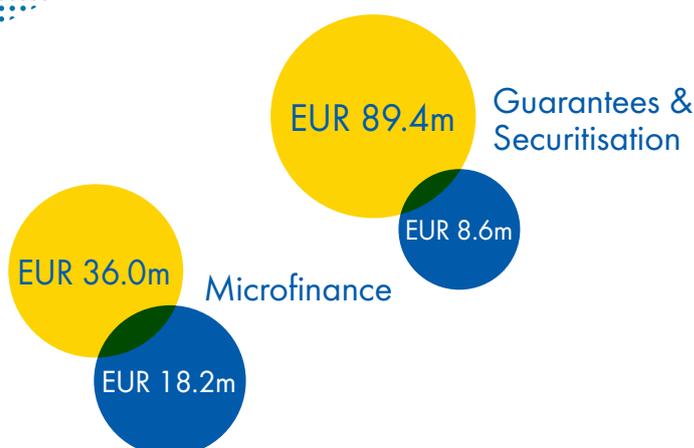


EIF in Slovenia



Key figures (at 31.12.2014)

- First EIF operation in Slovenia: 2004
- Partnering with 4 finance and guarantee institutions
- 3 partner finance and guarantee providers
- Over 1,300 Slovenian SMEs supported

- Outstanding commitments
- Expected mobilised resources

Guarantees & Securitisation

EIF actively supports Slovenian SMEs through SMEs guarantees transactions signed with various financial intermediaries such as Banka Koper, the Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF), a public financial fund, and Volksbanken Slovenia to support their risk-taking capacity.

Under the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), EIF has signed agreements with SEF, to support SMEs investment projects by providing long term loans, guarantees and counter-guarantees, and with Banka Koper.

Microfinance

Under Progress Microfinance, EIF has partnered up with Volksbanken Slovenia and Banka Koper to provide loan finance to local micro-businesses and self-employed entrepreneurs. Furthermore, EIF has also signed an agreement with SKB Leasing to benefit micro-enterprises in Slovenia.

EIF at a glance

EIF's mission is to support Europe's micro, small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) by improving their access to finance. EIF primarily designs, promotes and implements equity and debt financial instruments which specifically target this market segment. EIF's support to enterprises is provided through a wide range of selected financial intermediaries (Venture and Growth Capital funds, banks, guarantees institutions, microfinance institutions etc.) across Europe. In this role, EIF fosters EU objectives in support of entrepreneurship, growth, innovation, research and development, and employment.

EIF is a public-private partnership whose tripartite shareholding structure includes the European Investment Bank (EIB, 63.7%), the European Union represented by the European Commission (24.3%) and 26 financial institutions from 14 European Union Member States and Turkey (12.0%).

EIF manages resources on behalf of the European Commission, the EIB and further national and regional bodies. EIF is part of the EIB Group. EIF has an authorised capital of EUR 4.5bn, divided into 4,500 shares.



Srečko is one of the many entrepreneurs who have benefited from the EU support through the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). CIP allowed Slovene Enterprise Fund to give him the much needed capital to launch his business and carry out his ambitions.



Company:

Srečko Knuplež s.p.,
Zgornja Velka

Type of business:

Roofing business

**EU-guaranteed loan from
Slovene Enterprise Fund:**
EUR 119,000

Srečko set up his business in 1994 with just one employee at the time, supplying roof structures and accessories while also providing design and technical advice to an array of private and corporate clients.

His initial idea was to set up a construction company in an attempt to meet local market demand. Soon after starting his business, he realised that he could build on the core business offering and expand into new product areas. In 2008, Srečko needed some extra cash to start expanding his company's product range. While searching for funding, he checked the Official Slovenian Gazette and saw that the Slovene Enterprise Fund was offering favourable bank loans, made available under the CIP programme.

He applied for a loan and received EUR 119,000. This allowed him to buy his new lift and start expanding his business. He has now taken on two new members of staff, bringing his current headcount to 21. In one year alone, the company's revenue increased by 28%.

This eco-friendly business contributes to a cleaner environment by ensuring the clean disposal of asbestos-cement roofing, asbestos-cement facade panels and water pipes.

European Investment Fund

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