

CASE STUDY PROJECTS OF MUNICIPAL PRIORITY

Fast Tracking Industrial Development
in Santo Tirso



Background

Santo Tirso, in northern Portugal, is a region famed for its industrial magnetism. This fame is not a result of luck, but of the strategic, proactive and evidence based approach taken by the municipality to investor attraction.

The process of fast tracking of industrial development licencing for projects deemed of strategic importance, developed in 2015, is one part of this approach.

Investors looking to establish industry in the area may apply for the 'municipal interest project' status which is awarded after a quick analysis of the value of the investment, particularly in terms of value creation and employment.

Assessment Criteria

- Amount of investment to be made
- Number of net direct jobs to be created
- Project implementation deadline
- Location of the promoter's headquarters in the municipality of Santo Tirso
- Manifestation of environmental interest (10%)
- Strong export vocation (> 50% of revenue directed to external markets)
- Special interest of the project for the territory's economy and its integration into the social development model

Benefits of the Status to Investors

- Fast tracking of all administrative procedures related to the development including industrial and environmental licencing, approval of the design etc.
- Tax reduction or exemption
- Reduction or exemption from development levies

More Info : Invest Santo Tirso

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIjoeUzKJHQ_

The EcoCore Project

Green Transition in Small Cities along Transport Corridors

‘ENTREPRENEURS GREATLY APPRECIATE OUR COMMITMENT AND ROLE AS A VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR’

Invest Santo Tirso Team



Process

- The investor's first contact is with the INVEST Santo Tirso technician, where they present their investment project and the physical requirements (space) they need.
- INVEST consults its database of available properties as well as known land owners, whose space allows for the installation of the investment (compatibility with the land and the activity).
- INVEST compiles this information and forwards it to the investor, allowing them to choose the space that best suits their business idea.
- From the initial contact onward, the investor is accompanied at all times.

Results to date

- 119 projects approved with a total investment value of €548,944,711
- 2,261 jobs to be created (projection based on investment)
- 50% reduction in municipal fees to businesses to a value of €2,478,380
- Total tax benefits to companies from 2015–2023 amounted to €8,875,534

Resources Required

Invest Santo Tirso with a staff of 8 people are responsible for the operation of the mechanism.

Future Plans

Through EcoCore the municipality together with stakeholders aim to revise the fast tracking criteria to better align with CSRD and ESG criteria.

Vera Araújo

invest@cm-sttirso.pt

+351 252 809 120

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union

Interreg