In line with recital (37) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the support by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) given to productive investments in general should be limited to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) since large enterprises are considered to have good access to financing on the market, cutting-edge technologies and to the labour market.

However, cohesion policy offers the opportunity to frame a coherent industrial policy in the region. Large enterprises often form the core of a cluster, carry out most of the research and trigger skill development. Therefore, ERDF supports large enterprises in research, development and innovation to reinforce cooperation between large enterprises, research centers and regional SMEs, building more effective value chain relations, developing skills for industrial transition for workers and entrepreneurs.

The programme ERDF-ESF+ (European Regional Development Fund - European Social Fund+) Puglia 2021-2027 proposes to support large enterprises. The involvement of large enterprises should generate a tangible and durable value added and increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of Puglia’s economic system.