



## **INNOVATION PLUS**

The INNOVATION PLUS component is administered by the Romanian Counter-Guarantee Fund (FRC), which allocates guarantee ceilings to banks registered in 2024 and evaluates complete requests, correctly drawn up and uploaded by 21.06.2024 in the dedicated IT application [iminvest.ro](http://iminvest.ro)

The objective is to offer the business environment loans with government guarantees of up to 90% of the amount of financing granted by banks for SMEs active in all sectors/fields of activity, without taking into account the CAEN code, with the exception of eligible sectors/fields (within the AGRO PLUS and RURAL PLUS components and those stipulated in art. 6 of the Order of the Minister of Finance, of the Minister of Development, Public Works and Administration, of the Minister of Economy [...] no. 621/1.227/1.028/20.637/2024 regarding the approval of the Procedure of implementation, published in the Official Gazette no. 373bis/2024).

The maximum value of each financing granted to a beneficiary cannot exceed 5,000,000 lei for loans/credit lines for financing working capital, respectively 10,000,000 lei for investment loans, with a maximum guarantee percentage of 90%. However, the maximum cumulative amount of financing guaranteed by the state through the FRC that can be granted to a single beneficiary is 10,000,000 lei.

The maximum duration of financing is 72 months in the case of investment loans and 36 months in the case of loans/credit lines for working capital, without the possibility of extension. Also, the interest for the first 12 months, as well as the commissions related to the loan, are subsidized throughout the duration of the loan.

### Eligibility conditions

The beneficiaries of the program are economic operators who meet the conditions provided by Law no. 31/1990, GEO 44/2008 approved by Law no. 182/2016, Law no. 1/2005, or GEO no. 6/2011, Law no. 301/2011 and fulfills the conditions for inclusion in the SME category provided for by Law no. 346/2004, including start-ups, or, as the case may be, meets the conditions for inclusion in the category of small enterprises with medium market capitalization.

### Eligible expenses through the INNOVATION PLUS Component

Eligible for bank financing through INNOVATION PLUS is any expenditure of an innovative nature that contributes to re-engineering a process, improving the performance of an activity, increasing the productivity of fixed assets, purchased and/or developed within the company, regardless of the field of activity, as well as the expenses related to the acquisition or the incorporation of new products/solutions from the point of view of technological progress, validated by patents, trademarks, etc. In addition, operational expenses ancillary to the financing of the respective objectives through the INNOVATION PLUS component are also eligible, such as: salaries, rents, stocks, energy, fuel, taxes, including related taxes.

Details of eligible expenses including VAT related to financing/investment credits and working capital:

- a) expenses caused by participation in international trade fairs in order to promote the company's products on international markets, namely:
- the transport, insurance and handling of exhibits, samples and advertising materials, the related customs formalities;
  - storage of the packaging related to the exhibits during the promotional action, drawing up the stand execution project, renting, building and/or setting up the exhibition space, transporting related materials, general expenses during the promotional action period, representation and protocol expenses, expenses travel for the people who organize and coordinate the actions, including a representative from the branch employer or the professional association that contributes to the realization of the respective action, expenses for advertising, presentation and promotion materials of a general economic nature and for mediating the Romanian presence at the actions promotional expenses, expenses related to the commission provided for in the contract concluded with the organizing company of the national pavilions, specialized product stands and mini-exhibitions, as well as other expenses that justify being allocated for the realization of international fairs and exhibitions;
- b) expenses for the purchase of means of transport related to distribution services for the export activity;
- c) expenses for the purchase of patents, licenses, trademarks;
- d) expenses for obtaining approvals, agreements and authorizations;
- e) expenses related to the purchase of equipment, machines, installations, technologies, independent equipment necessary for carrying out the activity;
- f) expenses related to the purchase of ICT hardware equipment and related devices and equipment, including installation, configuration, commissioning expenses;
- g) expenses related to the construction, purchase, fitting out of halls for own use, social headquarters, work points;
- h) expenses for the creation of tools for online marketing of the applicant's own services/products; software solutions with the role of management, evaluation and monitoring: expenses for the purchase of a company presentation website, the purchase of a domain and hosting on the server; expenses related to the purchase of cloud and SaaS services, respectively Software as a Service, expenses related to the purchase of hosting services, including all types of hosting services, except for reseller packages, expenses related to the purchase of services to strengthen cyber security applicable to software /hosting/networks, customer prospecting sales activities, lead management, active customer portfolio management, customer relationship management through Customer Relationship Management – CRM software solutions; managing issues sent by customers in

ticketing systems; financial activity – invoices, accounting, document management – contracts, offers, documents specific to an industry; analysis and correct management of business processes through Business Process Management – BPM software solutions; collecting data specific to the objectives and profile of each company/industry; internal and external communication and reporting activities;

i) expenses for the payment of salaries, rents for the premises where they carry out their activity and other types of expenses necessary to carry out the current activity. The beneficiary can make expenses from the credit and on other eligible CAEN codes, provided that they are authorized according to Law no. 265/2022. In this case, the credit institution will send a copy of the ascertaining certificate provided by the beneficiary, in which these eligible CAEN codes can be found in the authorized offices/activities section;

j) expenses related to the innovation and invention activity of the enterprise. All activities that incorporate innovation / invention are eligible under the INNOVATION PLUS component, respectively any activity that incorporates technological progress can be financed under the component; also any product incorporated or developed by a beneficiary that is assimilated to the invention (new products/services) validated by patents, licenses, trademarks.

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