



EMGN 2020 Annual Conference

**Beyond Crisis Mitigation:  
the Role of Mediterranean Credit Guarantee Schemes  
in Boosting the Post-COVID-19 Recovery**

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**3 December 2020 – ZOOM**

09:30-12:45 (CET)

**[Registration link](#)**

**Introduction**

More than a half year has passed since the SARS-CoV-2 has entered the daily lives of billions throughout the world. The global pandemic has put entire communities on the line, straining their social cohesion and economic resilience. Following the worst months of lockdown, the health and economic crisis deluged the Mediterranean region, putting a heavy burden on its most fragile communities. From an economic policy perspective, both the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean have been going through convulsive periods. Governments, central banks and other financial intermediaries have been and are facing the imperative to adapt to fast-paced situations, looking for short-term remedies while planning for long-term resilience and recovery.

In this turbulent atmosphere, Mediterranean Credit Guarantee Schemes (CGSs) have played a major role. Throughout the past months, they have been working with central governments and financial institutions to provide liquidity and credit, and reframe loans' repayments among others. They have helped to ensure business continuity for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and, consequently, they have contributed to the sustainment of many households.

The Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN), has been working through the pandemic with its partner institutions to share best practices and experiences. It has created a platform for members to learn, brainstorm and think about the future of Mediterranean economic resilience. With this objective, the EMGN will devolve its first Annual Virtual Conference, "*Beyond Crisis Mitigation: the Role of Mediterranean Credit Guarantee Schemes in Boosting the Post-COVID-19 Recovery*" to discuss the future prospects of regional CGSs as well as possible tools to improve their impact on local economies. This virtual event, of three hours circa, will revolve around two main sessions, dealing with CGSs' role in post-Covid-19 recovery and the possibility to implement Counter Credit Guarantee Schemes in the Mediterranean. Following the two sessions, members will be invited to join the Steering Committee meeting.

## PROGRAMME

### 2020 Annual Conference

09:30 – 12:45 (CET)

09.30 - 09.45

#### Opening Session

**Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

**Nagla Bahr**, Managing Director, Credit Guarantee Company, Egypt. Lead Representative, Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN)

09.45 - 11.00

#### Session 1

##### The role of credit guarantee schemes in the post COVID-19 recovery in the Mediterranean

This session will aim at discussing the lessons learnt through the pandemic regarding the role of the Credit Guarantee Schemes to mitigate the socioeconomic crisis, with the objective to highlight the role that they will be called upon to play now in the middle term: helping their economies to recover. The session will look at the and the possible credit guarantee strategies to implement to boost the economic recovery in the different countries of the Mediterranean. Specifically speakers could develop their arguments around the following points:

- Which strategies had the greatest positive impact on SMEs, entrepreneurship and, more generally, the wider business environment? What are the lessons learnt and how will they change the way CGSs are operating in the post-Covid-19 era?
- How can Mediterranean CGSs increase their role in the recovery?
- What kind of cooperation between international, regional and national authorities, international financial institutions and CGSs are needed to boost future recovery plans?

#### Moderator

**Roger Albinyana**, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Advocacy and Event Coordinator, Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN)

#### Speakers

**Mohammed Al-Jafari**, General Director, Jordan Loan Guarantee Corporation (JLGC)

**Tahar Ben Hatira**, Chairman and General Manager, Société Tunisienne de Garantie (SOTUGAR) – Tunisia

**Virginie Poncet**, Head of International Expertise Activities, Bpifrance

**Yohann Chaigneau**, Senior Institutional and Policy Affairs Officer, Lending Operations in Neighbouring Countries, European Investment Bank

**Malin Elander**, Programme Manager - EU policies, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood South, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission

11.00 - 11.15

### Break

11.15 - 12.30

### Session 2

#### **Enhancing risk-sharing instruments in the Mediterranean: is a regional counter-guarantee mechanism a viable solution?**

Despite being operative in certain European countries (e.g. Spain, Portugal), Counter Guarantee Schemes are absent in Southern Mediterranean Countries. Building upon the outputs of the EMGN Working Group on Counter Guarantees, this session will discuss the importance of risk mitigation tools and counter guarantee implementation in Europe, while debating the opportunity and feasibility of creating such mechanisms in the Southern Mediterranean, especially in the context of the post-COVID-19 economic recovery marked by an increased risk exposure. Speakers may focus their discussion on the following points:

- A brief introduction on Counter Guarantee Schemes, their functioning and usefulness where they are already operative;
- A discussion regarding the obstacles/opportunities for the implementation of Counter Guarantee Schemes in the Southern Mediterranean;
- An assessment of the economic policy priorities of Southern Mediterranean countries and how Counter Guarantee Schemes could help to strengthen economic resilience during the recovery period;
- An analysis on what kind of Counter Guarantee Scheme could be applicable to Southern Mediterranean economies.

### Moderator

**Rym Ayadi**, President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). Scientific Coordinator, Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN)

### Speakers

**Beatriz Freitas**, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors, Banco Português de Fomento (BPF). President of the Board of Directors, Ibero-American Guarantee Network (Red Iberoamericana de Garantías - REGAR)

**Abdelmoughite Abdelmoumen**, Head of Strategy and Cooperation, Caisse Centrale de Garantie (CCG) – Morocco

12.30 - 12.45

**Bernd Leidner**, Managing Partner, Landt-Group

**Jean-Louis Leloir**, Special Advisor, European Association of Guarantee Institutions (AECM)

#### Closing words

**Senén Florensa**, President of the Executive Committee, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

**Hayder Al-Bagdadi**, Head of the GIZ Project on Financial Inclusion in MENA, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN)

#### 14:00 – 16:00 (CET) Online Steering Committee meeting

- Open to full members only -

 The Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network was launched in 2012 following several meetings during 2011-2013 at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona (Spain), the CGSs representatives from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Palestine), the European Guarantee Association (AECM) and UfM officials. The **Euro-Mediterranean Guarantee Network (EMGN)** is promoted by the **Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA)**, the **European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)** and with the support of **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**. Visit our website: [www.emgn.eu](http://www.emgn.eu)

