



Possibility to apply for support from the 2014-2020 operational programmes in connection with COVID-19

On 15 April, a Regulation of the Minister of Funds and Regional Policy was published regarding the rules for granting aid from financial instruments under the 2014-2020 operational programmes in connection with COVID-19.

Support may be granted based on the following rules:

- » aid may be granted to any entrepreneur (both to large and SMEs), except those in a difficult situation,
- » aid may be used for both current business needs and investment purposes, aimed at mitigating the effects of COVID-19,
- » aid may be granted in the form of a loan, a surety or a guarantee (only repayable instruments; aid in the form of grants is not available),
- » loans may be granted for a maximum of 6 years, and the interest rate increases over the duration of the loan and is different for SMEs and large enterprises (the interest will be lower than market rate),
- » in principle, the amount loaned may not exceed twice the cost of remuneration paid by the entrepreneur in 2019 (or for the last year for which data is available) or 25% of the entrepreneur's total turnover in 2019 (this may be increased in certain situations),
- » in principle, in the case of a surety/guarantee, the principal amount of the secured loan/credit may not be higher than the amount indicated in the point above,
- » the value of the guarantee or surety fee increases over the duration of the loan and is different for SMEs and large enterprises (the fee will be lower than the market commission fee),
- » a surety or guarantee may be granted for a maximum of 6 years and does not exceed (depending on the way losses are covered) 90% or 35% of the principal amount of the loan/credit,
- » aid is granted at the entrepreneur's request, submitted to the entity implementing the financial instrument (loan, guarantee or surety),
- » aid is granted until the end of 2020 on the basis of an agreement signed with the entrepreneur.