

EU OPEN FOR BUSINESS

ADAPT FOR THE FUTURE



A SNAPSHOT OF EU SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

Europe's 25 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the EU economy. The daily challenges of European SMEs to comply with rules and access information, markets and finance are thus challenges for the whole Europe.

Unleashing the full potential of European SMEs

[The Strategy for SMEs](#)¹ aims to reduce red tape and help Europe's SMEs to do business across the Single Market and beyond, access financing and help lead the way on the **digital** and **green transitions**.

Recovery plan for Europe

To help repair the economic and social damage brought by the coronavirus pandemic, kick-start European recovery, and protect and create jobs, the European Commission proposed on 26 May a major [recovery plan for Europe](#) based on harnessing the full potential of [the EU budget](#).

ADVICE

Enterprise Europe Network

It is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It helps SMEs and entrepreneurs access market information, access EU supported finance, overcome legal obstacles, and find potential business partners across Europe.

To build SMEs' capacity for digital and green transitions, the Commission will upgrade the European Enterprise Network with dedicated **sustainability advisors**.

Find a local Network contact point

> <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

Your Europe Business portal

It presents rights and obligations for businesses that want to make the most of their single market rights. It provides information on accessing new markets in the EU (setting up a business or subsidiary, selling goods and services abroad, paying connected VAT and taxes), as well as accessing funding – and much more.

> [Learn more](#)

¹ Adopted by the Commission on 10 March 2020.

SOLVIT

It provides rapid and pragmatic solutions to citizens and businesses when they are experiencing difficulties while moving or doing business cross-border in the EU. SOLVIT is a free of charge service provided by the national administration in each EU country and in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

> [Learn more](#)

European IP Helpdesk

European IP Helpdesk offers you free of charge, first-hand advice and support on Intellectual property (IP) matters, informs you about the latest developments in the world of IP & Innovation in Europe and offers training sessions on IP.

> [Learn more](#)

FINANCE

Access to finance portal

EU supports businesses by improving access to finance by financial intermediaries such as banks and venture capital organisations that provide funding supported by the EU.

[EU Access to Finance portal](#) will help you find suitable and available EU finance in your country.

COSME financial instruments

The EU's programme for the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) financial instruments (loan guarantee and equity facility) aim to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle.

*The [EIF](#) and EC are launching **specific COVID-19 support under the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility (COSME LGF)**, which is supported by the European Fund for Strategic Investments ([EFSI](#)).*

Horizon2020 InnovFin

The InnovFin under [Horizon 2020](#), the EU Research and Innovation programme, can provide the right financing instruments for your research and innovation project. Financing tools cover a wide range of loans, guarantees and equity-type funding, which can be tailored to innovators' needs. Financing is either provided directly or via a financial intermediary, most usually a bank or a fund.

*The [EIF](#) and EC are launching **specific COVID-19 support under InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility (InnovFin SMEG)**, which is supported by the European Fund for Strategic Investments ([EFSI](#)).*

Visit
www.access2finance.eu
for more information!

Funding and tender opportunities portal

Funding and tenders portal is the entry point for participants and experts in funding programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies. Direct funding is available to projects that specifically contribute to the implementation of an EU programme or policy.

> [Learn more](#)

LIFE programme

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action.

> [Learn more](#)

PARTNERS

European Cluster collaboration platform

The ECCP gathers nearly 1,000 European cluster organisations, reaching out to over 100,000 SMEs, some 8,000 large firms and 11,000 universities/research organisations. The platform offers a partner search tool, an information hub, international matchmaking events, direct assistance and support for SMEs. [COVID-19 Industrial Cluster Response Portal](#) has now been added.

> [Learn more](#)

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

A cross-border entrepreneurial exchange program, which gives new entrepreneurs in any sector the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs. The host benefits from fresh perspectives on his/her business, and gets the opportunities to cooperate with foreign partners, learn about new markets and bridge the skills gap.

> [Learn more](#)

European Investment Project Portal

The EU-matchmaking portal will boost visibility of your project to a large network of international investors! EIPP will show-case these projects in a structured user-friendly way and will thus attract investors worldwide.

> [Learn more](#)

Digital Opportunities Traineeship

It is an EU-funded training initiative that aims to help companies find highly motivated candidates to work in digital areas. Companies benefit from the presence of talented trainees and their innovative ideas. Already more than 7,200 Digital Opportunity Traineeships took place since 2018.

> [Learn more](#)

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) drives innovation in Europe by supporting entrepreneurs, innovators and students across Europe to turn their best ideas into reality. It's Europe's largest innovation community. The EIT is an integral part of [Horizon 2020](#), the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

> [Learn more](#)

OTHER USEFUL TOOLS

eTranslation tool for SMEs

eTranslation, provided by the European Commission, is a state-of-the-art online machine translation service that will help you save time and money to translate your documents and texts between any two official EU languages, and more! eTranslation guarantees the confidentiality and security of all your translated data.

> [Learn more](#)

Tenders Electronic Daily (TED)

TED is the online version of the 'Supplement to the Official Journal' of the EU, dedicated to European public procurement. It provides free access to business opportunities from the European Union, the European Economic Area and beyond. Information about every procurement document is published in the 24 official EU languages.

> [Learn more](#)

EU BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE

In May 2020, the Commission has proposed a powerful, modern and revamped [long-term EU budget](#) boosted by [Next Generation EU](#), an emergency temporary recovery instrument, to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought by the coronavirus pandemic, kickstart the recovery and prepare for a better future for the next generation.

The following three programmes are of particular interest for SMEs:

Single Market programme The Commission proposes a new, dedicated €4 billion programme to empower and protect consumers and enable Europe's many small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive. > Learn more	InvestEU The programme will bring together under one roof the multitude of EU financial instruments currently available and expand the successful model of the Investment Plan for Europe. This will further boost investment, innovation and job creation, triggering at least €650 billion in additional investment. > Learn more	Digital Europe programme The Commission has proposed a Digital Europe programme, the EU's programme focused on building the strategic digital capacities of the EU and on facilitating the wide deployment of digital technologies, to be used by Europe's citizens and businesses. > Learn more
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EU STRATEGY BOX

EU strategy The European Commission's priorities 2019-2024 > Learn more	European Green Deal A new growth strategy > Learn more	EU digital strategy Shaping Europe's digital future > Learn more
European industrial strategy For a competitive, green and digital Europe > Learn more	Strategy for SMEs Unleashing the full potential of European SMEs > Learn more	Circular Economy Action Plan Changing the way we produce and consume > Learn more

