

## Due Diligence Helpdesk on EU Sanctions for EU SMEs dealing with Iran

The Due Diligence Helpdesk on EU Sanctions is an initiative funded by the European Union. It aims to support EU businesses, in particular Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that are willing to engage with Iran, to do so legitimately in compliance with EU law and in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA). The Helpdesk provides **free-of-charge support to EU SMEs** on how to complete due diligence checks on EU restrictive measures (sanctions) compliance for specific business projects in Iran. The Helpdesk facilitates the efforts of EU SMEs in realising legitimate business opportunities in Iran and the financing of legitimate business activities in Iran by European banks, thus demonstrating the EU's continued commitment to the JCPoA.



Project Logo

*The free-of-charge services of the Due Diligence Helpdesk on EU Sanctions include:*

### **Helpdesk Enquiry Service – Confidential Consultation**

Individual EU SMEs can submit enquiries via a query form on the Helpdesk website, accessing a panel of experts to receive confidential first-line information on their specific business case. The Helpdesk can inform EU SMEs about whether their planned business activities fall under EU sanctions, and the level of due diligence required.

### **Information Materials**

EU SMEs can download information materials from the Helpdesk website concerning EU sanctions and due diligence requirements pertaining to Iran's business environment. The Helpdesk also publishes a regular newsletter which describes the due diligence approaches generally adopted in the emerging business sectors of interest to EU SMEs. News items are

regularly posted on the Helpdesk website to keep EU SMEs up-to-date with the most important developments in the Iranian business environment.

### **Webinars**

The Helpdesk delivers webinars for EU SMEs conducting business in Iran. Introduced by renowned experts, they cover EU sanctions and other due diligence compliance requirements when conducting business in Iran.

### **The Helpdesk's approach to due diligence**

EU SMEs can submit a request for due diligence using the *Sanctions Due Diligence Analysis Tool*, available on the Helpdesk website under the <https://sanctions-helpdesk.eu/sanctions-dd-analysis-tool> link. EU SMEs are asked to submit a few personal details (contact person/email address for follow-up, Member State/number of employees/yearly turnover to verify that the applicant is an EU SME), and to identify a potential Iranian business partner they would request due diligence on. All personal data of EU SMEs are treated in accordance with GDPR guidelines and are not shared with non-EU entities.

Once these details have been received by the Helpdesk, an initial due diligence will be conducted based on self-declaration and the provision of supporting organisational documents submitted by the proposed Iranian business partner as well as verification in EU sanctions databases. If necessary, where appropriate to ensure EU restrictive measures (sanctions) compliance, additional in-depth verification tools will be made available. Following due diligence completion, EU SMEs will receive a detailed due diligence output report from the Helpdesk.

**More information about the Helpdesk and its free of charge services is available at [www.sanctions-helpdesk.eu](http://www.sanctions-helpdesk.eu)**