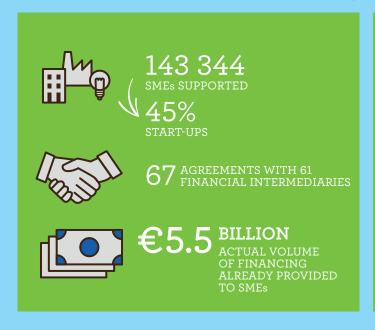


## **EU SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS**

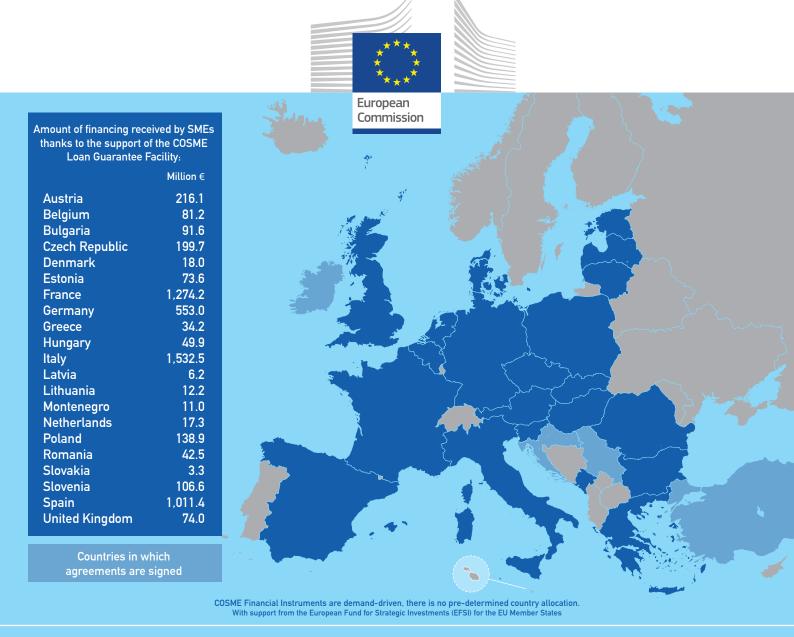
COSME: EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)







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## COSME

**COSME** is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) running from 2014 to 2020 with a total budget of €2.3 billion. At least 60% of the programme will be devoted to easing access to finance for SMEs in Europe, with two financial instruments. The COSME **Loan Guarantee Facility (LGF)** supports guarantees and counter-guarantees to financial institutions to help them provide more loans and lease finance to SMEs. This facility also includes securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios.

The COSME programme also invests through the COSME **Equity Facility for Growth (EFG)**. The EFG is dedicated to investments in risk capital funds that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance to expansion and growth stage SMEs, in particular those operating across borders.

The COSME programme builds on the success of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) (2007-2013) which helped to mobilise almost €25 billion of loans and venture capital to almost 400 000 SMEs in Europe.

## The Investment Plan for Europe

The Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan, is one of the European Commission's top priorities. It focuses on boosting investments to create jobs and growth by making smarter use of new and existing financial resources, removing obstacles to investment and providing visibility and technical assistance to investment projects.

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is the central pillar of the Juncker Plan. It provides a first loss guarantee, allowing the EIB to invest in more, often riskier, projects. The EFSI is already showing concrete results. The **projects and agreements** approved for financing under the EFSI so far are expected to mobilise more than €183 billion in investments and support over 425 000 SMEs across all 28 Member States.