

GF Vojvodina / Republic of Serbia

Total volume of outstanding guarantees at mid-2020 was **mEUR 4.8**

306 SMEs are supported by **GF Vojvodina** as of mid-2020

New production (in kEUR) in H1 2020 is **414**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the **Guarantee Fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina** has adopted the following measures to support the economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak:

1) Guarantees to help SMEs to cope with their liquidity needs

Financial support under this measure is granted to maintain liquidity needs of SMEs, including working capital needs such as purchase of materials, salaries payments etc., except for refinancing loans with commercial banks and other financial organisations.

The financial support is offered to micro, small and medium companies, agricultural cooperatives and entrepreneurs that have their business headquarters on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Natural persons - holders of registered family farms can also benefit from the financial assistance provided they have their residence on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

One basic condition for the issuance of guarantees is that the final beneficiary should not reduce the number of employees by more than 10% in the period from 15.03.2020 until the expiration of three months after the release of funds.

Guarantees are issued in the amount of up to 100% of the loan principal, approved under the following conditions:

- The amount of the approved loan is minimum of kEUR 5 and maximum kEUR 100.
- Loan repayment period up to 36 months which includes a grace period of up to 12 months.

- The total loan duration is 24 months.
- Grace period up to 12 months.
- Interest rate is 1% per annum, i.e. the lowest interest rate approved by a commercial bank.
- Bank's fee for loan application processing in accordance with the Bank's business policy.
- Early repayment fee 0%.
- Monitoring fee 0%.

Until the end of 2020, **Guarantee Fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina** issued a total number of more than 50 guarantees with a total value disbursed of EUR 5.000.000,00.

2) Further, the **Guarantee Fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina** has signed a protocol of cooperation with Provincial Secretariat for Economy aiming at offering financial support to the guarantee fund in order to strengthen its guarantee capacity. The aforementioned agreement is intended at helping SMEs and tourism workers to achieve better conditions when contracting a bank loan. This measure is intended not only to help SMEs to survive the current pandemic but also to continue with the development of the economy and tourism sector. The support is expected to be launched in early 2021.

More information on **Guarantee Fund of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina** measures can be found under the following link: <http://garfond.rs/>

Latest update: 5th February 2021