of the objective of the grant. The quality of the candidate's project will therefore be assessed based on the experience of the members of the assigned team with exclusive dedication as indicated below:

a) 1 point will be awarded for each year of experience in projects of a similar nature that the three members of the minimum work team can justify:

(i) Previous experience of the team in carrying out hub projects with a methodology similar to that required in these bases (up to 12 points).

(ii) Previous experience of the team in a financial sector hub being analysed (up to 8 points).

The proposal with the most experience will be awarded the maximum score (12 or 8 points, respectively) and, for the rest, the proportional score. In the event of a tie, the same score will be awarded.

The formula that will be applied is the following:

- Experience in hub projects from other sectors: candidate points = $12 * (\text{years of experience of the work team} / \text{years of experience of the most experienced work team})$.
- Experience in hub projects from the financial sector: candidate points = $8 * (\text{years of work team experience} / \text{years of experience of the most experienced work team})$

The years of experience of each work team will be obtained through the arithmetical sum of the years of experience of the three people who make up the minimum team.

Accrediting documentation: declaration of the persons representing the company specifying the name and surname of each person proposed, the object of the hub projects in which they participated, the start and end dates of execution of each project, the place of execution, the company providing the service and the company receiving the project.

Document number 5. Term of inauguration of a financial hub (up to 5 points)

A deadline has been established for the inauguration of the financial hub period of six months, counting from the granting of the subsidy, which is the estimated time necessary to execute the project in terms of the phase of preparation and initial adaptation of the premises, of the service and supply contracts, actions aimed at organising, regulating, disseminating the project, contacting and implementing the first projects in the financial hub, preparing initial documentation, as well as the actions deemed necessary by the successful tenderer prior to the inauguration and provision of training and mentoring services for third parties.

The reduction of this period of inauguration and making the services available to third parties to the financial hub, starting from the granting of the grant, as follows:

- a) Less than 6 months: 5 points.
- b) 6 months: 0 points.

Document number 6. Community (up to 6 points)

To better achieve the project implementation objectives, given that projects that enter the financial hub leave it because they have reached a new stage in their development, the collaboration of external agents who can be part of the community can be a relevant element, for this reason, the proposal for collaboration in the project of various different stakeholders from the technological ecosystem (universities, business schools, post-university training centres, corporations, start-ups, investors and other relevant agents) involved or interested in becoming involved, as follows:

- For each university, business school or post-university training centre: 1 point.
- For every 10 corporations or companies (medium or large): 1 point.
- For every 20 emerging companies, investors and other relevant agents: 0.5 points.

Supporting documentation: list of proposed entities sorted by category indicating the name and type of entity and project, membership document or letter of intent signed by the entity to be involved.

Document number 7. Mentoring for projects participating in the incubation programme (up to 6 points)

In order to better achieve the objectives of the grant in terms of the provision of mentoring services, it is recommended that the mentors should have a high degree of expertise, given that the quality of the mentors can significantly affect the best performance of the project. For this reason, the quality of the project presented by the candidate will be assessed based on the experience of the mentors in entrepreneurship projects as follows:

Two (2) points will be awarded for each mentor who has offered a proposal that has supported projects similar to the one that is the subject of this grant, at some point in the last three years.

Accrediting documentation: a letter signed by the mentor, indicating the person's name and surname and a list of projects in which he has participated and the start and end date of each project, and in which he undertakes to participate in the financial hub with his dedication for a minimum of 12 hours to each project assigned to him.

Annexe 2

Ethical principles and rules of conduct to which the beneficiaries of subsidies or aid must adapt their activity, and the effects of any breach of these principles.

In accordance with Article 55.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, concerning transparency, access to public information and good governance, the administrations and bodies included in the scope of application of this Law must include, in the bases for calls for tender for grants or aid, the ethical principles and the rules of conduct to which the beneficiaries propose to adapt their activity, and the effects of any breach of these principles.

In compliance with this legal provision, the ethical principles and rules of conduct to which the beneficiaries of subsidies or aid must adapt their activity, together with the effects of any breach of the above, are duly made public.

These principles and rules of conduct are considered minimum standards, and may be completed in terms of their various requirements, depending on the amount of the grant or aid and the type and characteristics of the beneficiaries, and in accordance with the bases of the corresponding call for grants or aid.

Ethical principles and rules of conduct

The beneficiaries of public aid must adopt exemplary conduct in ethical terms, refraining from carrying out, encouraging, proposing or promoting any kind of corrupt practice and bringing to the attention of the bodies concerned any manifestation of such practices that, in their opinion, may be present in the procedure or may in some way affect it. In particular, they must refrain from any action that could violate the principles of equal opportunities and free competition.

In general, the beneficiaries of public aid, in the exercise of their activity, assume the following obligations:

- To observe the principles, rules and ethical canons specific to the activities, trades and professions corresponding to the activity subject to the grant or public aid.
- Not to carry out actions that put the public interest at risk.
- To report any irregular situations that may arise in calls to tender for grants or aid or in the processes derived from such calls to tender.

In particular, beneficiaries of subsidies or public aid assume the following obligations:

- To immediately notify the competent body of any possible situations of conflict of interest.
- Not to request, either directly or indirectly, that a position or public employee should influence the awarding of a grant or aid. - Not to offer or provide personal or material advantages to public officials or employees, either for themselves or for third parties, with the intention of influencing a procedure for the awarding of a grant or aid.
- To collaborate with the competent body in the actions it carries out for the monitoring and evaluation of the fulfilment of the obligations established in the bases of the call, in particular by providing the information that is requested for these purposes related to the receipt of public funds.
- To provide any information that the transparency legislation imposes on successful candidates in relation to the Public Administration or other administrations of reference, without prejudice to the need to comply with the transparency obligations that apply directly to them by the force of the law, in the cases established in Section 4 of Article 3 of the Transparency Law.

The effects of any breach of ethical principles or rules of conduct

In the event of any non-compliance with ethical principles and rules of conduct, the sanctioning regime provided for in Law 19/2014, of 29 December, and the sanctions provided for in Article 84 with regard to persons receiving public aid, shall apply, without prejudice to any other possible consequences provided for in current legislation concerning grants.