

Next Generation EU (NGEU) Funds

An exceptional response
to an unprecedented crisis



NGEU FUNDS IN SPAIN

Spain received €19 billion from Europe in 2021

- Last December, **Spain received €10 billion from the European Commission as the first disbursement tied to meeting milestones and targets** in its Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). This amount comes in addition to the €9 billion which Europe had already transferred to Spain in July 2021 as pre-financing.
- The **Spanish Government** has also announced that **it will apply to Europe for the loans available under the Recovery and Resilience Facility** throughout 2022 in an amount of more than **€70 billion**. These funds are to be used between 2021 and 2027 and it is not yet known which programmes they will be invested in. This is over and above the €69.5 billion in the current Plan and the €12 billion from React EU.



Remember: EU funds will be disbursed on a six-monthly basis and is **tied to the achievement of the milestones and targets** in the RRP mainly covering reforms and investments in areas such as sustainable mobility, energy efficiency and decarbonisation.

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CALLS FOR GRANTS

As of mid-January, **428 calls for applications for almost €9.7 billion** have been published (of which 272 have already been closed). The most prominent lines are: MOVES III, Next Tech fund, high-impact digital projects and growth companies, implementation of low emission zones and the PREE 5000 and PREE DUS 5000 building energy refurbishment programmes.

Published and open calls

Mobility



Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles (€400 million; may be increased by a further €400 million):

Over the course of 2021, the **MOVES III calls were announced featuring incentives for purchasing electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.** They are currently underway in all Regions. The charging stations strand of this programme has already run out in eight Regions.



Fleets (For the time being €50 million):

A call for special MOVES has been announced for the **electrification of light-duty vehicle fleets** (mopeds, motorbikes, quadricycles, passenger cars or vans) operating in more than one Region. It expires on 21 February. To be eligible for the aid, the project must envisage the purchase of 25 to 500 electric or fuel cell vehicles to replace internal combustion equivalents and may include setting up charging stations and upgrading fleet management systems. This aid is managed centrally through the IDAE (Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving).



Professional transport fleets (For the time being only €174 million open):

It consists of the following action strands: scrapping, acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles, retrofitting the form of propulsion, deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructures and acquisition of semi-trailers for rail motorways. A fixed unit amount of aid is set by category and type of vehicle, and in the case of the acquisition of zero or low-emission vehicles also by company size to support SMEs and the self-employed.



Solar self-consumption (€660 million; may be increased):

The target of these funds is self-consumption systems (up to €555 million; aid intensity 20-30%) and behind-the-meter storage (up to €105 million; aid intensity 50-60%) for residential use, in companies, government and the third sector.

The Regions have begun to announce their calls for grants, except for Cantabria and La Rioja. Plus these actions also have tax advantages: personal income tax credits and *property tax rebates in some Regions.*



Refurbishment of buildings (€2.8 billion):

In the case of residential refurbishment (€1.3 billion), the **Regions already have the funds available and are starting to publish their calls for applications.** Actions carried out from February 2020 onwards are eligible for grants. The aid can be up to 80% when the energy saving is higher than 60%.

Tax credits have also been approved for the non-subsidised portion and decision-making has been made easier in homeowners' associations by setting up a simple majority system.

Forthcoming NGEU calls



SME digitalisation – Digital Toolkit programme (€3.07 billion, first €500 million stage scheduled for February): this programme has a **€3.07 billion budget for the period 2021-2023**. Under this plan the Government expects that around 1.35 million small businesses and self-employed individuals will be able to access a basic digitalisation package tailored to their baseline and specific needs. The **rules of the invitation to apply for aid** have already been published.

What aid can my company get?

Small businesses and the self-employed will be able to access aid or a digital voucher **worth between €2,000 and €12,000 depending on how many employees they have**. They can then use this voucher to hire one or more of the digitalisation solutions available in the Digitalisation Solutions Catalogue in the Acelera Pyme platform's programme.

Ceiling for aid to small businesses and micro-enterprises

10-49 employees €12.000

3-9 employees €6.000

0-2 employees €2.000



The first call for applications is targeted at **SMEs with 10-49 employees** and has a **€500 million** budget. These SMEs will be eligible for **up to €12,000** in these 'digital vouchers'. Additional calls will be rolled out at a later stage until 2023 to cover the rest of SMEs and the self-employed.

What are the requirements?

To be eligible for these grants, the company/self-employed individual must comply with the conditions specified in the rules of the invitation to apply for aid:

- ✓ Be registered in the Register of Employers, Professionals and Withholders
- ✓ Not be classified as a business in difficulty
- ✓ Be up to date with tax and Social Security obligations
- ✓ Not be subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous European Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market
- ✓ Not be subject to any of the others prohibitions laid down in the Grants Act
- ✓ Not exceed the “de minimis” support ceiling
- ✓ Have completed the Digital Maturity Level appraisal based on the [assessment test available on the Acelera Pyme platform](#)
- ✓ Not be a member of the programme as a digitalising agent

Which digitalisation solutions are covered?

The grants cover 10 types of services and set ceilings by category.

Digitalisation Solutions Categories	Months of service delivery:	Aid by segment for the Digitalisation Solutions Categories		
		0-2 employees	3-9 employees	10-49 employees
Website and internet presence	12	€2.000	€2.000	€2.000
E-commerce	12	€2.000	€2.000	€2.000
Social media management	12	€2.000	€2.500	€2.500
Customer management	12	€2.000 (includes 1 user)	€2.000 (includes 1 user)	€4.000 (includes 3 users)

Business and Analytics Intelligence	12	€1.500 (includes 1 user)	€2.000 (includes 1 user)	€4.000 (includes 3 users)
Process management	12	€500 (includes 1 user)	€2.000 (includes 1 user)	€6.000 (includes 10 users)
Electronic invoicing	12	€500 (includes 1 user)	€1.000 (includes 3 users)	€1.000 (includes 3 users)
Virtual office services and tools	12	€250 / user (up to 2 users)	€250 / user (up to 9 users)	€250 / user (up to 48 users)
Secure communications	12	€125 / user (up to 2 users)	€125 / user (up to 9 users)	€125 / user (up to 48 users)
Cybersecurity	12	€125 / device (up to 2 devices)	€125 / device (up to 9 devices)	€125 / device (up to 48 devices)

How are the grants awarded?

- ✔ Grants will be awarded on a **non-competitive basis** and the allocation criterion will be **by order of submission** of valid applications and until the budget for the call is exhausted.
- ✔ Each company/self-employed individual is eligible for **only one public grant** under the digitalisation programme unless the call for applications specifies that more are allowed.

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How can you get access to them?

The Acelera Pyme public platform has been set up to simplify and speed up grant applications and processing. SMEs and self-employed individuals meeting the requirements should:

- ✓ **Register on the [Acelera Pyme website](#)** and provide contact details and information about the company's operations.
- ✓ **Check their level of digitalisation** by completing the form or 'self-diagnosis test' available on [Acelera Pyme](#). The aid is granted in the shape of a "digital voucher" which entails a right to payment once the actions are completed and substantiated.
- ✓ **Choose the services** for their digitalisation. The company will have a sum of money to hire the services that best suit its needs from the 'digitalising agents'. These are companies that are members of the Digital Toolkit programme, as providers that offer their services through the Acelera Pyme digitalisation solutions catalogue. They are sorted by service category, business sector to which they deliver services, geographical area and other factors.
- ✓ **Come to an agreement with the company** that is to roll out the solution.
- ✓ **Pay the cost of the contracted services by transferring the right to receive the grant or digital voucher** to the digitalising agent(s) hired.
 - The grant will be paid to the digitalising agent **once the action has been completed and substantiated**. The service will be delivered in two stages: the first will last three months and the second 12 months from the end of the first stage.
 - The **digitalising agent will be able to finance** the amount of the voucher transferred by the company/self-employed individual via a financing facility arranged between Red.es and the Official Credit Institute (ICO).

To make it easier to claim the grants, **the application can also be made by the legal representative or by a representative of the SME or self-employed individual** meeting the call's requirements. The participating digitalising agents may help with the application process and they will submit all the supporting documentation.

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Driver projects or the SPERTs

The SPERTs bring together shared strands of the Spain Plan and address key priorities.

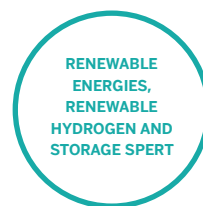
APPROVED



- o Build the ecosystem needed for electric and connected vehicles.
- o Approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 July 2021.
- o Approved by the European Commission on 9 December 2021.
- o Launch of the first call entitled "Sustainable Automotive Technology Programme" worth €40 million.



- o Introduce new technologies in disease diagnosis and prevention.
- o Apply the innovation at the point of patient care.
- o Approved by the Council of Ministers on 30 November 2021.



- o Make the most of opportunities in the transition to a carbon neutral economy and increase Spain's strategic autonomy.
- o Approved by the Council of Ministers on 14 December 2021.



- o Foster integrated development of the agri-food chain through digitalisation.
- o Provide access to healthy, safe and sustainable food.

UNDER PREPARATION



- o Drive knowledge industries in Spanish and co-official languages to enhance the economic, social and cultural value of the language.



- o Generate and upgrade technological capabilities.
- o Enhance strategic positioning.

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In 2022, the **calls** for the key transformation strands in the **approved SPERTs will start to be published**. The regulatory conditions for the ECV SPERT were published in late 2021. The SPERTs under study are expected to be approved this year. **Three new SPERTs** have also been announced in the Social Economy of Care, Circular Economy and for the shipbuilding industry which should be put in place in 2022.

Spain has been authorised by Europe to implement a specific state aid scheme for the SPERTs.

HOW CAN BBVA HELP YOU?

By making access to grants... easier.

The grant management service we deliver in conjunction with consultancy firm Minsait makes it easier for **companies, SMEs and the self-employed to access grants** and in particular ones under Next Generation EU funds. This service features:

- **List and search engine of grants with several search filters:** summary with the most relevant information about the requirements and amounts of each of the grants (e.g., whether it is a direct grant, application deadline, estimated number of recipients, etc.)
- **Detailed information** about the most relevant grants featuring **step-by-step guides to apply for the aid and links for online processing**.
- **FAQs** (e.g., conditions to be met by fund recipients, commitments they have to fulfil when applying for grants, etc.) as well as useful articles about NGEU funds and other public aid.
- **Comprehensive grant management service.**

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Plus **for the Digital Toolkit** for digitalisation of SMEs and the self-employed we also have **specific services** to help you **manage your aid application** and also if you would like to **register as a digitalising agent** to offer your company's technological solutions.

Learn [more](#).

Useful links



- ✓ [Digital Toolkit rules order / Moncloa](#)
- ✓ [NGEU funds in detail / BBVA](#)
- ✓ [NGEU information website / Moncloa](#)
- ✓ ['Spain Can' Plan \(full text\) / Moncloa](#)



If you have any questions about NGEU Funds or need help in applying for grants, **please contact your BBVA Adviser**

Glossary

- ✓ **RRP:** recovery and resilience plan to be submitted by each member state to the EU for approval as a condition for receiving funds.
- ✓ **SPERT:** Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation which are extremely innovative, call for public-private partnership for their implementation and are key drivers of employment and the transformation of the economy.
- ✓ **Digital Toolkit:** Government programme for the digitalisation of SMEs and the self-employed providing financial support for accessing digital solutions.

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- ✓ **Digital voucher:** right to payment arising from the award of a grant under the Digital Toolkit programme. This voucher can be cashed once the digitalising agent submits proof on behalf of the SME or self-employed individual that the grant-aided activity has been performed and this is confirmed by the Government.
- ✓ **Digitalising agents:** the digitalisation solutions and services for SMEs and the self-employed are delivered by organisations that are members of the Digital Toolkit programme which become digitalising agents and are registered in the Acelera Pyme Catalogue.
- ✓ **Acelera Pyme:** this is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation's initiative to build the benchmark ecosystem for the digital transformation of SMEs. It is run by Red.es, an organisation under the Secretariat of State for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence, and is part of the SME Digitalisation Plan 2021-2025 in the Spain Plan.

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