

# AECM ANNUAL EVENT 2026

Lisbon, Portugal | 20 – 23 May 2026

*“Access to Finance: Investment Needs in a Global Context”*

*(Updated on 23 April 2026)*

## WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2026

Venue: tbd

19:00 – 22:00	<b>Welcome reception</b>
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## THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026

Venue: Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

<b>Internal statutory meeting of AECM</b>	
08:45 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 09:45	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> <i>(PT to EN and EN to FR) – AECM Board Members only</i>
10:00 – 12:30	<b>Ordinary General Assembly Meeting</b> <i>(PT to EN and EN to FR) – AECM full and associated Members only</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Internal meeting
11:30 – 11:45	<b>Eugen Doce</b> , Senior Director & Head of International Advisory Services, Presentation of the work and potential collaboration with the Frankfurt School International Advisory Services
11:45 – 12:30	Exchange on latest trends in the guarantee sector – a global perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Luzayadio Simba</b>, President of the Board of Directors of the Fundo de Garantia de Crédito (FGC), Angola</li><li>• <b>Luz Stella Lozano Chona</b>, Secretary General, Association of the Ibero-American network of guarantees - Red Iberoamericana de Garantías (REGAR)</li></ul>

<b>Public conference</b> <b>“Access to Finance: investment needs in a Global Context” – 1<sup>st</sup> day</b> (PT to EN and EN to FR) – no fee charged	
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Welcome Coffee</b>
<b>14:00 – 14:05</b>	<b>Projection of the video AECM Portugal</b>
<b>14:05 – 14:45</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NN, Portugal</li> <li>• <b>Gonçalo Regalado</b>, CEO and Vice President of the Board of Directors, Banco Português de Fomento (BPF), Portugal</li> <li>• <b>Guy Selbherr</b>, President of AECM</li> </ul>
<b>14:45 – 15:30</b>	<b>Panel 1: From Guarantees to Growth: The Strategic Role of Promotional Banks and Institutions</b> Moderator: <b>Zenón Vázquez Irizar</b> , Vice President Cesgar and Managing Director, Elkargi, Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marta Postuła</b>, First Vice President of the Management Board, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), Poland</li> <li>• <b>Jēkabs Krieviņš</b>, Member of the Management Board, ALTUM, Latvia</li> <li>• <b>György Pulai</b>, Deputy CEO, Garantiqa Hitelgarancia Zrt., Hungary</li> </ul>
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>Keynote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NN, Portugal</li> </ul>
<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>	<b>Networking Break</b>

<p><b>16:00 – 16:45</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 2: Driving prosperity via innovation and competitiveness</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Kurt Leutgeb</b>, Head of Guarantees, Equity, Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (aws), Austria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gijs Schilthuis</b>, Director Sustainability, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (GD AGRI), European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Aliénor Margerit</b>, Head of Unit, Access to Finance, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Milena Angelova</b>, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and SME Envoy of Bulgaria, Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA), and Associate Professor, Institute for Economic Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Science</li> </ul>
<p><b>16:45 – 17:00</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Davide Galli</b>, President, SMEunited, Member of the Board of Confartigianato, and Entrepreneur</li> </ul>
<p><b>17:00 – 17:15</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: Leading Through Change: KODIT's AX-Driven Strategy for the Future of Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sung Jun Kang</b>, Chairperson and CEO, Korea Credit Guarantee Fund (KODIT), Korea</li> </ul>
<p><b>17:15 – 17:30</b></p>	<p><b>Concluding remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NN</b>, Portugal</li> </ul>
<p><b>19:30</b></p>	<p><b>Gala Dinner</b></p> <p>Venue: Estufa Fria, Parque Eduardo VII, Lisbon</p>

## FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2026

Venue: Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

<p><b>Public conference</b></p> <p><b>“Access to Finance: investment needs in a Global Context” – 2<sup>nd</sup> day</b></p> <p>(PT to EN, EN to FR) – seminar fee charged</p>	
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Welcome Coffee</b>
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NN, Portugal</li> </ul>
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	<p><b>Keynote: Finance with Purpose: Empowering Sustainable, Productive and Efficient Agribusiness and Strengthening Rural Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nikola Steinbock</b>, Chairwoman of the Management Board, Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank / Development Agency for Agribusiness, Germany</li> </ul>
<b>11:00 – 11:45</b>	<p><b>Panel: Why are guarantees an effective instrument for innovation financing?</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Shane McCullough</b>, Head of Products, Strategy and Marketing, Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI), Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Luís Guimarães</b>, CCO, Banco Português de Fomento (BPF), Portugal</li> <li>• <b>Piotr Stolowski</b>, Director, Head of Guarantees, Securitisation, and Inclusive Finance, European Investment Fund (EIF)</li> <li>• <b>Estera Tajnikar</b>, Deputy Director, Product Development and EU Programmes Department, SID - Slovenska izvozna in razvojna banka, Slovenia</li> <li>• <b>Gerhard Huemer</b>, Director Economic and Fiscal Policy, SMEunited</li> </ul>

<p><b>11:45 - 12:00</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: Presentation of the European Commission’s and EUIPO’s plans on IP-backed finance, including the future guarantee scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nathalie Berger</b>, Director, Competitiveness Coordination, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship &amp; SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Andrea Di Carlo</b>, Deputy Executive Director, European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:00 -12:50</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: Portugal’s achievements over the centuries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ricardo Diniz</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>12:50 - 14:30</b></p>	<p><b>Group Photo &amp; Networking Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>14:30 - 14:45</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: Impact Assessment for guarantees at the EIF</b></p> <p><b>Helmut Kraemer-Eis</b>, Head of Impact Assessment, Chief Economist, European Investment Fund (EIF)</p>
<p><b>14:45 - 15:45</b></p>	<p><b>Panel: The additionality and the impact of guarantees</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Luke Aylward</b>, Director Strategy &amp; Product Development Banking business, British Business Bank (BBB), UK and Chairman of the AECM working group statistics and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Horacio Molina Sánchez</b>, Loyola University Andalusia, Spain</li> <li>• <b>Yu-Shin Kim</b>, Korea Technology Finance Corporation (KOTEC), Korea</li> <li>• <b>Anthony Asonye</b>, Managing Director, Impact Credit Guarantee Limited, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>Besnik Berisha</b>, Managing Director and Board Member, The Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund (KCGF), Kosovo</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:45 - 16:00</b></p>	<p><b>Keynote: Internationalisation of SMEs: How to promote exports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lucia Cusmano</b>, Head SME and Entrepreneurship Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD</li> </ul>

<b>16:00 - 16:10</b>	<b>Signing Event – BPF &amp; HBOR Memorandum Signing</b>
<b>16:10 - 16:20</b>	<b>Presentation of and invite to the annual event of AECM in 2027</b>
<b>16:20 - 16:40</b>	<b>Keynote: The situation of SMEs in relation to external financing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hiroyasu Kaburaki</b>, Japan Finance Corporation (JFC), Japan</li> </ul>
<b>16:40 - 17:00</b>	<b>Concluding remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NN, Portugal</li> <li>• <b>Guy Selbherr</b>, President of AECM</li> </ul>
<b>17:00 - 17:15</b>	<b>Porto de Honra (<i>a traditional, celebratory reception</i>)</b>