



European Union support for Moldovan SMEs

A Summary of Current Programmes and Initiatives Financed/Co-Financed by the EU in Moldova



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EU4Business

The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector is the beating heart of a healthy economy. In Moldova, 99% of all businesses are SMEs, 80% of which are classified as micro-businesses, with less than 10 employees. Support for this vital element of Moldova's economic activity has been a key priority for the European Union.

Over the past 15 years, the EU has committed over 60,000,000 euros to supporting almost 17,000 SMEs in Moldova.

At the moment, there are some 20 SME-focused programmes financed or co-financed by the EU, providing financial support (loans, grants and guarantee schemes) and business advice (training, coaching, and international partner-matching schemes) or a combination of both.

Navigating a route through such a wide variety of programmes can be time-consuming and frustrating for hard-pressed businesspeople.



This leaflet is providing the relevant web-pages where you can find further information, application procedures, contact details. It is hoped that this will help readers to see, at a glance, which programme might be relevant to his/her business circumstances and to know where to go to find out more.








Support for SMEs is one of the EU's priorities targeted at boosting economic growth, innovation, employment, and improving the operating environment of SMEs.

The EU's cooperation and support includes access to available credit for SMEs, thereby allowing them to invest in modernising and expanding their activities. It also covers guidance and consultancy on business practices to help to improve SME effectiveness and ultimate profitability.

For further information about EU activities in Moldova, see https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova_en www.EU4Business.md; www.EU4Moldova.md



CURRENT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT SMES IN MOLDOVA FINANCED/CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

 Programme Name	 When does the programme end?	 What type of support is available?	 Who can apply?	 How much can I apply for? (Euros)	 What is covered by the programme?	 Where can I find more information?
DCFTA SME Direct Finance Facility (EBRD)	2024	Loans/Equity Investment/ Guarantee Schemes	Viable SMEs + larger	Loans: 3m-250m (average 25m); Equity Investment: 2m-100m.	Guarantee fund mainly to promote foreign trade	https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/project-finance.html Contact person: Eugen Verdes
EBRD Credit Line	2026	Preferential Loans/ Grants	SMEs for DCFTA-related investments	Up to 300K for simple projects; up to 3M for complex projects	Upgrading equipment; food safety linked to new quality/safety standards	http://www.ebrd.com/home Partner local banks for applications: Mobiasbanca, Procredit Contact person: Nadejda Litvac
DCFTA Initiative East (Guarantee)	2021	Guarantee facility	SMEs	Loans up to 5M	Guarantee fund to improve lending terms and conditions	https://www.eib.org/en/projects/region/s/eastern-neighbours/instruments/dcfta/index.htm Partner local bank for applications: Procredit
DCFTA Initiative East (MicroFinance)	2021	Preferential Loans	Micro-companies with <10 employees	25K	Targeted finance and technical assistance to priority value chains in the agri-food sector.	https://www.eib.org/en/projects/region/s/eastern-neighbours/instruments/dcfta/index.htm Partner local bank for applications: Procredit
Fruit Garden of Moldova	2024	Preferential Loans + Leasing	Horticultural SMEs	5K-5M	Planting/land clearance/equipment procurement (purchase and lease)	www.livada-moldovei.md http://livada-moldovei.md/credite-livada-moldovei/ http://livada-moldovei.md/leasing-livada-moldovei/
State Credit Guarantee Fund	2024	Financial Guarantees	SMEs for bank loans	Variable	Criteria set in Law no 206-XVI of 07.07.2006	https://www.odimm.md/ro/fgc Partner local banks for applications: MAIB, Comert Bank, Eurocredit Bank
PARE 1+1	2021	Investment Grants	Migrant workers/ 1st degree relatives to start remittance-funded business	50% of total investment (max. 12K)	Investments in production and services	https://www.odimm.md/ro/pare
DCFTA Adaptation Programme	December 2020	Loans through credit lines to local banks	Export-oriented SMEs	Up to 10K (50-70% of services cost)	Marketing; quality management; production upgrade; and HR management	https://www.ebrd.com/work-with-us/advice-for-small-businesses/moldova.html Contact person: Veronica Arpintin Partner local bank for applications: BT Leasing
Advice for Small Businesses Team	2024	Grants	SMEs (10-250 exception 500 employees)	Up to 10K (50-70% of services cost)	Production, services and trade	Fb@ebrd.asb.moldova https://www.facebook.com/pages/EBRD-BAS-Moldova-Programme/166077546748803?ref=hl Contact person: Veronica Arpintin
QI Project	August 2020	Consultancy and mentoring	Exporting and Export-Ready SMEs	Free for selected companies	Workshops and individualised coaching on most business processes	www.dcfta.md
Women in Business	2021	Investment Grants/ Advisory services/ Training	Women Led SMEs	Up to 80K (in each of 2 phases – representing 70% of project)	Equipment/machinery purchase; software upgrading; business innovation	https://www.odimm.md/ro/femei-in-afaceri
Women in Business	2022	Preferential Loans/ Business Advice	Women-led SMEs	Consultancy only	General business consultancy/mentoring	www.ebrdwomeninbusiness.com http://www.ebrdwomeninbusiness.com/?s=finance&language=ro Contact person: Nadejda Litvac

Eastern Partnership ('Ready to Trade')	December 2020	Consulting & capacity building	Exporting and Export-Ready SMEs	Consultancy	Guidance on international quality/standards; linkages with value chain buyers; providing cluster support	www.eu4business.eu http://www.eu4business.eu/project/dcf-ta-initiative-east-5 Contact Person: Adrian CIOFU E-mail: aciofu@intracen.org
COSME	December 2020	Grants	EU and Moldovan SMEs	Max. 200K-250K (75% of project)	Access to finance for SMEs/entrepreneurs; access to markets	https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme_en Online Application: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participations/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/cosme/index.html
Europe Enterprise Network	Continuous	Consulting & support services	SMEs; large enterprises; Research Centres	Consultancy only	Consultancy services (export and innovation/technology transfer)	https://odimm.md/ro/proiecte-internationale/een https://chamber.md/proiectul-enterprise-europe-network/
Horizon 2020	December 2020	Grants	EU and Moldovan SMEs (consortia)	Up to 2.02M per project	Finance for innovations/technological innovations	http://www.h2020.md/ http://www.rtm.md/en On-line application: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participations/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html Contact persons: rodica.dimitriu@chamber.md vadim.iatchevici@gmail.com moraruvtl@gmail.com
EU Confidence Building Measures, Program V – Component I	December 2022	Business development and support to DCFTA implementation	Business support and development services through joint initiatives	Variable	Initiatives to encourage cross-border cooperation in the Transnistrian Region.	https://eucbm.eu4moldova.md https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/projects/confidence-building-measures-programme-5.html
Green for Growth – Green Growth Fund (GGF)	Continuous	Loans /Leasing	Micro-SMEs in the sector of energy	Variable	Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy	www.ggf.lu Local Partner financial institution: BT Leasing, Total Leasing
European Fund for South East Europe (EFSE)	Open end	Dedicated loans through local financial institutions	Micro and small businesses and small entrepreneurs	Small loans - up to EUR 100,000	Working capital or investment needs	www.efse.lu Local Partner financial institution: BT Leasing MD: www.btleasing.md
EU4Environment	November 2022	Consulting & capacity building for Greening SMEs	SMEs involved in the Program on Greening SMEs, implemented by ODIMM	Consultancy and expert support	Capacity building in the fields of eco-innovation, eco-labelling, Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production, circular economy, environmental management at enterprise	https://odimm.md/ro/ecoimm https://www.oecd.org/site/eu4environment/ https://www.facebook.com/EU4EnvironmentMoldova/



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