



PRESS

Linked Finance Secures €50m funding for Irish SME's from Banco BNI Europa for next 2-years

- **One of Portugal's fastest growing bank will provide funding to Irish SMEs**
- **Part of wider strategy to deploy capital across leading Market place lending platforms in Europe**
- **Deal will allow Linked Finance to fund more Irish SMEs than ever before**
- **Banco BNI Europa is an experienced institutional investor in the European alternative lending industry**
- **Deal signifies the bank's confidence in both Linked Finance and the Irish SME lending space.**

Linked Finance, Ireland's leading Market place lending platform, has secured backing from one of Portugal's fastest growing bank, Banco BNI Europa, who will deploy up to €50m over a 2-year period, to lend to Irish SMEs.

Banco BNI Europa is a digital bank and alternative lending investor that has partnered with alternative lending platforms across Europe since 2016. These include leading Market place lending platforms in Germany, Belgium and Finland.

As part of a wider strategy to identify the best Market place lending platforms in key European markets, Banco BNI Europa will deploy its capital alongside Linked Finance's existing lenders. Linked Finance, connects Irish SMEs who need loans with an online lending community of more than 19,000 users.

That community is made up predominantly of ordinary Irish people who wish to earn attractive returns lending to creditworthy local businesses. Banco BNI Europa, is one of a growing number of institutional investors who are recognizing the potential of FinTech operators like Linked Finance.

The agreement will further boost liquidity on linked finance.com, which has already provided more than 1400 loans to Irish SMEs. The company has demonstrated an impressive growth trajectory since its establishment in 2013, lending over €50m to date while recording its strongest quarter in Q1 2018.

Commenting on the news, Niall Dorrian Chief Executive Officer of Linked Finance, said:

“Banco BNI Europa decision to deploy capital on the Linked Finance platform is great news for Irish SMEs. It is yet more evidence of how the world is changing and through technology Linked Finance is making it easier for SME’s to borrow money. This arrangement with Banco BNI Europa will allow us to immediately increase lending to local businesses, complementing the funding available from our existing users; ordinary members of the Irish public, who will continue to play a crucial role in helping us to fulfill our mission of providing fast and affordable finance for Ireland’s SME sector.”

Pedro Coelho, Executive Chairman Banco BNI Europa, said:

“As a FinTech-driven bank, a partnership with Linked Finance is a natural fit for our business, supporting our strategy of growth and diversification within our European portfolio. Over the past years, we have successfully built a network of strategic partnerships with fast-moving FinTech companies across Europe. Ireland is a market we have been keen to enter and, as the leading Market place lending platform here, Linked Finance is the obvious partner. We are very excited about the potential of this relationship.”

Linked Finance recently celebrated its 5th anniversary hitting the milestone of having lend over €50m to Irish SMEs since its launch in 2013. Notable companies that have raised funding with Linked Finance include Viking Splash Tours, The Rolling Donut, Big Red Cloud, Lolly & Cooks, Murphy’s Ice Cream, Iconic Offices and the Irish Fairy Door Company.

About Linked Finance

Launched in 2013, Linked Finance is Ireland’s leading P2P lending platform. With thousands of registered users, Linked Finance connects local businesses who need loans with a vibrant online lending community of ordinary members of the public, institutions and other investors who are ready to lend to Irish SMEs at attractive interest rates. To date the company has facilitated over 1400 loans for Irish SMEs. The model provides an attractive funding option for businesses that are growing and seeking to take advantage of opportunities in their markets. Businesses across all 26 counties have successfully secured loans from Linked Finance lenders, ranging from small food producers with a local customer base to larger manufacturers targeting international markets.

www.linkedfinance.com

About Banco BNI Europa:

Banco BNI Europa is an international reference as a "Challenger Bank" based on its strategy of open architecture and differentiation. This positioning also allows Banco BNI Europa to stand out as the leader in the new "Fintech" generation of European banks and to continue with significant growth rates. In this context, Banco BNI Europa has also been specializing in the management of alternative solutions for raising funds and credit, having already established partnerships with several European Fintech's providing term deposits and credit products in several European jurisdictions, namely

Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Austria, France, Belgium and Finland. Those credit products include consumer credit, student loans, credit to SME's, factoring and real estate bridge lending.

Resulting from its modern digital platform and low-cost processes with innovative products, in 2018 Banco BNI Europa was awarded, in the Digital Banking category and based on Portuguese consumer surveys, "Escolha do Consumidor" e "Prémio Cinco Estrelas".

Banco BNI Europa was also awarded in 2017 "Best Internet Bank in Portugal" by Global Business Outlook, "Excellence in Growth for Retail Banking in Portugal" by Finance Digest, "Most Innovative Bank in Portugal" by International Finance magazine, "Best Digital Bank in Portugal" by Global Banking & Finance News magazine and "Bank of the Year in Portugal" by The European.

For further information

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