

## RATIO POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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### Elaboration of the strategic policy recommendations (extension: 1/2 page maximum)

Explain how the stakeholders have been contacted for the extension and how the project recommendations have been modified to face COVID Situation


For the project extension, the Municipality of Vila Pouca de Aguiar focused on local policies, implemented directly by the Municipality due the COVID 19 pandemic, aiming to support mainly the economic survival of enterprises in a very difficult period.

Thus, as part of the measures to mitigate the adverse economic effects caused to traders by the pandemic, the Municipality of Vila Pouca de Aguiar created a Municipal Emergency Fund to Support Microenterprises, which financial support was based on the loss of revenue that the company had between 2019 and 2020, and also considers the number of employees. The beneficiaries are all the microenterprises in Vila Pouca de Aguiar, whose areas of activity are described in the regulation approved by the municipal assembly.

Also, the Municipality of Vila Pouca de Aguiar created a series of temporary payment exemptions, in order to minimize the effects of the pandemic economic lock-down on the lives of people and companies, suspending the payment of rent for merchants who occupy municipal buildings; of water payment exemption for everyone; of licenses for terrace and of parking meters, in all the territory of the municipality.

### Policy recommendations (extension: 1 page)

Each partner should explain the policy aligned with the project. The idea is to have the information in this short box:

	<p>2021-2027 ROP Aragón</p> <p>The new ROP 2021-2027 for Aragón pursues the achievement of the following political objectives:</p> <p>A more competitive and intelligent Europe, by promoting research and innovation, digitization and support for small and medium-sized enterprises.</p> <p>The specific objective 1.2 is focusing in boosting the benefits of digitization for citizens, businesses, research organizations and public administrations.</p>
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Each partner should prepare a Recommendation, matching the topic of the project and policy instrument

Given the economic and social impacts of the COVID19 pandemic, there were established a series of national measures (promoted by the Government), to support the economic agents and avoid their complete disappearance with the obvious social and employment consequences. Additionally, there were several local public authorities, such as the Municipality of Vila Pouca de Aguiar who created their own local measures to support the inhabitants and their organizations, including the economic branch. For that, it was launched the Municipal Emergency Fund to Support Microenterprises, together with a temporary payment exemption for a significant number of public services.

Being already passed a couple of years since the beginning of the pandemic, it should now be possible to evaluate the impact of the municipal measures, specifically on those enterprises who applied for support within the Municipal Emergency Fund. This evaluation should allow to analyse which economic activities were most supported and which and why weren't.

Given the context of emergency the region faced and the existence of other situations that can create economic, social and environmental difficulties to the population and enterprises (such as rural fires (the most common and serious phenomena with wider geographical scale and impact) or extreme droughts), we can present the following recommendations:

- Adjust the regulation of the Municipal Emergency Fund, according to the evaluation of its previous implementation, namely in order to include some of the measures related with the exemption of payment for public services;
- Establish this Municipal Emergency Fund as a priority political measure to be activated in other critical societal emergencies (e.g., major rural fires, severe floods, extreme droughts, health pandemics...);
- Recommend to the National Operational Programmes (e.g., COMPETE2020 and its successor), to introduce an additional markup criterion, for those projects presented by enterprises, coming from regions/municipalities where this type of Municipal Emergency Funds exist.