



Challenge:

How could we approach the evaluation of the impact of a SME subsidy programme through automatic extraction of data from the programme, their smart visualisation, and a comparison with external data?

Sub-challenges:

- How can we **explore models for the automatic extraction and structuring** of information on the effect of the subsidies on the supported SMEs, from different sources of information we already have available (PDFs, spreadsheets, etc.)?
- How can we **visualise and analyse the information** in a way that facilitates drawing conclusions, and to automatically identify errors or deviations?
- How can we **identify, compile and visualise related external data** (sectoral, economic, social, among others), that complete and feed into the data?

Context:

The Department of Economic Promotion of Bizkaia Provincial Council (BPC) aims to strengthen Bizkaia's business ecosystem, for which it offers a wide range of grants to promote the competitiveness of SMEs, in areas such as adaptation to a digital economy, attracting and retaining talent, supporting competitiveness at regional level and innovation.

They currently offer grants and services to achieve objectives such as internationalisation, innovation or sustainability. In the process, information is collected from the beneficiary SMEs through evaluation and monitoring reports and on-site visits. **With the aim of helping to measure the impact that the grants and services have on SMEs, we consider it necessary to migrate the data already available to automatic models that offer visualisation, better use of the information and generate historical data to draw conclusions and make decisions.** Focusing the work on a specific, long-running subsidy programme.

Opportunities:

Three main spaces of opportunity are observed where the application of new ideas and digital solutions could help the Economic Promotion team:

1. **Extract data** from current documents (PDF and other formats) and migrate them into more elaborate models.
2. **Explore what other data from open sources** can enrich our own data.
3. **Facilitate an understanding of the data** and its use for decision-making and impact measurement through their visualisation and automated analysis.



In addition, there is the need to reflect on what data needs to be extracted and obtained in order to be able to act on this information and use impact measurement models that allow for the evaluation and internal evolution of the Department of

Objectives:

We seek solutions that meet at least two of these objectives:

- **To obtain quantitative and actionable data from the different existing formats** in the department, exploring ways of extracting the knowledge of the department's technicians.
- **To visualise the information in a clear way and enable the inclusion and cross-reference** of external data in a way that enriches the ability to draw conclusions.
- **To explore what other information could be interesting to collect** in the interactions with SMEs to include it in the processes.

What are we looking for?

The following aspects will be assessed:

- A value proposal that is clear and relevant to the challenge.
- A technological solution with traction in the market.
- A non-intrusive experience for users that does not place an additional burden on internal staff.
- Ease of adoption and implementation.
- Accessibility and simplicity: A solution suitable for people with different levels of digital skills.
- Interoperable Solution.

Process and key dates:

The **deadline** to receive the response to the proposal is: **31/10/2023**.

The selection process consists of the following steps:

- The selection of up to 5 candidate companies depending on their relevance and how their solution fits in with the challenge proposed.
- Interviews with the 5 companies to learn about their activity and differential value.
- Selection of 3 finalist companies.
- Presentation of the pilot programme proposed by the 3 finalists.
- Selection of the winning company and solution.

The pilot programme to implement the winning solution in January 2024 and will have a duration of 5 months.



What do you get?

Pilot programme remunerated with a maximum of 15,000 euros.