

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	Welcome reception
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THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026

Venue: Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

Internal statutory meeting of AECM	
08:45 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:45	Board of Directors Meeting <i>(PT to EN and EN to FR) – AECM full and associated Members only</i>
10:00 – 12:30	Ordinary General Assembly Meeting <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	Eugen Doce , 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">• Luzayadio Simba, President of the Board of Directors of the Fundo de Garantia de Crédito (FGC), Angola• Luz Stella Lozano Chona, Secretary General, Association of the Ibero-American network of guarantees - Red Iberoamericana de Garantías (REGAR)

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

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

FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2026

Venue: Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio

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

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

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