

# Investment scheme for supporting blockchain and AI

27 January 2020, Prague

### What is EIF?





#### We provide risk financing to stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation in Europe

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To foster EU objectives, notably in the field of entrepreneurship, growth, innovation, R&D and employment, supporting European SMEs.

#### AND

To generate an appropriate return for our shareholders through a commercial approach.

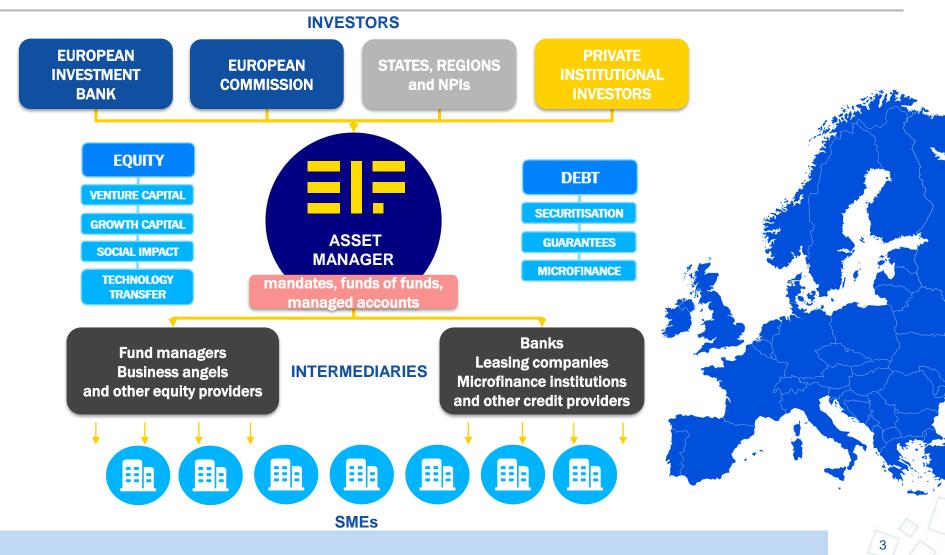
#### HOW

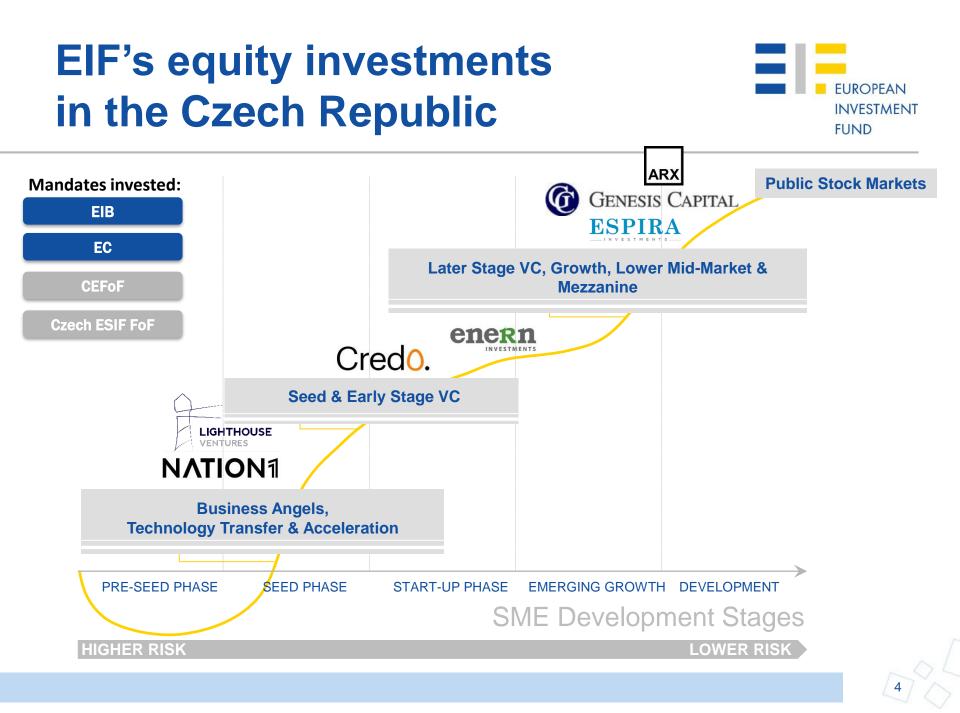
By offering a wide range of targeted products for investments in SMEs and mid-caps, ranging from venture capital to guarantees and microfinance.

EIF has c. **140 investment professionals** dedicated to its transactions.

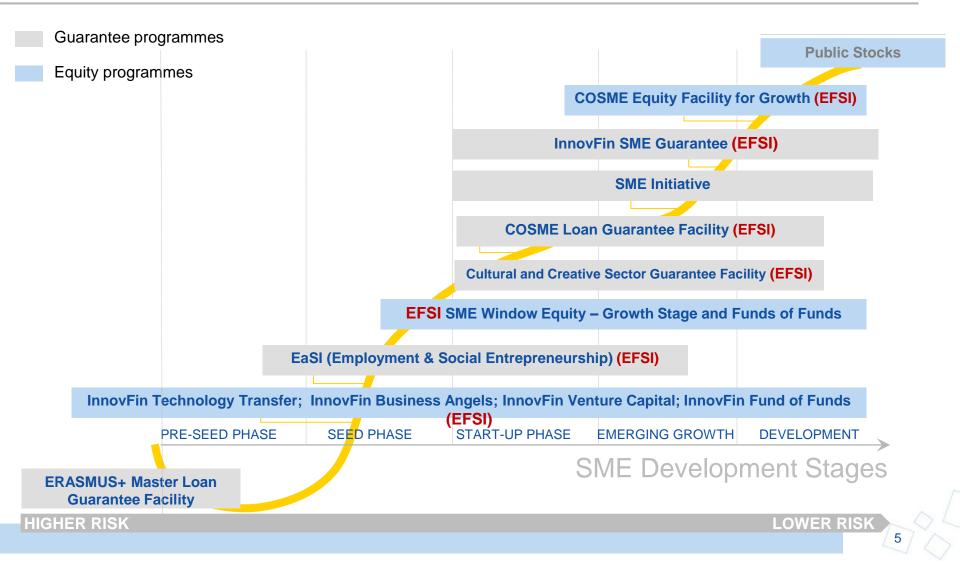
# A fully intermediated business model





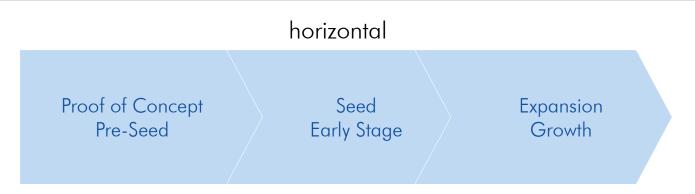


# EU-wide investment programmes

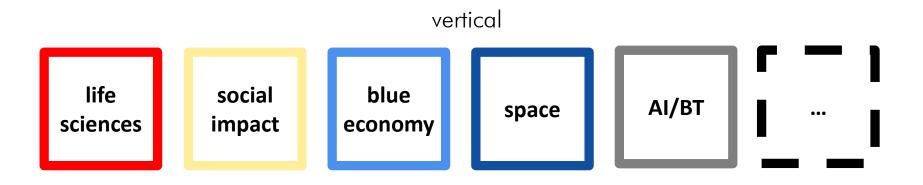


# Increasing EIF's focus on thematics





VS



## **Blockchain as an EU priority**

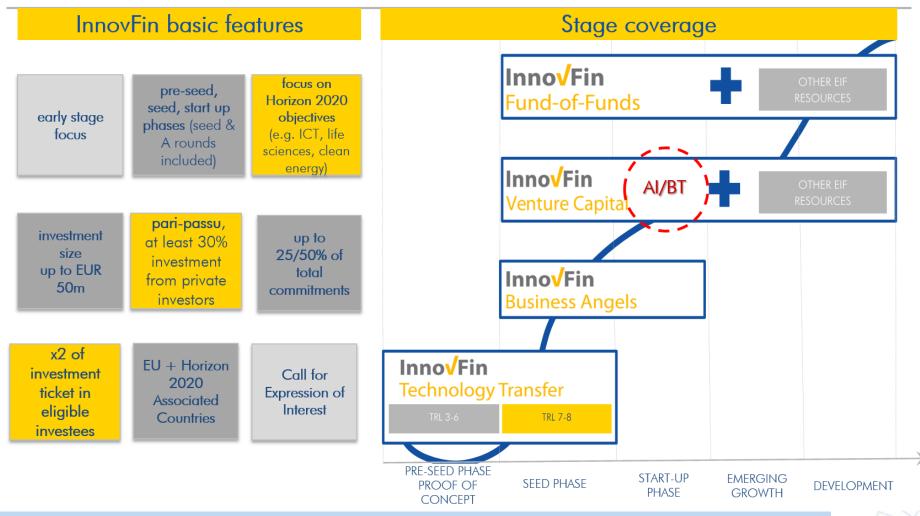


- home to a vibrant blockchain research community, with both start-ups and traditional industries looking to adopt innovative processes and models based on the technology
- EC recognizing blockchain and distributed ledger technologies (DLT) as an important tool for building a fair, inclusive, secure and democratic digital economy
- support for positioning EU as a leader in developing and implementing blockchain and DLT, and as a standard setter
- softer forms of support to be complemented by <u>newly available</u> <u>funding dedicated to blockchain technologies</u>, with the following objectives:
  - to test the market appetite, depth and development in order to construct a more efficient and effective EU blockchain strategy
  - to provide support for both first-time managers and experienced teams, employing either a focused or a generalist investments strategy, operating in the blockchain sector

- #EUBlockchain

to encourage private investors to recognise the potential and undertake investments in the sector

## InnovFin Equity – new pilot for AI and blockchain technologies (BT)



## Main product features

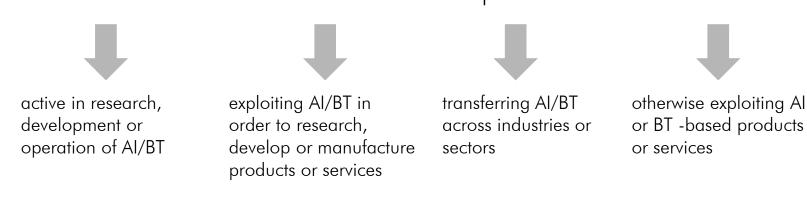


- **Programme size**: EUR 100m, to be approved for selected investments by Dec 2020, enabling a portfolio of c. 4-8 funds and co-investments in AI/BT-related technologies
- Tools: new direct fund investments and co-investments alongside existing EIF fund managers and business angels
- Fund strategies: artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies -focused funds or generalist funds with an opportunistic focus on these areas (required to invest at least 2x of the programme allocation in AI/BT)
- Investment in a single fund: up to EUR 50m (min. 7.5% and max. 50% of the fund)
- Targeted final beneficiaries: SMEs that are developing or operating in the field of AI or blockchain/DLT
- Stage focus: early stage, expansion and growth

## How EIF defines AI and BT

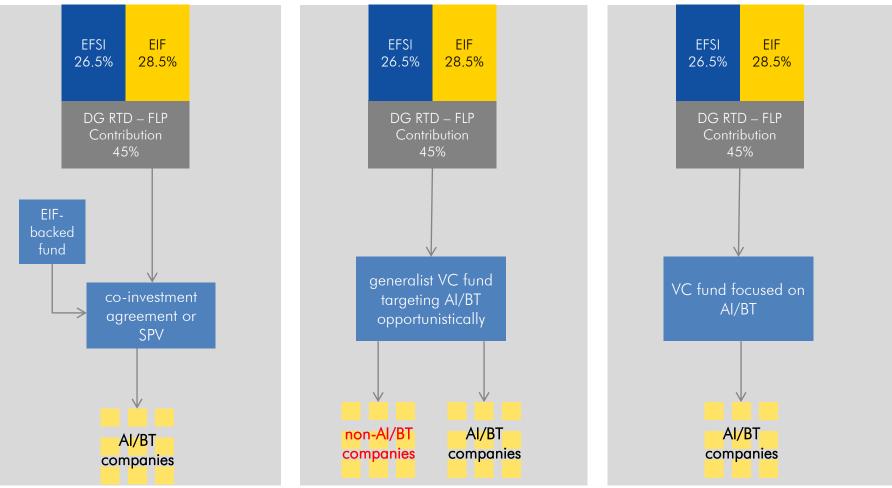


<u>Al</u> – digital systems, based on software and/or hardware devices, that perceive their environment through data acquisition, interpret the collected data, reason on the knowledge, or process the information derived from this data and decide the best action(s) in the physical or digital dimension to achieve a given goal, adapting their behaviour over time, including on the basis of previous actions or newly collected data (examples – speech recognition, natural language processing, data analytics, robotics or machine vision) <u>Blockchain/DLT</u> – technologies promoting trust by creating and recording through distributed networks, consensus on states of data and transactions, by enabling and guaranteeing the execution of tasks, and by facilitating data sharing and transfer of value, in a secure, autonomous and decentralized way (in particular technologies that enhance the auditability, data preservation or data integrity, and the provision of better control of data by citizens and organisations)



#### investments in companies

# Investment modalities



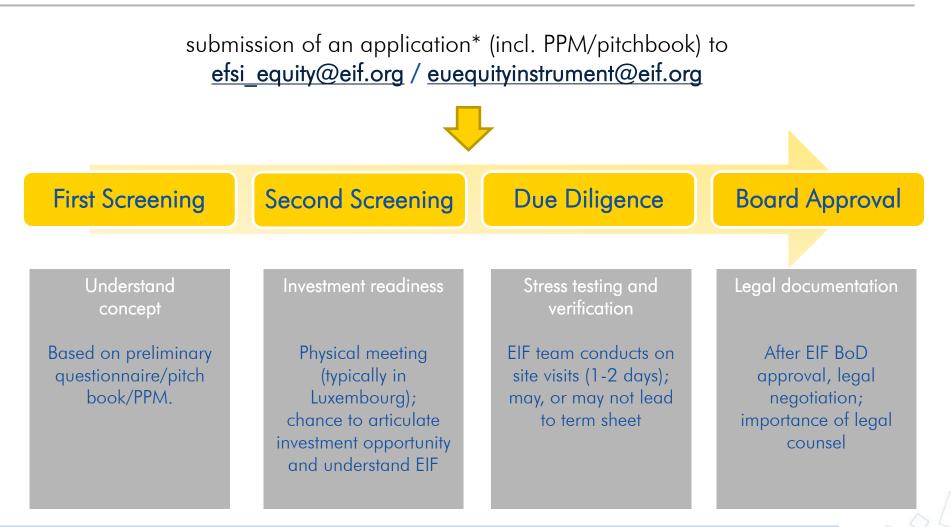
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EUROPEAN INVESTMENT

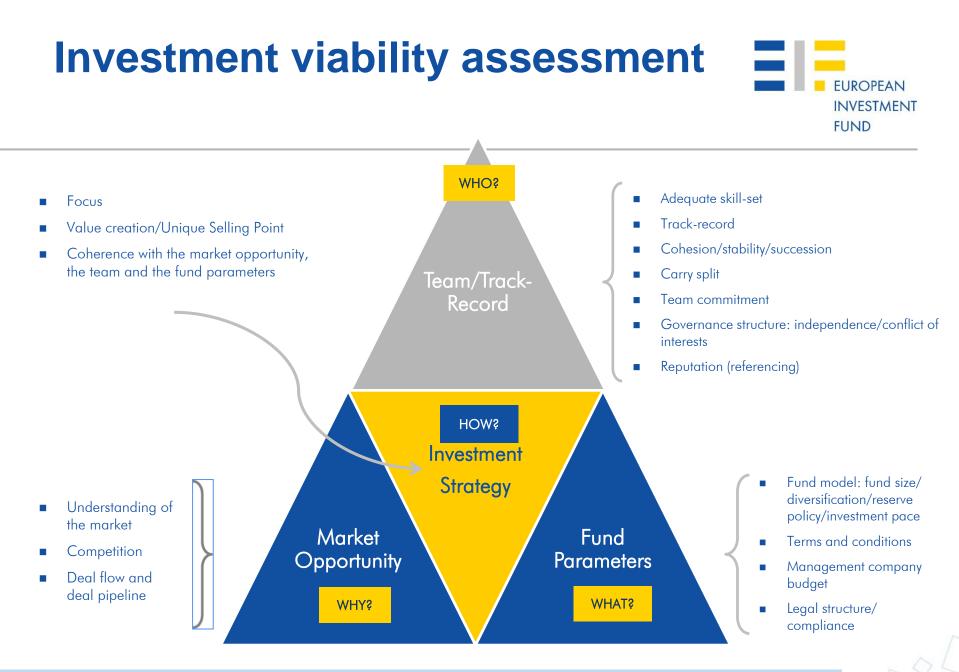
FUND

## **EIF's investment process**





\*For further details, please visit <u>http://www.eif.europa.eu/what\_we\_do/equity/single\_eu\_equity\_instrument/innovfin-equity/index.htm</u>



# What does the future hold for AI/BT investment support?



strong current pipeline, seeking further BT opportunities in the next 3-6 months, time is short

**future EU support likely** but also dependent on the pilot's results

 awaiting conclusion of InvestEU preparation, new strategic priorities (climate a strong focus)

possibility to complement or extend pan-EU initiatives with programmes dedicated to specific countries or regions, in cooperation with local partners

## Thank you for your attention!



#### Contacts

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