

 Early Warning System

EIB-20220478

VISTA - RISK SHARING FACILITY FOR SMES



### Quick Facts

|                         |                                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Countries               | Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone |
| Financial Institutions  | European Investment Bank (EIB)             |
| Status                  | Approved                                   |
| Bank Risk Rating        | U                                          |
| Voting Date             | 2024-10-24                                 |
| Borrower                | VISTA GUI SA                               |
| Sectors                 | Finance, Industry and Trade                |
| Investment Type(s)      | Guarantee, Loan                            |
| Investment Amount (USD) | \$ 14.07 million                           |
| Project Cost (USD)      | \$ 86.59 million                           |



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## Project Description

According to the Bank's website, this facility will provide a Partial Portfolio Guarantee (PPG) to Vista Gui to support eligible investments by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Guinea, a country designated by the United Nations (UN) as one of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In a second phase, the facility may be extended to Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, three other LDCs in West Africa.

This operation will contribute to economic resilience and employment generating activities in the region, in a context of heightened risk and vulnerability. It is conducted under the SME Access to Finance Initiative supported by the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) under the EU's External Investment Plan. It is proposed following the decision of the European Commission, at the end of 2023, to include the LDCs among the priority areas where all loans to eligible SMEs can benefit from an enhanced guarantee.

The facility's main added-value lies in the fact that SMEs operating in these fragile countries face various obstacles and uncertainty, making it almost essential to go through the intermediary of a commercial bank, as opposed to directly lending to SMEs or through a Government-linked entity.

The aim is to bolster SMEs investments in the targeted countries. The EIB will commit to sharing risks over an extended duration, enabling Vista Gui in Guinea and potentially other banking subsidiaries of the same group in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and The Gambia to expand their lending activities in underserved market segments, securing loans to SMEs with an 80% guarantee, up to 20% of a portfolio of maximum EUR 80,000,000.



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### Investment Description

- European Investment Bank (EIB)

A Partial Portfolio Guarantee (PPG).

### Financial Intermediary

Financial Intermediary: A commercial bank or financial institution that receives funds from a development bank. A financial intermediary then lends these funds to their clients (private actors) in the form of loans, bonds, guarantees and equity shares. Financial intermediaries include insurance, pension and equity funds. The direct financial relationship is between the development bank and the financial intermediary.

- [VISTA GUI SA](#) (Financial Intermediary)



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## Private Actors Description

*VISTAGUI*, a subsidiary of the Vista Bank Group, is a public limited company headquartered in Conakry (Guinea). Founded in 1985, VISTAGUI is one of the leading banks in Guinea.



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## Contact Information

*No contacts available at the time of disclosure.*

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can submit an information request for project information at: <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/registers/request-form/request-form-default.htm>

### ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF EIB

The EIB Complaints Mechanism is designed to facilitate and handle complaints against the EIB by individuals, organizations or corporations affected by EIB activities. When exercising the right to lodge a complaint against the EIB, any member of the public has access to a two-tier procedure, one internal - the Complaints Mechanism Office - and one external - the European Ombudsman. A complaint can be lodged via a written communication addressed to the Secretary General of the EIB, via email to the dedicated email address: [complaints@eib.org](mailto:complaints@eib.org), by completing the online complaint form available at the following address: <http://www.eib.org/complaints/form> via fax or delivered directly to the EIB Complaints Mechanism Division, any EIB local representation office or any EIB staff. For further details, check: [http://www.eib.org/attachments/strategies/complaints\\_mechanism\\_policy\\_en.pdf](http://www.eib.org/attachments/strategies/complaints_mechanism_policy_en.pdf)

When dissatisfied with a complaint to the EIB Complaints Mechanism, citizens can then turn towards the European Ombudsman. A memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the EIB and the European Ombudsman establishes that citizens (even outside of the EU if the Ombudsman finds their complaint justified) can turn towards the Ombudsman on issues related to 'maladministration' by the EIB. Note that before going to the Ombudsman, an attempt must be made to resolve the case by contacting the EIB. In addition, the complaint must be made within two years of the date when the facts on which your complaint is based became known to you. You can write to the Ombudsman in any of the languages of the European Union. Additional details, including filing requirements and complaint forms, are available at: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/atyourservice/interactiveguide.faces>



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## Other Related Projects

- EIB-20200043 COVID-19 SME ACCESS TO FINANCE INITIATIVE