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Factsheet for case **IE-2020-14/791**

Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 business loan

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Country	Ireland, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 01 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Access to finance
Case created	26 April 2020 (updated 05 May 2020)

Background information

The COVID-19 business loan from Microfinance Ireland is a government initiative to support microenterprises through the period of economic uncertainty following the coronavirus outbreak in Ireland.

If the business is impacted or may be impacted by COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of 15% or more in actual or projected turnover or profit and there is difficulty in accessing finance from commercial lending providers, the MFI COVID-19 business loan is available.

Content of measure

Eligible applicants are microenterprises (that is, businesses with less than 10 full time employees operating as sole traders, partnership or limited companies and with up to €2 million annual turnover) which are currently trading, are not in a position to avail of bank finance and are experiencing a COVID-19 negative impact on their business (minimum of 15% of actual or projected in turnover or profit).

Loans may be used for working capital and required business changes as a result of COVID-19.

Loans of up to €50,000 can be made available with a loan term of up to three years and under advantageous terms (six months interest free and repayment free moratorium, with the loan to then be repaid over the remaining 30 months of the 36-month loan period; interest rate 4.5% - 5.5%; no hidden fees and no penalty for early repayment).

Use of measure

Currently no information available.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	One person or microenterprises	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

No involvement of social partners.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 26 April 2020: gov.ie (dbei.gov.ie)