

Information Note to the Documentary Finance Facility – Bulgaria Call for Expression of Interest published on 18 September 2018: Re-opening of the Call with additional budget and changes in transaction terms

The EIF intends to address the policy objective of the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy of supporting the financing of urgent liquidity needs of micro, small and medium sized enterprises in Bulgaria linked to the COVID-19 crisis by re-opening the Call for Expression of Interest to select Financial Intermediaries to implement a Documentary Finance Facility through a capped guarantee for portfolios of new debt finance.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Economy decided to allocate additional resources from the JEREMIE Initiative to the above-mentioned Call thus bringing the total available budget up to EUR 80 million. Together with the additional contribution, the Documentary Finance Facility is expected to support SME lending transactions at favorable terms in Bulgaria of total volume at a minimum of EUR 400 million.

Furthermore, the EIF and the Ministry of Economy decided to amend the Term and Conditions for the Documentary Finance Facility by expanding the scope of eligible transactions and eligible final recipients, increasing the applicable guarantee rate and removing some restrictions at the level of the guaranteed portfolio in order to help small enterprises tackle short-term financial shocks in the COVID-19 crisis environment.

Financial intermediaries interested in applying under this Call can review the amended Terms and Conditions and download the amended application documents and have to submit an application ("Expression of Interest") to EIF by no later than **30 June 2020**.

More specifically;

- (i) Financial institutions that have already applied under the initial Call may express additional interest under this Call, as amended in the context of this Information Note, by submitting an Additional Expression of Interest in the form of the template provided in Annex II of the Call.
- (ii) Financial institutions that have not applied under the initial Call are requested to submit a complete Expression of Interest in line with the provisions and requirements of this Call, as amended by this Information Note.

Notwithstanding the above, allocation of funds to a Financial institutions under the Call, as amended by this Information Note, shall be subject to any relevant EIF approvals that may be required.