

## COVID-19

### National and EU measures to support businesses liquidity

This is a list of programmes set up by national governments and by the European Commission to allow businesses to survive the liquidity crisis arising from the Covid-19 outbreak. This guide, currently covering 19 jurisdictions, is designed to help your portfolio companies find which program is relevant in their country and whether it applies to them. It generally does not cover small programmes and solidarity “lump sums” granted by the countries.

This table is regularly updated (last update: August).

Name of the programme	Country	Summary	Eligibility	Interlocutors/ Key points of contact
<a href="#">EIF support</a>	European Union	The EIF launched € 100 million Recovery Equity Facility for Innovative Technology companies (RE-FIT) to support business impacted by COVID-19 and changed the terms of InnovFin Equity to step up support € 15 billion. It consists of two components, on the one hand liquidity aid in the form of a guarantee to secure working capital loans and on the other hand fixed cost subsidies in the event of a drop in sales of more than 40% as well as partial compensation for seasonal or perishable goods. This support is intended to ensure the economic survival of companies. Guarantees from 80% to 100% of the loan depending on its amount.	As usual, SMEs and small mid-caps (up to 499 employees).	EIF (see <a href="#">website</a> )
<a href="#">Corona Aid Fund</a>	Austria		The programme makes a distinction between SMEs and larger companies but is accessible to both.	The single point of contact is the firm’s house bank (see <a href="#">FAQ</a> in German)

<a href="#">Covid Startup Aid Fund</a>	Austria	<p>The funding takes the form of a grant, which the company must repay if successful. The amount of the grant corresponds to the amount of equity supplied by private investors and is capped at EUR 800,000.</p>	<p>Innovative small businesses <u>founded at the latest 5 years ago</u> and who received external equity, that are affected by the Covid pandemic</p>	<p>Applications are submitted via the <a href="#">aws</a> funding manager (until 15 December 2020)</p>
<a href="#">€ 50 billion National Guarantees</a>	Belgium	<p>Up to € 50 billion of loans will be guaranteed by the Federal State from 1<sup>st</sup> April and until 30 September 2020.</p> <p>Note: lumps sums are granted to businesses by the three regions: <a href="#">Brussels</a>, <a href="#">Flanders</a> and <a href="#">Wallonia</a>.</p>	<p>Any non-financial business and entrepreneurs that were viable before the crisis (exclusions of undertakings in difficulty under EU law)</p>	<p>Local banks (no restrictions announced)</p>
<a href="#">ČMZRB Covid III - Guarantee</a>	Czech Republic	<p>This CZK 150 billion loan programme follows since 19 May the first two programmes (Covid I and Covid II) which have now been suspended. A specific programme for Prague was also set-up.</p>	<p>Self-employed persons and companies with up to 500 employees. The amount of guarantee will be 90% of the principal for entrepreneurs with up to 250 employees and 80% for entrepreneurs with up to 500 employees</p>	<p>Private banks</p>
<a href="#">Vaekstfonden - Small and large businesses</a>	Denmark	<p>Guarantees issued and handled by the Danish Growth Fund (part of a general aid package of DKK 17.5 billion). Valid until 15 October. Guarantees cover 70% of any losses and have a maturity of up to 7 years.</p> <p>As an addition to the relief packages, recently approved by the European Commission, a new temporary matching-facility will be introduced by the Danish Growth Fund, and the investment capacity of the Danish Growth Fund will be increased.</p> <p>Loan for a total of €296 million matching on investments from private investors to early</p>	<p>Part 1: Any SMEs (criteria based on size of business and not ownership) who suffered or expect to suffer more than a 30% loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 crisis (and who were viable in 2019/2020).</p> <p>Part 2: Any non-SMEs who suffered or expect to suffer more than a 30% loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 crisis (and who were viable in 2019/2020).</p>	<p>The local bank, that then applies to the guarantee.</p>

		entrepreneurs and venture companies respectively will be added to the programme		
<a href="#">Innovation Fund Denmark</a>	Denmark	As part of the Danish economic relief package, an additional DKK 350 million has been allocated to the Innovation Fund's Innobooster scheme, which provides grants for innovative SMEs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small and medium-sized companies, which either have a turnover of at least DKK 2 million during the past financial year or has attracted external capital of at least DKK 500,000.</li> <li>• Entrepreneurs and start-up companies (under three years old) who have a strong team to implement the project and already have promising results to build on.</li> </ul>	The Danish Innovation Fund - information about the Innobooster scheme available <a href="#">here</a> (until 15 November)
<a href="#">Direct grants - Business Finland (CLOSED)</a>	Finland	Two types of direct grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preliminary funding for companies during business disruptions of maximum of €10,000.</li> <li>• Development funding for companies during business disruptions: maximum of €100,000 (80% of the project's approved total costs).</li> </ul>	<p>Finnish-based SMEs with 6-250 employees and mid-cap companies with a maximum turnover (own or group) of €300 million</p> <p><b>NEW:</b> On a separate note, the maximum duration of start-up funding will be temporarily extended from 12 to 18 months.</p>	<a href="#">Online Service of Business Finland</a> (only for users)
<a href="#">Guarantees - Finnvera plc</a>	Finland	€12 billion of guarantees can be used for working capital needs <u>caused by the coronavirus</u> . 2 separate programs (see next)	<p>Three programmes, all only for SMEs under EU law (NB: this will pose an issue for companies backed private equity and venture capital in some cases):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start Guarantee:</b> newly launched enterprises that</li> </ul>	The local bank (as the loan will first be negotiated with the bank)

			<p>are owned by private individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SME Guarantee:</b> SMEs more than three years old</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#">PGE : Attestation Prêt Garanti par l'Etat</a></p>	France	<p>€ 300bn state guarantee to help businesses with liquidity issues guarantee (from 70 to 90% of the full amount). For a business the loan could go up to 3 months of turnover, or two years of payroll for new or innovative companies.</p>	<p>Businesses of all sizes that are not in difficulty according to EU law irrespective of their legal form (ban on dividends for large businesses that received support). To determine whether a business is in difficulty or not, only the insolvency procedure is kept for SMEs (other criteria only apply for larger businesses).</p> <p><a href="#">FAQ</a> (It was pointed out there might be issues with the seniority of these loans compared to LBO loans, which may cause a problem for some firms to obtain the loan)</p>	<p>Pre-agreement with the house bank and approval to BpiFrance (<a href="mailto:garantie.etats.grandesentreprises@bpifrance.fr">garantie.etats.grandesentreprises@bpifrance.fr</a>) for companies with less than 5000 employees</p>
<p><a href="#">Prêts Atout (and Prêts Rebond)</a></p>	France	<p>Unsecured loans over 3 to 5 years from 10,000 to 5 million euros for SMEs, and several tens of millions of euros for mid-caps, with a significant deferral of repayment</p>	<p>Beneficiaries are SMEs and mid-caps who had at least 12 months of activities (and unless they already had liquidity issues beforehand).</p>	<p><a href="#">BpiFrance</a> has put in place an approval process (see also Prêts Rebond)</p>
<p><a href="#">Specific start-up measures (under PIA programme)</a></p>	France	<p>On top of the above, France has proposed to introduce a 80 million bridge finance between two fundraising, plus additional reinforcement of €250 million. These financings take the form of bonds with possible access to capital and are intended to be co-financed by private investors,</p>	<p>Start-ups which were currently raising or planning to raise funds and are unable to do so. Conditions of eligibility include: be under 8 years of age; neither the State nor Bpifrance must already be present in the capital of the startup; be an</p>	<p><a href="#">BpiFrance</a></p>

		constituting a total of at least 160 million euros	innovative company; and equity and quasi-equity intervention is possible on tickets between € 100k and € 5m up to a limit of 50% of the round.	
<a href="#">Start-up protection shield</a>	Germany	Germany has introduced a €2 billion start-up protection shield, which is slowly being put in place. The package of measures includes two pillars: 1) Additional public funds are made available through venture capital funds via the so-called corona matching facility, 2) for start-ups that do not have access to VC funding, new public funding opportunities will be available through regional promotional banks.	Pillar one is addressed at VC funds. Pillar two is directly addressed at start-ups and SMEs with a sustainable business models.	KfW and regional promotional banks. More details: <a href="#">FAQ</a> (in German only)
<a href="#">State Guarantee Programme (WSF)</a>	Germany	Guarantees of up to €400 billion including bonds, notes and liabilities of companies	Only available to viable large companies (i.e.: non SMEs) in the non-financial sector which do not have other financing alternatives	The local banks. Further details have yet to be made available on the programme
<a href="#">KfW loans</a>	Germany	Existing programme that has been extended to a larger number of companies. Loans of up to € 1bn guaranteed to up to 90% by KfW for young companies which can cover up to 18 months of the financing needs for SMEs and 12 months for other companies.	Companies active on the market for more than 5 years or at least 3 years with two financial statements with no financial difficulties as at 31 December 2019. A special <a href="#">credit lines</a> exists for companies active for less than 3 years.	The local bank. <a href="#">The KfW helps with the application.</a>
<a href="#">KfW SchnellKredit</a>	Germany	This is a 100% state guaranteed loan. The credit volume per company will amount to up to 3 monthly sales in 2019, with an interest rate of 3% and a term of 10 years, with a 2 year no repayment.	Any viable small and medium-sized companies (non-defined but likely to be in line with EU law) with more than 10 employees who have been active on the market since at least 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019 and that has shown a profit in 2019 or on average over the past three years	The local bank. <a href="#">The KfW helps with the application.</a> (until 31 December 2020)

<a href="#">Credit Guarantee Scheme</a>	Ireland	<p>Supports loans of up to €1 million for periods of up to 7 years. The goal is to encourage additional lending to SMEs by offering a partial Government guarantee (currently 80%) to banks against losses on qualifying loans to eligible SMEs. (<a href="#">FAQ</a>)</p> <p>An additional €2 billion was allocated to the scheme on 2 May.</p>	<p>Only viable SMEs (excluding “undertakings in difficulty”) as defined in EU law (which may pose an issue for VC firms with more than 50% ownership and PE firms with more than 25% ownership).</p>	<p>Applications can be made to AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank.</p>
<a href="#">SBCI Working Capital Scheme</a>	Ireland	<p>This €450m Scheme supports loans from €25,000 up to €1.5 million (first €500,000 unsecured) with a maximum interest rate of 4%.</p>	<p>“Viable” micro (at least 10 employees), small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and Small Mid-Cap enterprises (up to 499 employees) that meet the eligibility criteria. The business is impacted by the Covid-19 virus resulting in business turnover/profitability being negatively impacted by a minimum of 15%. In practice, many start-ups have been excluded from the scheme given some of the eligibility requirements.</p>	<p>The <a href="#">SBCI website</a> has full information on the scheme and an <a href="#">application form</a>.</p>
<a href="#">SACE - Liquidity measures</a>	Italy	<p>€34 billion of guarantees for SACE (and for refinancing SME fund). CDP provides a rapid disbursement of new loans of up to 18 months for liquidity and working capital needs resulting from the damage caused by the COVID-19 emergency.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> €12 billion in cash has also now been allocated to Regional Authorities and local bodies for the payment of Public Administration debts to suppliers and service providers</p>	<p><u>Two programmes:</u> up to €2 billion direct CDP loans mid-caps and large corporates (granted in co-financing with the banking system) and up to €1.5 billion short-term loans for affected SMEs and mid-caps (up to €500 million turnover) (SACE guarantees of up to 50% to the banking system). Eligible beneficiaries must not have had non-performing exposures prior to 17 March 2020.</p>	<p><a href="#">Participating banks</a> or the CDP directly.</p>

<a href="#">Guarantee and loan schemes for businesses</a>	Norway	<p>State guarantee scheme for bank loans to enterprises, with a total guarantee volume of NOK 50 billion. The state guarantees 90 per cent of each bank loan. A government bond fund with an investment budget of NOK 50 billion to increase liquidity and access to capital in the Norwegian bond market was also set up.</p>	<p>Originally targeted at SMEs (as defined in EU law so excluding “linked” businesses) but <a href="#">extended</a> to larger companies as of 2 April.</p>	<p>The scheme is administered by the Norwegian Export Credit Guarantee Agency (GIEK). Businesses need to contact their Banks directly.</p>
<a href="#">Extraordinary Innovation Grant 2020</a>	Norway	<p>Innovation Norway can fund up to 80 per cent of the approved funding basis, either through the use of grants or by combining grants and loans. The Start-up loan maximum amount was increased from NOK 1, 5 to NOK 2.4 million.</p>	<p>Normally targeted at SMEs but large companies can also receive grants if the small business is classified as a large because of ownership. The programme definitely includes start-ups (unless some active in non-disruptive sectors).</p>	<p><a href="#">Innovation Norway</a></p>
<a href="#">PFR Financial Shield for companies and employees</a>	Poland	<p>As part of the Anti-Crisis Shield created by the Polish government, the Polish Development Fund is launching an assistance program targeted at enterprises that have suffered as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The PFR Financial Shield for Companies and Employees is a program worth nearly PLN 100 billion.</p>	<p>Targeted at enterprises that have suffered as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The Financial Shield for Companies and Employees is a program worth nearly PLN 100 billion focused at micro-enterprises (employing at least one employee) as well as small and medium (SME thresholds in line with EU law) and large enterprises.</p>	<p>Polish Development Fund</p>
<a href="#">Biznesmax guarantee</a>	Poland	<p>The maximum value of the Biznesmax guarantee is EUR 2.5 million. The revolving loan guarantee cannot exceed 39 months, while for investment loans the guarantee period is a maximum of 20 years.</p> <p>The amended terms of the Biznesmax guarantee are valid until the end of 2020.</p>	<p>Addressed at innovative and ecologically effective SMEs.</p>	<p>Applications for guarantees can be submitted through relevant <a href="#">lending banks</a>.</p>

<a href="#">State Guarantee programmes</a>	Portugal	€ 3 billion in state-backed credit guarantees	Companies and independent workers. Specific start-up programmes were created but contain restrictions (e.g., companies with max 5 years-life, that are not in lay-off, etc.)	Through local banks
<a href="#">State aid scheme IMM Invest Romania</a>	Romania	The program allows eligible entities to access loans of up to RON 15 million (over €2 million) with the Romanian state guaranteeing 80% for medium enterprises and 90% for micro and small enterprises.	SMEs (definition very likely to be in line with EU law) operating in all sectors of economy, with few exceptions, can access the Scheme under certain conditions	Several partners banks are listed on the website. Here is how to <a href="#">access the programme</a>
<a href="#">ICO Guarantee Lines</a>	Spain	<p>A line of guarantees up to EUR 100 bn (first tranche : €20 bn) since 18 March 2020 was opened through the Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO). This is a "pari passu" guarantee program.</p> <p>Unification and restructuring of loans, as well as the cancellation or early amortization of pre-existing debts, cannot be financed with the Guarantee Line.</p>	<p>50% of the tranche will cover loans to SMEs (as defined by the thresholds set in Article 2 of the SME definition) and self-employed workers (80% guarantee) and 50% for companies that do not meet the status (60% guarantee).</p> <p>Eligibility criteria are not suited specifically for startups.</p>	Any local financial advisor that is registered and supervised by the Bank of Spain (access is not possible if a business is not already a client of the bank).
<a href="#">ALMI initiatives</a>	Sweden	<p>€ 9.1 bn Central government loan guarantee (of up to 70% of commercial loans) to make it easier for companies to access financing.</p> <p>Almi Företagspartner AB loan funds were strengthened by SEK 3 bn (see more <a href="#">here</a>).</p> <p>The Swedish government also announced that the necessary co-financing requirement for start-ups has been lowered from 50 to 30%.</p>	Aimed at startups and established small and medium-sized companies where financing needs have arisen as a result of the spread of the corona virus.	For start-up / growth companies who need equity capital, the relevant partner is <a href="#">Almi Invest</a> .

<a href="#">Bridging loan for business programme (CLOSED)</a>	Switzerland	<p>Liquidity aid totalling CHF 40 billion due to the economic consequences of the corona virus. Loans are 100% secured by the government, with an interest rate of 0 to 0.5%. Credit applications could be submitted until July 31, 2020.</p>	<p>All companies (sole proprietorships, partnerships or legal entities) based in Switzerland that are economically significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that were founded before 1st March and whose annual turnover does not exceed CHF 500 million.</p>	<p><a href="#">Application</a> can be done directly on the website</p>
<a href="#">SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB)</a>	The Netherlands	<p>The existing SME credit guarantee scheme has been extended to deal with the economic consequences of the coronavirus. Businesses can use the BMKB scheme for a bridge loan, or to increase the overdraft limit on their current account. The guarantee now runs to 75% of the credit given by the financing party.</p> <p>€6 million were also affected to the Qredits programme for start-ups and small businesses.</p>	<p>The business must be an SME (size and employee criteria are listed as relevant) established for more than 3 years and based in the Netherlands. However, start-ups can also be eligible <a href="#">under specific conditions</a>.</p>	<p>Any local financial advisor (not only banks)</p>
<a href="#">Garantie Ondernemingsfinanciering (GO)</a>	The Netherlands	<p>Guarantees 80% of loans for large companies and 90% for SMEs, up to a ceiling of € 10 billion. The maximum amount per company is temporarily € 150 million.</p>	<p>SMEs (defined under EU law) and large companies (distinction relevant to determine loan ceiling)</p>	<p>The GO runs through accredited financiers, in this case the bank. The accredited financiers are listed on the RvO website.</p>
<a href="#">Klein Krediet Corona (KKC)</a>	The Netherlands	<p>€750 million in bridging loans for companies with a relatively small financing requirement (from €10,000 to €50,000). The State is a 95% guarantor.</p>	<p>Entrepreneurs with a turnover of €50,000 or more who were sufficiently profitable before the corona crisis</p>	<p>Scheme still to be approved. The main contact point will be the bank.</p>

<p><a href="#">Corona Bridge Loan (COL) facility</a></p>	<p>The Netherlands</p>	<p>€ 100 million of bridge loans with a 3% interest rate (loans from €50k to €2million), topped by another €100 million at a 8% interest rate for larger loans</p>	<p>Start-ups (unlisted company that maintains a maximum of five years of entrepreneurial activities at the time of application for the COL and that did not arise from a merger), scale-ups ( a company with 10 - 250 employees, where employment or turnover has increased by at least 60% in the past five years) and innovative SMEs (as defined in EU law). Most of the activities of the firm must take place in the Netherlands.</p>	<p>Applications for a COL can only be made via a <a href="#">specially developed portal</a>. This portal can be reached via the websites of the ROMs, TechLeap and Invest-NL</p>
<p><a href="#">Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme</a></p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>Temporary scheme replacing <a href="#">the Enterprise Finance Guarantee</a>. Up to £5m through existing lenders, guarantee up to 80% of losses with no fees, and be interest free for the first year.</p> <p>The FCA has provided <a href="#">guidance</a> to lenders for this scheme.</p>	<p>Only available to companies not in difficulty based in the UK (on the basis of business activity) with turnover up to 45 million (described as SMEs). They must have a borrowing proposal which the lender would consider viable, were it not for the current pandemic or self-certify that they have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19). However, ‘grouping’ arrangements based on EU SME definition, which were preventing many venture capital and private equity-backed businesses gaining access to these schemes, were removed.</p> <p>Please note that as of 31<sup>st</sup> July <a href="#">criteria to determine what is a “business in difficult” have been changed</a> to allow for more smaller businesses to be eligible.</p>	<p><a href="#">Accredited lenders</a></p>

<p><u>Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS)</u></p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>The scheme provides government guarantee of 80% to make loans of up to £25m. Loans backed by a guarantee under CLBILS will be offered at commercial rates of interest.</p>	<p>Businesses with turnover of between £45m - £500m, with exception of financial businesses</p>	<p><a href="#">Accredited lenders</a></p>
<p><u>Future Fund</u></p>	<p>UK</p>	<p>The Future Fund will provide government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors.</p>	<p>Businesses (1) based in the UK (2) who can attract the equivalent match funding from third-party private investors and institutions (3) have previously raised at least £250,000 in equity investment from third-party investors in the last 5 years</p>	<p>Further details to be published <a href="#">here</a></p>