

UpGradeSME

Interreg Europe 



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Supporting SMEs in response to the COVID - 19 pandemic

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Supporting SMEs in response to the COVID -19 pandemic

- Competitiveness Operational Program**

- Priority Axis 3 - Supporting SMEs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

- Investment priority 3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets and to engage in innovation processes**

Supporting SMEs in response to the COVID -19 pandemic

- The program aims is to ***strengthening the market position of SMEs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic*** by supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets and to engage in innovation processes.



Supporting SMEs in response to the COVID -19 pandemic

- SMEs hold a significant part of Romania's active workforce through individual employment contracts, so the need to support them either through **working capital grants** or **investment grants** is a real need with a major impact on macroeconomic balances of Romania.
- Thus, some SMEs need a grant for working capital in order to pay **current debts, build up stocks of raw materials, goods, consumables**, but also to **purchase medical equipment** necessary for their employees.

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- ❑ As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, some SMEs must reallocate their activity by creating ***new production capacities, by carrying out new activities or by implementing new investment projects***, and for this they need grants for low value investments so as to create **small production capacities** and to be able to obtain **new products and services** adapted to the consumer requirements.
- ❑ Given that there is a substantial risk of economic recession and in this context many segments of the European economy are blocked due to COVID-19, supply chains and global trade are severely affected, support measures are needed to unblock them and restarting economic activities.

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Forms of support:

- 1. **Microgrants** for micro-enterprises with associate/sole administrator, without individual employment contracts - in fixed amount for working capital, in the form of unit cost (2,000 euro/beneficiary);*
- 2. **Working capital grants** for micro-enterprises and SMEs - in the form of unit cost (15% of turnover for 2019);*
- 3. **Investment grants to SMEs** for investments in production activities (50,000 euros - 200,000 euros);*

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The program will help the recovery of the SMEs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and improve the business environment, supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets and to engage in innovation processes by:

- Maintaining SMEs in Romania in the market;*
- Maintaining / increasing the number of employees;*
- Diversification of the activities of Romanian SMEs;*
- Supporting economic activities in the fields of activity that contribute to reducing the negative balance of trade;*
- Providing the opportunity for SMEs to make partnerships abroad easier.*

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Transferable practices for other regions include:

- Creating opportunities for SMEs in order to facilitate their development and access of SMEs to foreign markets as well as reducing the market gap
- Strong commitment to collaboration and a joined up offer from public authorities and decision makers

<https://mfe.gov.ro/poc-apelul-sprijin-pentru-imm-uri-in-vederea-depasirii-crizei-economice-generate-de-pandemia-covid-19/>

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Thank you!

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