

How to get financial support to implement a new ERP



Are you a small business executive looking to capitalize on all the benefits that an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system has to offer? Are you unclear about having the necessary funding to transition toward technology that could take your business to the next level? There are government programs in place to help businesses invest in IT. We have put together some useful information to help you navigate the process.

Financial assistance from the ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec

The [PME en action](#) program offered by the ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec includes a component to support SME productivity called Appui à la productivité des PME. This component is intended to support Quebec business productivity as a way to promote their development and competitiveness.

Can your company benefit from this program?

Your company is eligible if you operate a for-profit business establishment in Quebec. Cooperatives and social economy enterprises also qualify. In either case, the company must operate in the following eligible industry sector:

- Propulsive service industries—This sector includes high-value-added companies that make a significant contribution to the production of goods or that use new technologies. These companies typically operate in the following sectors:
 - Information and communication technology
 - Environmental services
 - Creative and industrial design services
 - Industrial and scientific services laboratories
 - Private research services
 - Value-added distribution centres

The manufacturing sector is also part of the program. However, companies in other activity sectors are excluded, as are majority-owned Crown corporations.

You can submit an implementation project relating to specific actions contained within an agreed-upon response plan between your company and the ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec. This project must focus on implementing targeted business practices that will generate significant gains in productivity for your company.

Here are some examples of qualifying projects:

- Supply chain optimization
- Implementation of an ERP (Integrated Management System) or CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system)
- Compliance with norms directed towards meeting international production standards
- Implementation of a production cost system

However, activities related to human resources and market development are not eligible. In addition, your IT project must be completed within a maximum period that may not exceed 12 continuous months.

What amount could your company obtain?

Financial assistance is provided in the form of a nonrepayable contribution covering up to 40% of eligible project expenses, to a maximum of \$50,000 per project. The cumulative rate of government financial assistance for an IT project cannot exceed 50% of total project expenditures.

You may submit the following expenses as of the date of submission of the application for financial assistance:

- Professional fees for services provided by external consulting firms, such as ACCEO
- Purchase costs for specialized information, which is relevant and essential to the achievement of your project, such as statistics and market analyses

To learn more about applying for financial assistance [contact an ACCEO expert](#) who will advise and guide you through the process. To start the application process, contact your regional government office. Go to [Appui à la productivité des PME](#) on the MEI website.

Business scale-up and productivity

Under the REGI funding program, Canada Economic Growth for Quebec Regions supports projects that promote business development by helping companies become more productive, expand, and grow through innovation. Qualifying organizations include companies, cooperatives, non-profits, and business support institutions.

What projects are eligible for support?

Here are some examples of qualifying projects:

- Technology take-up and adaptation
- Evaluation, acquisition, take-up, or adaptation of new technologies or processes
- Process redesigns
- Production increase or improvement
- Productivity improvement

What amount could your company obtain?

Financial assistance is provided in the form of a repayable contribution covering up to 50% of authorized costs for SMEs and nonrepayable contributions covering up to 90% of authorized costs for not-for-profit projects (with the exception of capital projects for which the maximum rate of assistance is set at 50% of authorized costs).

To learn more about applying for financial assistance [contact an ACCEO expert](#) who will advise and guide you through the process. To start the application process, contact your regional government office. Go to [Business scale-up and productivity](#) to consult eligibility criteria.