



To:

European Investment Fund

COSME Loan Guarantee Facility

37B, avenue J.F. Kennedy

L - 2968 Luxembourg

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For the (Counter-)Guarantee for debt financing
For the Guarantee for securitised portfolio

[Please delete as appropriate]

in the context of the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility – including COSME COVID 19 Sub-window

Applicant submitting the Expression of Interest

Please complete indicating:

- Company Name
- Registration Number

Dear Sir or Madam,

Herewith we are submitting our Expression of Interest on behalf of [Applicant], (the “Applicant”) in response to the Open Call for Expression of Interest in the framework of the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility (the “COSME LGF”, the “Facility” or “EU Guarantee”), implemented by EIF. Capitalised expressions utilised herein shall have the meaning attributed to them in the above-mentioned Call for Expression of Interest.

The undersigned, duly authorised to represent the Applicant, by signing this form certifies and declares:

1. that the information contained in this Expression of Interest and its Appendices is complete and correct in all its elements;
2. to have read the EIF Anti-Fraud Policy and not to have made nor to make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the (Counter-)Guarantee Agreement and not to have granted nor to grant, not to have sought nor to seek, not to have attempted nor to attempt to obtain, and not to have accepted nor to accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal practice or involving corruption, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to signing of the (Counter-)Guarantee Agreement.

Furthermore, the undersigned, duly authorised to represent the Applicant, by signing this form represents that, as at the date of this form:

1. The Applicant is not in any of the situations below:

- a. it is bankrupt, is subject to insolvency or is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by a liquidator or by the courts, in this context, is in an arrangement with creditors, is having its business activities suspended or a standstill (or equivalent) agreement has been signed with creditors and validated by the competent court when required by the applicable law, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b. in the past five (5) years, it has been the subject of a final judgment or final administrative decision for being in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law and where such obligations remain unpaid unless a binding arrangement has been established for payment thereof;
- c. in the past five (5) years, it or any of the persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over it has been convicted by a final judgment or a final administrative decision for grave professional misconduct, where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, which would affect its ability to implement the (Counter-)Guarantee and which is for one of the following reasons:
 - (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of selection criteria or in the performance of a contract or an agreement;
 - (ii) entering into agreements with other persons aimed at distorting competition;
 - (iii) attempting to unduly influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the relevant "award procedure" as such term is defined in Article 2 of the Financial Regulation¹;
 - (iv) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the relevant "award procedure" as such term is defined in Article 2 of the Financial Regulation;
- d. in the past five (5) years, it or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over it has been the subject of a final judgment for:
 - (i) fraud;
 - (ii) corruption;
 - (iii) participation in a criminal organisation;
 - (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing;
 - (v) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences;
 - (vi) child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings;
- e. it is subject to a decision on exclusion contained in the early detection and exclusion database (the EDES database available at the official website of the EU)² set up and operated by the European Commission;
- f. it has been, in the past five years, subject to a final judgment or administrative decision by a national court or authority that it was created with the intent to illegally circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business.;

2. The Applicant is established and operating in one or more of the Participating Countries;
3. In respect of (Counter-)Guarantees provided under the Facility, the Applicant is duly authorised – if applicable - to carry out financing activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, or the Applicant is a guarantee scheme, guarantee institution or other financial or credit institution duly authorised, if applicable, to issue guarantees according to the applicable legislation; and
4. The Applicant does not perform activities which are illegal according to the applicable legislation in the country of the Applicant.

For the purpose of the EIF Transparency Policy, as further specified in the Call for Expression of Interest, and subject to the approval of the relevant operation by the EIF Board of Directors, the [Applicant], by signing this form:

[Please tick as appropriate]

¹ "Financial Regulation" means Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1), as it may be amended, supplemented or modified from time to time.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/edes/index#/l/cases>

- confirms that the Applicant agrees with the disclosure of summary information relevant to this transaction (the project name, the nature of the operation, the geographical focus and the relevant EIF-managed resources) in the Board minutes published on EIF's website, following the approval and signature of said minutes
- OR
- declares that (i) the Applicant requests the non-disclosure of summary information relevant to this transaction (the project name, the nature of the operation, the geographical focus and the relevant EIF-managed resources) in the Board minutes published on EIF's website, following the approval and signature of said minutes and (ii) such disclosure would undermine the protection of commercial interests³ relevant to the operation.

Yours sincerely,

Signature(s):

Stamp of the Applicant (if applicable):

Name and position in capitals:

Applicant's name

Place:

Date (day/month/year):

Appendices

Appendix 1 : Applicant Identification

Appendix 2 : Information Requirements

Appendix 3 : Know Your Customer ("KYC") documents to attach

³ Including by reason of such information being covered by a confidentiality agreement.

Appendix 1 to the Expression of Interest

APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
APPLYING FOR:	<input type="checkbox"/> GUARANTEE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTER-GUARANTEE <input type="checkbox"/> SECURITISATION <input type="checkbox"/> COSME DIGITALISATION PILOT <input type="checkbox"/> COSME LGF COVID-19 Sub-window ⁴
NAME	
LEGAL FORM	
CONTACT DETAILS	Title: Mr/Mrs/other (delete or complete as appropriate) Surname: Forename(s): Function: Address: Telephone: Email:

⁴ Please refer to Schedule 1 of the COSME LGF-Call for Expression of Interest for information about availability of budget for Financial Intermediaries in Member States/Participating Countries which are not Member States.

Appendix 2 to the Expression of Interest

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The points below list the headings for the minimum information needed.

Please add relevant information that might have an impact on your application (specific market environment, product related, specifics regarding your institution, etc.)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

N.B.: The information required below concerning the activity of the applicant institution and its products should be provided in respect of its activities for SMEs (according to the EU Definition following the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC – OJ L124, 20.05.2003, p. 36 as amended from time to time).

Debt Financing means any type of debt financing, including subordinated loans, participating loans, convertible loans, leasing, revolving credit facilities and bank guarantees.

1. FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY'S ACTIVITY

1.1. General information: description of the applying institution (date of establishment, brief history, number of employees, shareholders, etc.) legal status, regulatory framework and applicable regulations, including the supervisory authority, and rating, if applicable (please add reports of rating agencies to the Application, if available).

1.2. Description and standard terms of each Debt Financing product offered to SMEs including purpose, maturity, maximum and average rate of financing (as % of investment), maximum amount, etc.

1.3. Geographical area of operation.

1.4. Branch network: number, type and size of branches.

1.5. Previous experience in cooperating with international financial institutions (IFI) such as EIB, EBRD, CoEB.

2. FINANCIAL STANDING

2.1. Annual reports for the last available three years (to be annexed to the Application).

For institutions whose losses are covered in full or in part, directly or indirectly, by the State or other public entities (such as regional or local authorities), further information and statements are requested:

- State resources (budgetary resources) available for the SME related activity (guarantee or lending activity, not limited to the product proposed under the EU Guarantee for cover) and how it's applied (e.g. to operating expenses, loss cover, etc.)
- Planned budgetary resources for SME related activities (guarantee or lending activity, not limited to the product proposed under the EU Guarantee for cover)
- Are the budgetary resources allocated specifically to different products?
- How and when is the budget fixed?
- Are there budgetary/capacity limitations?

3. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

3.1. Credit policy: abstract of internal procedures and guidelines.

3.1.1. Origination (including internal SME segmentation, if any).

3.1.2. Risk assessment procedures (internal rating / scoring system) including rating/scoring master scale(s).

3.1.3. Approval procedures.

3.1.4. Delegation system.

3.1.5. Collateral requirements.

3.1.6. Monitoring.

3.1.7. Recovery procedures (what steps are taken and when; which departments are involved).

3.2. Risk management: methods utilised for loss forecasting, provisioning and credit risk management on portfolio level.

4. DEBT FINANCING VOLUMES (over the most recent 5 year period) of SME lending (by product/purpose, maturity range, SME segment)

4.1. Annual number and volume of finance granted.

4.2. Total number and volume of finance outstanding at year-end for the most recent 5 years.

5. POSITION IN THE MARKET

6. INTEREST RATES AND FEES

6.1. Pricing policy with regard to SME Debt Financing (by product/purpose, maturity, SME segment, risk category, etc.).

6.2. Types and Levels of Fees (including up-front fees, commitment fees etc).

7. IT SYSTEM

7.1 Ability to comply with the Reporting requirements linked to the EU Guarantee.

B. PROPOSAL

1. PROPOSED PRODUCT TO BE COVERED UNDER THE COSME EU GUARANTEE FOR DEBT FINANCING:

All information required below concerning the activity of the applicant institution and its products must be provided, specifically and in detail, for:

- (a) SMEs (according to the EU Definition following the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC – OJ L124, 20.05.2003, p. 36 as amended from time to time); and
- (b) Debt Financing with final maturity of at least 12 months; and
- (c) Debt Financing with a principal amount of up to EUR 150,000 (for both banks and guarantee institutions). Debt Financing with a principal amount above EUR 150,000 may also be covered under the Facility - except under the COSME Digitalisation Pilot - as long as the Financial Intermediary can demonstrate, by means of a checklist including all relevant Eligibility Criteria, that the SME/Final Recipient would not be eligible under the guarantee window of the InnovFin mandate⁵.

1.1. APPLICATION UNDER THE EU GUARANTEE

1.1.1. Application under OPTION 1 of the SME High Risk Definition, new product with higher credit risk, either Direct or Counter-Guarantee model:

- How does it differ from SME Debt Financing product your institution might already offer?
- Envisaged volumes with an EU Guarantee over a period of 3 years; please provide the basis/assumptions for such estimate.
- The envisaged pricing for the new product(s) should be detailed including how it fits in the current pricing policy.
- In the context of COSME applications where the applicant proposes to participate in the **COSME Digitalisation Pilot**, the proposed collateral policy applicable to such transactions, when compared to the minimum requirements specified in Annex V.
- Implementation strategy: externally (liaising with partners, marketing, etc.) and internally (necessary procedures, systems, etc.). Please also provide an estimate of the expected time needed to prepare for implementation.

1.1.2. Application under OPTION 2 of the SME High Risk Definition, increase in volumes, either Direct or Counter-Guarantee model:

- SME origination of the latest available consecutive 12 month period including the rating/scoring class distribution for such SME loans at origination.
- In the context of COSME applications where the applicant proposes to participate in the COSME Digitalisation Pilot, the proposed collateral policy applicable to such transactions, when compared to the minimum requirements specified in Annex V.
- Debt Finance granted under the relevant programme for the past three years in the Acceptable Rating Categories i.e. the rating classes which, according to the distribution by rating class of the SME debt financing originated over the latest available consecutive 12 month period as reported above, include the SME debt financing which correspond, in terms of volumes, to the most risky quartile (25%), rounded up to the full rating class containing the threshold.
- Envisaged volumes with an EU Guarantee over a period of 3 years; please provide the basis/assumptions for such estimate Implementation strategy: externally (liaising with partners, marketing, etc.) and internally (necessary procedures, systems, etc.). Please also provide an estimate of the expected time needed to prepare for implementation.

⁵ For further information on the InnovFin mandate and the related guarantee window, please refer to the following link: http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/single_eu_debt_instrument/innovfin-guarantee-facility/index.htm

1.1.3. Application under the COSME LGF COVID-19 Sub-window, either Direct or Counter-Guarantee model:

- Envisaged volumes with an EU Guarantee over a period up to (and including) 31 December 2020; please provide the basis/assumptions for such estimate.
- The envisaged pricing should be detailed including how it fits in the current pricing policy.
- In the situation where the Applicant is also taking part to a national COVID support scheme⁶, the Applicant should elaborate on how it is making use of such scheme and what activity(-ies) such scheme is supporting
- In connection to the above, the Applicant should detail how it would foresee to use the COSME LGF COVID-19 support with a view to ensure complementarity of such support to the national support scheme activity(-ies)
- Implementation strategy: externally (liaising with partners, marketing, etc.) and internally (necessary procedures, systems, etc.). Please also provide an estimate of the expected time needed to prepare for implementation.

1.2. DEFAULT RATE / RECOVERY RATE (for the most recent 5 year period, if available) for SME lending, always with regard to the most comparable loan/guarantee product currently offered (e.g. same product offered to a less risky client segment or less risky product offered to same client segment (for OPTION 1) and/or the product to be covered for the Acceptable Rating Classes (for OPTION 2)⁷:

1.2.1 Non-performing loan/guarantee rates (defaulted Debt Financing /outstanding Debt Finance amount)

1.2.2. Average time lags between the granting, the payment default by the borrower and the establishment of the final loss.

1.2.3. Detailed analysis of defaults incurred and recoveries made

- Default definition used.
- Details on annual defaults (before recoveries) and recoveries.
- Vintage year analysis: Net cumulative defaults and/or losses, with break-down by portfolio (year of loan granting): e.g. annual and cumulative losses incurred with regard to loans granted in the years 2011, 2012 etc.

EXAMPLE TABLES:

Default rate detail		defaults occurred after 0, 1, 2 ... years (total outstanding when defaulted)						Total default EUR
year of granting	Debt Finance granted in EUR	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Year N-6		%	%	%	%	%	%	
Year N-5		%	%	%	%	%		
Year N-4		%	%	%	%			
Year N-3		%	%	%				

⁶ In particular to the schemes notified to the European Commission and published on: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/economy/state-aid-cases_en

⁷ For further information on the identification of the Acceptable Rating Classes, please refer to question 15 of the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Year N-2		%	%					
Year N-1		%						

Recovery rate detail		recoveries occurred after 0, 1, 2 ... years						Total recoveries in EUR
year of default	Default Amount in EUR	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Year N-6		%	%	%	%	%	%	
Year N-5		%	%	%	%	%		
Year N-4		%	%	%	%			
Year N-3		%	%	%				
Year N-2		%	%					
Year N-1		%						

2. PROPOSED PRODUCT TO BE COVERED UNDER THE COSME EU GUARANTEE FOR SECURITISATION

Please describe the product features of the proposed product to be covered under the COSME EU Guarantee for Securitisation.

3. MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF EU SUPPORT:

- Please note that the Financial Intermediary will be required to promote the products offered under the EU Guarantee through its website, including concrete information on how/where to apply and contact points for Final Recipients and that all information and promotional material of the product must clearly point to the support provided by the EU Guarantee.
- Please note that the Financial Intermediary will be required to explicitly inform Final Recipients that financing is made possible through the support of the EU Guarantee with the financial backing of the European Union under COSME Financial Instruments and that such information needs to be prominently included either in the contractual documentation and/or in an accompanying cover letter and it shall be duly acknowledged by the Final Recipient.
- Please note that the EIF, in cooperation with the Financial Intermediary, will identify and develop within 24 months from the start of the Availability Period of each agreement with a Financial Intermediary case studies on Final Recipients benefitting from the Facility, which may result in a publication by the European Commission.

Appendix 3 to the Expression of Interest

Know Your Customer (“KYC”) documents to attach

- 1) Copy of extract of commercial registry or equivalent
- 2) Copy of the list of directors or other authorised representatives or equivalent
- 3) Ownership structure: overall structure up to and including information on the Ultimate Beneficial Owner⁸ if available at the time of submission of the Expression of Interest. If not, to be provided as soon as possible in the course of the selection process.

The Applicants that have successfully completed a selection process during the last 12 months in the context of an EIF programme are invited to inquire in writing with EIF at the email cosme.lgf@eif.org on whether the document under point (3) above is required to be re-submitted during the selection process, provided that no changes have occurred since last submission of such information.

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Beneficial Ownership means the ultimate ownership or control of a person according to the definition of “beneficial owner” set out in article 3(6) of Directive 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing (as amended, supplemented or restated), it being specified that, for the purposes of this Agreement, (i) in relation to the Financial Intermediary, the threshold of beneficial ownership is set at 10%; and (ii) in relation to the Final Recipients established in the EU, the threshold of beneficial ownership is the threshold set under the applicable laws or regulations implementing the said Directive. In relation to Final Recipients established outside of the EU, beneficial ownership means the ultimate ownership or control of a person according to the definition of “beneficial owner” set out in the Financial Action Task Force recommendations and standards (as amended, supplemented or restated), it being specified that, for the purposes of the (Counter-) Guarantee Agreement, the threshold of beneficial ownership is set at 25%.