



“Investing in your future”

Call for Expression of Interest (“EoI”) to select Financial Intermediaries that will receive resources from the European Investment Fund, acting through the JEREMIE Holding Fund for Romania, to implement the First Loss Portfolio Guarantee Financial Instrument

Reference number: Call for EoI No. JER-002/3

Introduction

The JEREMIE initiative is a framework providing a series of coherent actions to promote increased access to finance for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The JEREMIE initiative in Romania is organised through the European Investment Fund (hereinafter, “EIF”) acting through the JEREMIE Holding Fund (hereinafter, “JHF”). Through the JHF, the EIF manages funds made available from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter, “ERDF”) and related public expenditure awarded for utilisation under the JEREMIE initiative.

As part of the Sectoral Operational Programme “Increase of Economic Competitiveness” for the period 2007-2013 (hereinafter, “SOP IEC”) ¹, the Government of Romania has agreed to dedicate resources to the implementation of the JEREMIE initiative with the EIF, in accordance with Article 44 of the [Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 1083/2006](#)² (hereinafter, “Reg. 1083/2006”) and in accordance with the provisions of the Funding Agreement entered into on 18 February 2008 between the Government of Romania (hereinafter, “GoR”) and EIF (hereinafter, “Funding Agreement”). Relevant rules for implementing Reg. 1083/2006 are set out in the [European Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 1828/2006](#)³ (hereinafter, “Reg. 1828/2006”).

The cooperation between the GoR and the EIF acting through the JHF is governed by the Funding Agreement, which defines the type of cooperation and the operational modalities of the JHF financing expenditure in respect of an operation, as this term is defined in Reg. 1083/2006 (hereinafter, “Operation”) comprising contributions to support financial engineering instruments. The EIF acting through the JHF is advised by an Investment Board, the members of which are nominated by the GoR (hereinafter, “Investment Board”). EIF in its capacity acting through the JHF acts on the basis of its usual business principles and an investment strategy and planning for the implementation of the JEREMIE initiative.

¹ SOP IEC approved by the European Commission Decision C (2007) 3472 of 12 July 2007.

² Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1260/1999 (Official Journal of the European Union L210 of 31.07.2006), as amended from time to time.

³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund (Official Journal of the European Union L371 of 27.12.2006), as amended from time to time, including by Commission Regulation (EC) No 846/2009 of 1 September 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund (Official Journal of the European Union L250 of 23.09.2009).

The JEREMIE initiative is funded from the SOP IEC; Priority Axis 1 "An innovative and eco-efficient productive system"; Key Area of Intervention 1.2 "Access to finance for SMEs".

This Call for Expression of Interest targets financial engineering instruments referred to in Article 44 of Reg. 1083/2006 and is addressed to bodies or firms, whether public or private, which are interested in receiving resources out of the JHF for the activities in respect of Operations (hereinafter "**Financial Intermediaries**"). Such activities shall be carried out in accordance with the contractual agreements to be entered into by the JHF and the selected Financial Intermediaries (hereinafter, "**Operational Agreement(s)**").

The Financial Intermediaries should express their interest by completing and submitting an Expression of Interest, a template of which is attached hereto as Annex 1.

1. Definitions and Interpretation

In this Call for Expression of Interest, capitalised terms and expressions shall have the meaning attributed to them below, unless otherwise defined above or the context requires otherwise:

Applicant	means a Financial Intermediary applying to this Call for Expression of Interest;
Business Day	means a day during which EIF Luxembourg office is open, and banks are open for general business in Romania and Luxembourg;
Deadline	means 06 October 2010 ;
Eligibility Criteria	means the criteria with which the Expressions of Interest and the Applicants must comply with and which are listed in Annex 2 hereof;
Expression of Interest	means a proposal sent by an Applicant in response to this Call for Expression of Interest, within the Deadline, to be drafted in accordance with the template attached hereto as Annex 1 ;
JEREMIE	means the initiative "Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises" launched by the Commission and EIF, as member of the European Investment Bank Group, in order to promote increased access to finance for the development of SMEs in the European Union;
EIB Group	The EIB Group consists of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF);
JHF	means the EIF in its capacity acting through the JEREMIE Holding Fund for Romania, appointed under the Funding Agreement;
Operational Agreement	means an agreement entered into between a Financial Intermediary and EIF on behalf of the JHF regarding a Financial Instrument on the basis of this Call for Expression of Interest and the selection process;
Quality Assessment Criteria	means the quality assessment criteria applied by EIF at the sole discretion of EIF to the suitability of the Applicant and/or the proposed Financial Instrument according to the business standards of EIF and which are listed in Annex 2 hereof;
Selection Criteria	means the Eligibility Criteria and the Quality Assessment Criteria;
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises or SMEs	means micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as defined in the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.

2. JEREMIE Holding Fund

European Investment Fund, 96 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, L-2968 Luxembourg.

General internet address of the JHF (URL): www.eif.org

Under the Funding Agreement, the EIF, which is appointed until the end of 2015, may be substituted in its role as JHF. In the event of such substitution, GoR, or the entity appointed by GoR as new JHF, will assume the full discretion and responsibility to perform the tasks of the JHF and to implement the Operations in Romania, and may take over the Financial Instruments. The Operational Agreements will provide for the possible substitution of the EIF, in order to allow the transfer of the Operational Agreements to the successor entity.

3. Description of the activities expected from the selected Financial Intermediaries

The selected Financial Intermediaries will have to implement a financial engineering instrument briefly described in the table below (hereinafter, "**Financial Instrument**"). A Financial Instrument shall either be set up as an independent legal entity governed by agreements between the co-financing partners or shareholders or as a separate block of finance within a Financial Intermediary. As provided by Reg. 1828/2006, a separate block of finance shall be subject to specific implementation rules within the Financial Intermediary, stipulating, in particular, that separate accounts are kept which distinguish the JHF resources invested in the Financial Instrument, including those contributed by the Operational Programme, from those initially available in the Financial Intermediary.

It is planned to allocate out of the JHF an amount up to EUR 63 million to the Financial Instrument.

See below list of indicative allocation and the relevant Annex setting out the Selection Criteria and the description of the Financial Instrument.

Financial Instrument	Indicative capital allocation (million EUR)	Applicable Annexes
First Loss Portfolio Guarantee on a portfolio of loans to SMEs	Up to 63 million EUR	Annex 2 (Financial Instrument: Description and Selection Criteria)

The indicative capital allocated to the Financial Instrument, as well as the amounts available for contribution by the JHF to the selected Financial Intermediary, may be changed as necessary, particularly if the funding available changes during the JHF implementation process or the demand for the Financial Instrument so requires.

To be noted that joint ventures and/or consortiums can express their interest as long as they indicate/nominate one coordinating entity as a contractual counterpart for the EIF for the entire term of the Operational Agreement (in case of selection). Such Applicants are required to submit one, joint Expression of Interest.

4. Expression of Interest

A template for the Expression of Interest is attached hereto as Annex 1 and can also be found at the following internet address: www.eif.org.

The Expression of Interest includes the Applicant's identification, the project description, the supporting documents, the declaration of absence of conflict of interest and the statements regarding situations of exclusion.

Until no later than 08 September 2010, the Applicants may request clarifications regarding the Call for Expression of Interest or the nature of the Financial Instrument. Such requests must indicate the Call for

Expression of Interest reference number and the name of the Applicant and shall be submitted in English via email to:

Regional Business Development Unit
European Investment Fund
info.rbd@eif.org

Requests for clarifications from Applicants shall not receive individual replies. Instead, answers to all requests for clarifications received within the relevant deadline will be published together in a clarification document to be posted on the website at http://www.eif.org/calls_for_expression_of_interest/index.htm

EIF will, in principle, not contact any Applicant prior to the Deadline, unless it considers it necessary to clarify issues of a mere technical nature. However, should EIF discover any errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any other type of clerical defect in the text of the Call for Expression of Interest before the Deadline, EIF will correct the text and inform accordingly.

5. Language

The Expressions of Interest, including the submitted documents, shall be in English.

6. Submission of Expression of Interest

The Expressions of Interest shall be submitted on or before the Deadline **both** by (i) e-mail **and** (ii) registered mail or professional courier service. The Expressions of Interest sent by registered mail or professional courier service shall consist of a closed single package, and shall contain the Expression of Interest, together with its attachments, in paper form and in removable electronic storage medium (e.g. CD-ROM).

The Deadline for the submission of Expressions of Interest is 06 October 2010.

The Deadline applies (i) in case of e-mails to the reception by EIF and (ii) in case of registered mail or professional courier service to the date of dispatch proven by the post office stamp or a dispatch receipt.

The Expressions of Interest shall indicate the reference number of the Call (No. JER-002/3) and the name of the Applicant and shall be sent to the following address:

Postal Address:

European Investment Fund
Attention: Regional Business Development Unit
96 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2968 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG

The outer envelope (package) shall indicate the following: "Expression of Interest - Reference number of the Call (No. JER-002/3) – Not to be opened by the reception – To be passed without opening to Regional Business Development Unit").

E-mail Address:

Attention: Regional Business Development Unit
info.rbd@eif.org

Prior to the Deadline and in the same manner as specified above, the Applicants may change or amend their Expressions of Interest by clearly indicating the parts to be changed or amended.

Prior or after the Deadline and in the same manner as specified above, the Applicants may withdraw their Expressions of Interest.

After the Deadline, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the relevant Applicants by EIF via e-mail, which shall state the following:

- Unique proposal identifier (Expression of Interest number);
- Reference number of the Call for Expression of Interest;
- Confirmation that the Expression of Interest was received before the Deadline.

The acknowledgement of receipt shall not be construed as a declaration of completeness of the Expression of Interest and the documents submitted therewith, nor any kind of assessment of the same.

7. Selection process

When selecting Financial Intermediaries, EIF is committed to respect fundamental principles, such as:

- i) equal treatment,
- ii) non-discrimination,
- iii) confidentiality, and
- iv) transparency.

The Expressions of Interest will be examined by the EIF, on a comparative basis, using professional analysis and judgment, taking into account the Selection Criteria.

The EIF will reject those Expressions of Interest which do not comply with the Eligibility Criteria. Financial Intermediaries, whose application is rejected because of non-compliance with any of the elements reflected in the statements regarding situations of exclusion (Appendices 4 and 5 to Annex 1 hereto), may not present themselves for consideration in subsequent Calls for the Expression of Interest unless it is specifically evidenced that the reason for the exclusion no longer exists.

The expiration of the Deadline shall not prevent EIF, in limited cases if deemed necessary, from requesting and receiving from Applicants clarifications on issues of a mere technical or formal nature, *provided that* such clarifications shall neither provide an opportunity to the respective Applicants to unduly improve their applications nor otherwise distort the competition between the Applicants.

Applicants which are not excluded according to the Eligibility Criteria will go through the EIF selection process based on the Quality Assessment Criteria. The further selection based on the Quality Assessment Criteria, and the due diligence process, if any, follows the standard procedures and guidelines applied by EIF to its business. The evaluation of proposals at this phase will be conducted under competitive terms and it is envisaged to select one or more Applicants.

In any phase of the selection process, EIF reserves itself full discretion to consider Financial Intermediaries and no Applicant has any claim or other right or may expect to be ultimately selected for financial support by the JHF. Any negotiation of terms and conditions of Operational Agreements by no means entails any obligation for the EIF and/or the JHF to enter into such Operational Agreement with the relevant Financial Intermediaries.

Financial Intermediaries which do not receive contributions from the JHF are informed accordingly; the reasons for their Expression of Interest being rejected will be clearly communicated to them upon request.

Those Applicants, whose Expression of Interest is rejected, shall have the right to submit a written complaint by e-mail and registered mail or professional courier service, to the same address used for the

submission of the Expressions of Interest above, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the letter of rejection. Any complaints will be dealt within the framework and in accordance with the [EIB Group complaints policy](#).

8. Operational Provisions

The Financial Intermediaries, with which Operational Agreements will be eventually signed, shall be required to comply with the [EIF anti-fraud policy](#) available on the EIF website at http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/2009_anti_fraud_policy.htm and with the relevant monitoring, reporting, publicity and auditing obligations required by the EU regulations applicable to ERDF, and by the Funding Agreement. Such obligations are briefly described in the relevant Financial Instrument description documents, and will be defined in the relevant Operational Agreement.

ANNEXES

Annex 1.

Annex 2. First Loss Portfolio Guarantee Financial Instrument: Description and Selection Criteria

ANNEX 1⁴ to the Call for Expression of Interest No. JER-002/3

To:

European Investment Fund

Attention: Regional Business Development Unit

96 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer

L-2968 Luxembourg

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Call for Expression of Interest No.:

JER-002/3

Deadline for the submission of the Expression of Interest :

06 October 2010

Expression of Interest for First Loss Portfolio Guarantee Financial Instrument

Applicant submitting the Expression of Interest:

_____, _____

(company name, registration
number)

Dear Sir or Madam,

Herewith we are submitting our Expression of Interest on behalf of (Applicant) in response to the Call for Expression of Interest No. JER-002/3 in the framework of JEREMIE initiative implemented through EIF acting as JEREMIE Holding Fund ("JHF") in Romania. Capitalised expressions utilised herein shall have the meaning attributed to them in the above mentioned Call for Expression of Interest.

The undersigned duly authorised to represent the (Applicant), by signing this form certifies/certify and declare(s) that the information contained in this Expression of Interest and its Appendices is complete and correct in all its elements.

The undersigned certifies/certify that the (Applicant) is not in one of the situations which would exclude it from taking part in this Call for Expression of Interest listed out in Appendices 4 and 5 to this Expression of Interest. The undersigned shall, upon request, provide all evidence to that extent.

Yours sincerely,

Signature(s):

Stamp of the Applicant (if applicable):

Name and position in capitals:

Applicant's name

Place:

Date (day/month/year):

Appendixes

Appendix 1 Applicant Identification

Appendix 2 List of Documents Attached

Appendix 3 Declaration of Absence of Conflict of Interest

Appendix 4 Statement Regarding Situations of Exclusion - 1

Appendix 5 Statement Regarding Situations of Exclusion – 2: Declaration of Compliance with Community and National Rules and Policies

⁴ In case of consortiums or joint ventures to be completed by coordinating entity.

Appendix 1 to Expression of Interest

APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION⁵

1.1. Applicant identification

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
APPLICANT'S NAME	
CONTACT DETAILS	Address: Telephone: Fax: Email:
LEGAL FORM	
COMMERCIAL REGISTER , ETC. – REGISTRATION DETAILS	Denomination of register: Date of registration: Country of registration: Registration number:
VAT	Registration number or Statement of exemption issued by the national VAT authority dated.....enclosed under reference..... Issued by.....

1.2. Person authorised to submit the Expression of Interest on behalf of the Applicant and appropriate evidence of such authorisation

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
TITLE	Mr/Mrs/other (delete or complete as appropriate)
NAME	Surname: Forename(s):
FUNCTION	
CONTACT DETAILS	Address: Telephone: Fax: Email:

1.3. Contact person (if different from 1.2)

TITLE	Mr/Mrs/other (delete or complete as appropriate)
NAME	Surname: Forename(s):
FUNCTION	
CONTACT DETAILS	Address: Telephone: Fax: Email:

⁵ In case of consortiums or joint ventures to be completed by all participating entities.

Appendix 2 to Expression of Interest
LIST OF DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

1) Project proposal: ⁶

a) Description of the Applicant:

- (aa) Description of the Applicant's institution (date of establishment, number of employees, shareholders etc.), legal status and applicable regulatory framework;
- (bb) Geographical area of operations and branch network in Romania;
- (cc) Description of Applicants governing and management bodies and corporate governance structure.

b) Information on the Applicant's present activities:

- (aa) Commitment to SME lending in Romania:
 - (i) Overall strategy of the Applicant in general and SME lending strategy in particular, positioning vis-à-vis competitors in SME lending segment, product range offered in the SME lending segment, expected impact of current market environment on SME lending (e.g. tighter lending criteria, etc);
 - (ii) Total volume and number of SME loans outstanding in each SME sub-segment (breakdown by micro, small and medium enterprises, if available) on a yearly basis for the last five financial years (including year to date data for the current financial year);
 - (iii) Total volume and number of new SME loans in each SME sub-segment (breakdown by micro, small and medium enterprises, if available) granted by the Applicant annually over the last five financial years (including year to date data for the current financial year);
 - (iv) Share of newly granted SME loans in the Applicant's total commercial lending portfolio, both in terms of volume and number (on an annual basis over the last five financial years – including year to date data for current financial year).
- (bb) Current pricing and collateral policy for comparable loans (in terms of maturity, purpose, etc.) to a similar target group, as per Table 1 below, including:
 - (i) Interest rate split into cost of funding and margin over cost of funding, and specifically the risk-related margin;
 - (ii) Up-front fees and any other non-interest payments.

⁶ SME related data and information to be provided in accordance with the definition of SMEs as presented in section 1 "Definitions and Interpretation", under Call for EoI, page 2.

Table 1 - Current policy: collateral and interest rate charged on SME loans

Loans awarded on the basis of standard collateral requirements		EUR denominated loans	Local currency denominated loans
Standard collateral	Requested level of collateral (%)		
	Interest rate		
	<i>of which, Risk-related margin</i>		

c) **Information on the implementation of the Financial Instrument by the Applicant:**

- (aa) General implementation strategy (e.g. how the Financial Instrument will be promoted regionally and nationwide, publicity strategy, procedures for allocation of loans, etc);
- (bb) Applicants are requested to specify the proposed size of the portfolio of Eligible Loans to be originated during the Availability Period.
- (cc) Indicative industry, geographical breakdown and SME size of the loans to be granted under the Financial Instrument with the objective of forming a new, well diversified portfolio, also taking into consideration the specific features of the Financial Instrument as described in Annex 2;
- (dd) Indicative average expected maturity of the newly granted loans under the Financial Instrument, taking into consideration the provisions of Annex 2 and the objective to provide longer loan maturities to Eligible SMEs;
- (ee) Lending criteria, proposed pricing and collateral requirements, including the proposed minimum and maximum pricing (i.e. pricing to be submitted in ranges) to be applied on the new loan portfolio to be established under this Financial Instrument - submitted in accordance with the table that follows - and other terms and conditions to be applied to the loans covered by this Financial Instrument, taking into consideration the provisions of Annex 2 and the objective to provide better financing terms to Eligible SMEs. The information submitted herein by the Applicant, as per Tables 2 and 3 below, will be assessed on a comparative basis according to the Quality Assessment Criteria (Annex 2, Part II, section 2) and will become a contractual obligation for the Applicant, if selected.

Table 2 - Proposed collateral and interest rate to be charged on the new SME loans covered by the Financial Instrument.

Loans to be awarded on the basis of <u>reduced</u> collateral requirements (guarantee rate 80%, max. cap rate 25%)		EUR denominated loans	Local currency denominated loans
Reduced collateral	Requested level of collateral (%)		
	Interest rate		
	<i>of which, risk-related margin</i>		

Table 3 - Proposed fees to be applied on the new SME loans covered by the Financial Instrument:

Nature of fees	Value	Single payment	Monthly	Annual	Comments, remarks
Administration fee		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fee for the loan granting, loan maturity extension, increase in the loan amount		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fee for amendment of terms under the loan agreement terms		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other fees, if any (please provide details)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

- (ff) Estimate of the expected timing for initiation of operations following the signature of the Operational Agreement and also estimate of the full commitment of the Financial Instrument to Eligible SMEs;
 - (gg) Description of the origin of the sources used to finance the new loans (e.g. Applicants own resources raised in the capital markets through bond issues);
- 2) Information on the Applicant's IT systems, reporting mechanisms, monitoring procedures and controls, currently utilised in its normal activity (also to be utilised for the implementation of the Financial Instrument);
 - 3) Annual reports for the last three financial years, including audited financial statements (only in electronic format i.e. scanned copies of signed audited financial statements);
 - 4) Certified copy of banking license or, if not available, other proof of the Applicant's authorisation allowing for the implementation of the Financial Instrument in Romania;
 - 5) In the case where a Financial Intermediary and/or its mother company is externally rated, information on the actual external rating of the Applicant and/or its mother company including the relevant rating report(s) from at least one of the following rating agencies: (i) Moody's Investor Service Limited, (ii) Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. or (iii) Fitch Ratings Ltd. Further, information on any change of the rating within the last two years;
 - 6) Appropriate evidence of the representative's authorisation to act for and on behalf of the Applicant (signatory powers);
 - 7) Declaration on absence of conflict of interest as per template provided in Appendix 3, duly signed;
 - 8) Statement regarding situations of exclusion - 1 as per template provided in Appendix 4, duly signed;
 - 9) Statement regarding situations of exclusion - 2 as per template provided in Appendix 5: Declaration of compliance with Community and National rules and policies, duly signed.

The pre-selected Applicants will be requested to submit additional information to complement their Expressions of Interest before or during the due diligence process. This will indicatively include inter alia:

- A. Detailed information on the Applicant's operating principles and procedures applied to SME lending:
 - (i) Origination;
 - (ii) Risk assessment procedures (internal rating / scoring system);

- (iii) Loan approval procedures;
- (iv) Collateral requirements (valuation, haircuts);
- (v) Monitoring and early warning signals;
- (vi) Recovery procedures (what steps are taken and when; which departments are involved);
- (vii) Risk management: methods utilised for loss forecasting, provisioning and credit risk management on portfolio level;
- (viii) Summary of changes to the Financial Intermediary's operating principles and procedures due to the current financial crisis.

B. Information on the Applicant's total lending portfolio over the last 5 financial years:

- (i) Composition and concentration of the outstanding loan portfolio;
- (ii) Non-performing loans (outstanding non-performing loans /outstanding loan amount) as of the end of each financial year and year to date data for the current year) for the past five financial years - both in terms of number and volume;
- (iii) Annual defaults, net losses and bad debt provisions;
- (iv) Recoveries and recovery periods.

Appendix 3 to Expression of Interest

DECLARATION OF ABSENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The undersigned declares that neither (i) the Applicant nor (ii) he/she/they personally as authorised representative(s) of the Applicant have a direct or indirect interest of such a nature and scale that may affect the performance of the tasks assigned to the Applicant under any Operational Agreement referred to in the Call for Expression of Interest No. JER-002/3.

The undersigned is/are aware that a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

The Applicant will inform EIF, without delay, of any situation constituting a conflict of interest or which could give rise to a conflict of interest.

Furthermore, the Applicant and the undersigned in his/her/their capacity as duly authorised representative(s) of the Applicant confirm to have read the EIF Anti-Fraud Policy and declare not to have made nor to make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the Operational Agreement and not to have granted nor to grant, not to have sought nor to seek, not to have attempted nor to attempt to obtain, and not to have accepted nor to accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal practice or involving corruption, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to signing of the Operational Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Name and position in capitals:

Applicant's name:

Place:

Stamp of the Applicant's (if applicable):

Date (day/month/year):

Appendix 4 to Expression of Interest

STATEMENT REGARDING SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION - 1

The undersigned certifies/certify that the (Applicant) is not in any of the situations which would exclude it from taking part in this Call for Expression of Interest and accordingly declare(s) that the (Applicant):

- i) has never been the subject of a conviction by final judgment for one or more reasons listed below:
 - participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 (1) of the Council Joint Action 98/733/JHA⁷;
 - corruption, as defined in the Council Act of 26 May 1997 and in Article 3 (1) of the Council Joint Action 98/733/JHA;
 - fraud within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests⁸;
 - money laundering as defined in the Directives 2005/60/EC⁹ of 26 October 2005 and 2006/70/EC¹⁰ of 1 August 2006, and Directive 2001/97/EC of 4 December 2001¹¹;
- ii) has not performed any act which may be qualified as illegal activity in the meaning of the terms of the EIF Anti-Fraud Policy;
- iii) is not bankrupt or is being wound up, where its affairs are not being administered by the court, where it has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, where it has not suspended business activities or is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under national laws and regulations;
- iv) is not the subject of proceedings for a declaration for bankruptcy, for an order for compulsory winding up or administration by the court or of an arrangement with creditors or of any other similar proceedings under national laws and regulations;
- v) is not "a firm in difficulty" within the meaning of Article 2.1 of the Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty¹²;
- vi) no member of its senior management has been convicted as a consequence of a judgment which has the force of *res iudicata*, in accordance with the legal provisions of the country of any offence concerning its professional conduct;

⁷ Joint Action of 21 December 1998 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on making it a criminal offence to participate in a criminal organisation in the Member States of the European Union (Official Journal of the European Union L351 of 29.12.1998), as amended from time to time.

⁸ Council Act of 26 July 1995 drawing up the Convention on the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities (Official Journal of the European Union C316 of 27.11.1995), as amended from time to time.

⁹ Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing (Official Journal of the European Union L309 of 25.11.2005), as amended from time to time.

¹⁰ Commission Directive 2006/70/EC of 1 August 2006 laying down implementing measures for Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the definition of 'politically exposed person' and the technical criteria for simplified customer due diligence procedures and for exemption on grounds of a financial activity conducted on an occasional or very limited basis (Official Journal of the European Union L214 of 4.8.2006), as amended from time to time.

¹¹ Directive 2001/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2001 amending Council Directive 91/308/EEC on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering (Official Journal of the European Communities L 344 of 28.12.2001), as amended from time to time.

¹² Communication from the Commission – Community Guidelines on State aid and restructuring firms in difficulty (Official Journal of the European Union C 244 of 1.10.2004), as amended or substituted by future Community guidelines from time to time.

- vii) no member of its senior management has been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- viii) has fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established;
- ix) has fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established and in the countries where it operates, as applicable;
- x) is not found to have provided serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required in accordance with the Call for Expression of Interest or has supplied such information.

The Applicant and the undersigned in his/her/their capacity as duly authorised representative of the Applicant commit to provide all evidence to the above, upon request by the JHF or EIF.

Signature:

Stamp of the Applicant (if applicable):

Name and position in capitals:

Applicant's name

Place:

Date (day/month/year):

Appendix 5 to Expression of Interest

STATEMENT REGARDING SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION - 2

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL RULES AND POLICIES

The undersigned certifies/certify that the (Applicant) is not in any of the situations which would exclude it from taking part in this Call for Expression of Interest and accordingly declare(s) that the (Applicant):

- i) Complies with all Community and National rules and policies in relation to Competition and confirms its willingness and readiness to undertake its responsibility for ensuring that loans originated under this Financial Instrument respect the provisions of the *De Minimis* Regulation¹³ (as specified in Annex 2);
- ii) Complies with all Community and National rules and policies in relation to the goal of protecting and improving the environment and promoting sustainable development;
- iii) Complies with all Community and National rules and policies in relation to gender equality and non-discrimination;
- iv) Confirms its willingness and readiness to respect the information and publicity provisions applicable to this Financial Instrument.

Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Name and position in capitals:

Applicant's name

Place:

Stamp of the Applicant's (if applicable):

Date (day/month/year):

¹³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to de minimis aid (Official Journal of the European Union L379 of 28.12.2006, p.5), as amended, (the "**De Minimis Regulation**").

ANNEX 2 to the Call for Expression of Interest No JER-002/3

First Loss Portfolio Guarantee Financial Instrument: Description and Selection Criteria

Part I: Description of the Financial Instrument

Capitalised expressions utilised herein shall have the meaning attributed to them in the above mentioned Call for Expression of Interest.

1 Rationale

The purpose of the Financial Instrument is to support loans to Eligible SMEs by providing credit risk protection (in the form of a first loss portfolio capped financial guarantee) in order to reduce the particular difficulties that SMEs face in accessing finance because of the lack of sufficient collateral in combination with the relatively high risk they represent.

2 Presentation of the Financial Instrument

The guarantee (the “**Guarantee**”) shall be issued by EIF acting through the JEREMIE Holding Fund (“**JHF**”) for the benefit of a Financial Intermediary. It shall partly cover the credit risk associated to underlying, newly extended, eligible loans to SMEs (“**Eligible Loans**”) included in the guaranteed portfolio (the “**Portfolio**”).

In order to ensure an alignment of interest between the Financial Intermediary and the JHF, Eligible Loans shall be covered by EIF at a guarantee rate of 80%, subject to a maximum liability in respect of loan losses expressed as a guarantee cap amount (the “**Cap Amount**”) calculated on a portfolio basis as a percentage of the portfolio (the “**Guarantee Cap Rate**”).

The Guarantee shall constitute a direct financial guarantee and shall cover losses (relating to unpaid principal and interest) incurred by the Financial Intermediary in respect of each defaulted Eligible Loan up to the Cap Amount.

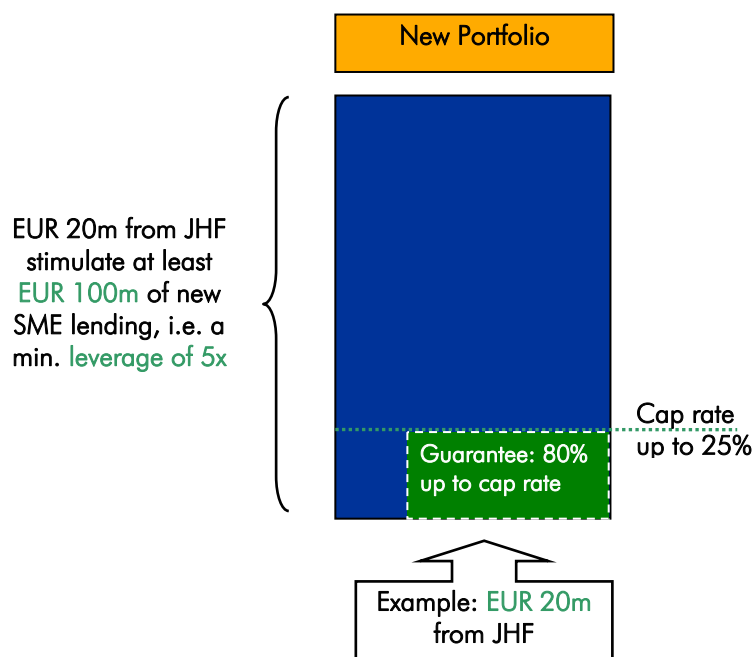
The origination, due diligence, documentation and servicing of the Eligible Loans shall be performed by the Financial Intermediary in accordance with its standard origination and servicing procedures.

In this context, the Financial Intermediary shall have the sole direct client credit relationship with each SME.

Eligible Loans (according to pre-defined eligibility criteria on a loan-by-loan and portfolio level) will be automatically covered, by way of submitting inclusion notices on a quarterly basis.

No Guarantee Fee will be payable by the Financial Intermediary to EIF.

3 The Financial Instrument – example transaction



4 Indicative Summary of Transaction Terms

These indicative terms are an outline of the principal terms and conditions for the Financial Instrument described herein, which are subject to change and non-exhaustive.

When used in this paragraph 4, the term “EIF” means EIF acting through the JHF.

Structure	First loss portfolio capped direct financial guarantee providing credit risk coverage on a loan by loan basis for the creation of a portfolio of Eligible Loans. The Guarantee shall cover losses incurred by the Financial Intermediary in respect of each defaulted Eligible Loan in accordance with the Guarantee Rate. Losses covered by the Guarantee in respect of the Portfolio of Eligible Loans shall in aggregate not exceed the Cap Amount agreed in the Operational Agreement between EIF and the relevant Financial Intermediary. The credit risk retained by the Financial Intermediary shall be 20% of the Portfolio (on a <i>pari passu</i> basis with EIF).
Governing law and language	The terms of the Financial Instrument shall be in the English language and the Financial Instrument is envisaged to be governed by the laws of England.
Guarantee Currency	The Cap Amount shall be expressed in EUR. All amounts to be paid by or to EIF under the Financial Instrument will be paid in EUR.
Availability Period	Typically 24 months from the date of signature of the Operational Agreement. During such Availability Period, Eligible Loans may be included by the Financial Intermediary in the Portfolio for cover. Such inclusion of Eligible Loans shall occur automatically upon receipt by EIF of an inclusion notice submitted by the Financial Intermediary on a quarterly basis. For the avoidance of doubt the Eligible Loans so included shall be deemed to be covered by the Guarantee from the date of the signature of such Eligible Loans.

	The underlying Eligible Loans to be covered by the Guarantee shall be: (i) Eligible Loans entered into within the Availability Period; or (ii) Eligible Loans not entered into before the end of the Availability Period but approved during the Availability Period and in respect of which amounts have been drawn for the first time by SMEs within 6 months from the end of the Availability Period.
Agreed Portfolio Volume	The maximum aggregate amount of newly originated Eligible Loans to be covered by the Financial Instrument, as agreed in the Operational Agreement.
Actual Volume	The aggregate amount of the principal committed to be available under newly originated Eligible Loans included in the Portfolio from time to time, provided that, for the avoidance of doubt: i) if any loan is prepaid and/or repaid, then this shall not reduce the Actual Volume; and (ii) if a loan is excluded from the Portfolio as a result of the exclusion process described below, then such loan shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the Actual Volume.
Guarantee Rate	The Guarantee Rate shall be 80% of each loss covered by the Guarantee.
Guarantee Cap Rate	A percentage of the Actual Volume. The Guarantee Cap Rate shall be up to 25%.
Cap Amount	Expressed in Euro amount, set in the Operational Agreement, at which the obligation to pay under the Guarantee is capped, which is the maximum liability under the Guarantee and is calculated on the portfolio basis as the product of the i) lower of the Actual Volume and the Agreed Portfolio Volume, ii) the Guarantee Rate, iii) the Guarantee Cap Rate, and iv) the Disbursement Ratio.
Disbursement Ratio	At a given time, the ratio, expressed as a percentage, equal to the quotient of: (i) the sum of the disbursed principal amounts relating to all Eligible Loans included in the Portfolio at such time and (ii) the Actual Volume at such time.
Guarantee Cover	Losses deriving from principal and unpaid interest at the time of default excluding late payments, default interest capitalised interest, fees and other costs. The EIF will rank pari passu with Financial Intermediaries with respect to recoveries, as further described in "Servicing and Recoveries" below; recoveries paid to EIF shall be net of foreclosure costs.
Default definition (applicable to Eligible Loans)	Applicable default definition in line with Basel II requirements (a "Default").
Guarantee Payment	Following a Default under an Eligible Loan and subject to receiving a valid guarantee call from the Intermediary with respect to such Eligible Loan, EIF shall make guarantee payments under the Guarantee within 90 days following receipt of such guarantee call.
Events of Default under the Financial Instrument	Standard events of default (typically: failure to pay, breach of agreement, illegality and bankruptcy). The occurrence of an event of default with respect to the Financial Intermediary would result in the termination of the Operational Agreement (such event, an " Early Termination "). No payments will be made by EIF if an Event of Default or potential Event of Default relating to the Financial Intermediary has occurred or is continuing.

Guarantee Fee

Guarantee Fee Amount and Percentage	No Guarantee Fee will be payable by the Financial Intermediary to EIF.
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Eligible SMEs and Loans

Eligible SMEs	<p>Micro, small or medium-sized enterprises as defined in the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (OJ L124, 20.05.2003, p. 36), excluding “firms in difficulty” as these are defined in the Article 2.1 of the Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty (OJ C 244, 1.10.2004, p. 2.), as amended, restated, supplemented and/or substituted from time to time.</p> <p>A number of industries will be supported, except:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Arms production and trading; b. Gambling; c. Tobacco; d. Human cloning; e. Genetically Modified Organisms; f. Undertakings active in the fishery and aquaculture sectors, as covered by Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000; g. Undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products, as listed in Annex I to the Treaty on the functioning of the European Community; h. Additional excluded sectors presented in Article 1 (c-g) of the <i>De Minimis</i> Regulation. i. The following sectors as listed in NACE Rev. 2¹⁴: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; • Section B - Mining and Quarrying, only the following codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 05 Mining of coal and lignite; o 0892 Extraction of peat. • Section C - Manufacturing, only the following codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10 Manufacture of food products o 12 Manufacture of tobacco products; o 24 Manufacture of basic metals; o 2051 Manufacture of explosives; o 206 Manufacture of man-made fibers; o 254 Manufacture of weapons and ammunition; o 301 Building of ships and boats; o 304 Manufacture of military fighting vehicles; o 1101 Distilling, rectifying and blending of spirits; o 1104 Manufacture of other non-distilled fermented beverages. • Section F, only code 411 Development of building projects • Section L - Real Estate Activities; • Section K - Financial and Insurance activities
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¹⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section N - Administrative and support service activities • Section O - Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; • Section R - Arts, entertainment and recreation; • Section T - Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use • Section U - Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies. <p>The Eligible SME shall be established and operating in Romania. Eligible SMEs shall be required to utilise the funds received by the Financial Intermediaries in the context of this Financial Instrument within Romania.</p>
Eligible Loans	<p>Loans to Eligible SMEs originated by the Financial Intermediary and complying, <i>inter alia</i>, with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Origination period: newly originated loans either (i) entered into by the Financial Intermediary during the Availability Period or (ii) approved during the Availability Period and in respect of which amounts have been drawdown for the first time by SMEs within 6 months from the end of the Availability Period; - Purpose of financing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o primarily investment (tangible and intangible assets) and financial leasing; o working capital linked to development or expansion activities. - Fixed repayment schedule (i.e. credit lines are not eligible); - Repayment schedule: amortising loans and bullet loans; - Maturity: minimum 12 months and maximum of 72 months including the relevant grace period (if any), but not longer than 6 months before the termination date of the Guarantee; - Concentration: the maximum loan amount to an individual Eligible SME shall be set by EIF and in such a manner as to allow the Portfolio to be sufficiently diversified. The maximum obligor concentration will be set typically at 1% of the Agreed Portfolio Volume, but in no case greater than “de minimis” amount (i.e. EUR 1.5 million divided by the Guarantee Rate); - Currency: EUR and local currency in Romania; - Industry sectors by NACE Rev.2 (Division Level) shall not represent more than 20% of the Agreed Portfolio Volume. <p>Eligible SMEs could potentially benefit more than once from a guarantee cover, provided that the criteria related to the maximum obligor concentration above are met.</p>
Continuing Criteria	<p>The Guarantee shall apply only to SME loans satisfying at all times certain criteria, including ensuring that no Irregularity has occurred, where “Irregularity” means the infringement of a provision of European Union law resulting from an act or omission by the Financial Intermediary and/or a SME which is the borrower of an SME Loan which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the general budget of the European Union by charging an unjustified item of expenditure to the general budget.</p>
Exclusion Process	<p>At any time EIF shall have the right (but not the obligation) to verify whether a Financial Intermediary complies with the Eligible Loan, Eligible SME and Continuing Criteria above (such criteria, the “Loan Eligibility Criteria”).</p>

	<p>If EIF considers that a loan does not comply with such Loan Eligibility Criteria or any undertakings, requirements or requests, or if it becomes unlawful for the Guarantee to cover a Loan, EIF may exclude such Loan from the Portfolio. As a result, such excluded Loan shall not be taken into account for the purposes of calculating the Actual Volume of the Portfolio.</p>
Right of Clawback by EIF	<p>EIF will be entitled to be repaid by the Financial Intermediary certain amounts in specified circumstances, including any amounts paid by EIF in excess of the Cap Amount, any excess amount paid by EIF as a result of an exclusion of a transaction of the Portfolio or any amount payable by the Financial Intermediary as a result of fraud or illegality.</p>
Adjustment of the Actual Volume	<p>In respect of each loan included in the Portfolio, if on the date falling earlier of the following dates (“the Adjustment Date”):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the end of a disbursement period when amounts are available for utilisation by an SME, 2. the date falling six months prior to the Guarantee Final Termination Date, and 3. 30 June 2015 <p>the committed amount of principal has not been fully drawn by an SME, the Actual Volume shall be adjusted to reflect the actual amount of principal drawn by the relevant SME. The Financial Intermediary shall reflect any such adjustment in the immediately following Report delivered to EIF.</p> <p>If the Actual Volume is adjusted pursuant to (1) above, the Financial Intermediary may include further loans meeting the Loan Eligibility Criteria up to and to extent that the Actual Volume does not exceed the Agreed Portfolio Volume.</p> <p>If amounts are drawn under an Eligible Loan after the Adjustment Date and the Financial Intermediary suffers a loss after such date, the amount of such loss covered by the Guarantee shall be covered pro-rata to the principal disbursed before the Adjustment Date.</p>
Guarantee Final Termination Date	<p>The Guarantee will terminate on the earlier of: (i) six months following the Latest Loan Maturity Date; (ii) the date on which an Early Termination (if any) has occurred and (iii) the date (if any) on which the EIF is no longer liable to effect further payments to the Financial Intermediary and has no further claims under the Guarantee.</p>

Loan conditions

Latest Loan Maturity Date	<p>Means the latest day on which Eligible Loan(s) included in the Portfolio are scheduled to be repaid by the relevant SME in accordance with the original scheduled repayment provisions of the documentation governing such Eligible Loan agreements.</p>
Pricing and collateral requirements for Loans	<p>Eligible Loans shall be extended to the Eligible SMEs on the basis of the pricing and collateral policy submitted by the selected Financial Intermediary under the Expression of Interest, as requested under point 1(c) of Appendix 2 to the Expression of Interest - “List of Documents”.</p> <p>Note for collateral policy: The collateral policy submitted by the Financial Intermediaries under the Expression of Interest shall take into consideration the risk coverage provided by the Guarantee.</p> <p>Note for pricing policy: When submitting their proposed pricing policy, the Financial Intermediaries should take into consideration that the Guarantee will</p>

	cover 80% of the risk exposure of each Eligible Loan (up to the Cap Rate).
Other terms and conditions (if applicable)	Other terms and conditions for the Eligible Loans originated for cover under the Guarantee should be applied by the Financial Intermediary in accordance with the policies submitted under the Expression of Interest.
Servicing and Recoveries	<p>The Financial Intermediary shall perform the servicing of the Portfolio, including monitoring and recovery actions.</p> <p>Recoveries net of recovery costs (if any) are shared pro-rata between EIF and the Financial Intermediary according to the Guarantee Rate.</p> <p>The Financial Intermediary shall enforce any security in relation to each defaulted Eligible Loan in accordance with its internal guidelines and procedures.</p>

Miscellaneous

Reporting	<p>Financial Intermediaries shall provide EIF, typically within 30 Business Days after the end of the calendar quarter, with quarterly information in a standardised form, including among others, information on the SMEs covered by the Guarantee, new loans provided, outstanding loan amounts.</p> <p>An indicative reporting template is provided on EIF's website (www.eif.org) for information.</p> <p>Regular controls and verifications will be performed by EIF in order to ensure compliance with the specifications and provisions of this Guarantee.</p>
State Aid requirements	<p>Financial Intermediaries shall be responsible for ensuring that loans originated respect the provisions of the De Minimis Regulation, implemented through the Loan Portfolio Guarantee De Minimis Aid Scheme approved by Order of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Business Environment No. 1338 / 2010, published in the Official Journal of Romania ("Monitorul Oficial") No. 521/ 27 July April 2010. in accordance with the State aid assessment performed by the competent authorities in Romania. In this context, they shall be responsible for the calculation of the Gross Grant Equivalent ("GGE") and also for following the appropriate monitoring procedure as stipulated in the De Minimis Regulation, article 3.</p>
Monitoring and Audit	<p>Financial Intermediaries and the relevant SMEs covered by the Guarantee shall agree to allow and to provide access to documents and premises related to the relevant Guarantee for the representatives of the Government of Romania, the European Commission (including the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)), the European Court of Auditors, EIF and any other authorised bodies duly empowered by applicable law to carry out audit and/or control activities. To that effect, the Financial Intermediaries shall also include appropriate provisions in each agreement with the SMEs.</p>
Publicity	<p>Financial Intermediaries, in line with applicable law and Structural Funds publicity provisions, shall carry out adequate marketing and publicity campaigns - as specified in the Operational Agreement - aimed at making the JEREMIE initiative known to the SMEs in Romania.</p> <p>In particular, the selected Financial Intermediary will be contractually required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product labelling: The name of the product should clearly point to JEREMIE (e.g. "JEREMIE First Loss Portfolio Guarantee"); • Promote JEREMIE and the Guarantee through its website;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All documents concerning this Guarantee, including amongst others, loan applications, SME loan agreements, promotional material to the SMEs, etc, will contain a statement mentioning that the loan was made possible with the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and also national resources. Appropriate text and logos is envisaged to be provided to the selected Financial Intermediary during the phase of contractual negotiations; • Financial benefit: The financial benefit made possible due to JEREMIE's participation should be identified at the time of signature of the loan contract and formally communicated to the SME. The financial benefit offered should also be used as a marketing tool from the Financial Intermediary.
Additional Structural Fund requirements	<p>This Financial Instrument is funded by EU structural funds and it is therefore subject to structural funds regulation and requirements, some of which are presented in this Annex (e.g. Monitoring and Audit, Publicity, Reporting etc). It should be noted, however, that more detailed information on actions necessary to ensure compliance of operations linked to this Financial Instrument with all structural funds requirements (e.g. retention of documents, environmental protection, equality and non discrimination) will be provided to, and discussed with, the selected Financial Intermediary during the contractual negotiations process.</p> <p>This Financial Instrument is further subject to additional national structural funds requirements. National structural funds requirements may apply, inter alia, to any amendment of Operational Agreements which may in particular be necessary if the purpose, objective, eligibility conditions, timeframe of, or the budget for, the Financial Instrument changes. Save as otherwise provided under relevant law, such changes in the Financial Instrument would only apply as of the date of implementation of the additional requirements.</p>
Transfer	<p>Neither EIF nor the Financial Intermediary shall be entitled to transfer any or all of its rights and obligations under the Guarantee without the consent of the other party, provided that EIF shall, in the event that the Funding Agreement is terminated (for any reason whatsoever), be entitled at any time to transfer all or part of its rights and obligations under the Guarantee to any person. Appropriate arrangements will be put in place for these purposes.</p>

Part II: Selection Criteria for the First Loss Portfolio Guarantee Financial Instrument

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		System of appraisal
		Yes/ No
1.1.	<p>Credit institution authorised to carry out business in Romania under the applicable regulatory framework.</p> <p>To be noted that joint ventures and also consortiums can express their interest as long as they indicate/nominate one coordinating entity as a contractual counterpart for the EIF for the entire term of the Operational Agreement (in case of selection). Such Applicants are required to submit one, joint Expression of Interest.</p>	
1.2.	Ability to deliver nationwide geographical coverage in Romania.	
1.3.	The Expression of Interest is prepared in accordance with Annex 1 to the Call for Expression of Interest. All necessary supporting documents are provided (in the form requested if specified).	
1.4.	The Expression of Interest is duly signed.	
1.5.	The Expression of Interest is completed and submitted in English.	
1.6.	The Expression of Interest is submitted both by registered mail and e-mail.	
1.7.	The Expression of Interest is submitted within the Deadline.	
1.8.	The Expression of Interest addresses all the items of the Financial Instrument, including any special conditions set out in the relevant parts of the Financial Instrument description (Part I of this Annex).	

2.	QUALITY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	Max. score
2.1.	<p>Project Relevance, Quality and Coherence</p> <p>2.1.1. General implementation strategy (promotion of the Financial Instrument regionally and nationwide, lending volume, number of SMEs to be assisted).</p> <p>2.1.2. Pricing policy and collateral requirements of the Financial Intermediary, to be charged under the Financial Instrument, as submitted under the Expression of Interest, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>the offer related to the proposed collateral, interest rate and risk margin (maximum risk margins will be compared) – table 2 presented in Appendix 2;</i> o <i>the offer related to the proposed fees – table 3 presented in Appendix 2.</i> <p>2.1.3. General quality of the project proposal submitted under the Expression of Interest.</p>	<p>45, of which:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>
2.2.	<p>Project Maturity</p> <p>In case of externally rated Financial Intermediaries, actual external rating by at least one of the recognized rating agencies.</p> <p>In case of all Financial Intermediaries, a preliminary assessment of the financial standing and credit worthiness of the Financial Intermediaries will be performed on the basis of key financial ratios calculated from the audited financial statements submitted, including but not limited to capital adequacy, provisions and liquidity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>
2.3.	<p>Project Sustainability</p> <p>Financial Intermediary’s organisational structure and corporate governance.</p> <p>Administrative capacity of the Financial Intermediary: quality of IT systems, reporting mechanisms, monitoring procedures and controls.</p> <p>Financial Intermediary’s portfolio servicing capabilities and overall ability to comply with the Financial Instrument’s reporting and monitoring requirements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>
2.4.	<p>Institutional Capacity</p> <p>Capability to build up the Portfolio of Eligible Loans.</p> <p>Financial Intermediary’s credit policy (internal procedures and guidelines), origination, risk assessment (rating/scoring), loan approval procedures, collateral requirement, recovery procedures etc.</p> <p>Quality of its existing SME portfolio and the rate of non-performing loans.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>