

Conclusions

Framework Operation #28 for SME competitiveness guarantee- Romania InvestEU Member state compartment (uncapped guarantee)

INVEU-ICR-0063-2023 – SME Window (SMEW)

Short description of the financing or investment operation and its objectives

Type of the financial intermediaries	Mostly commercial banks
Final recipients	SMEs
Countries of implementation	Romania
Implementing partner	European Investment Fund (EIF)

This Framework Operation will support Sub-Projects aiming at improving the competitiveness of enterprises by facilitating access to, and the availability of finance to SMEs, which are perceived by financial intermediaries as being high risk or lacking sufficient collateral.

It builds on the successful implementation of the guarantee programmes managed by EIF, such as SME Initiative Romania and COSME Loan Guarantee Facility.

Global Assessment and rationale for approval

The Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund approved the use of the InvestEU guarantee on 12 October 2023 for the above-mentioned operation.

In line with the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Romania, the implementation of the Framework Operation will contribute to partially address the structural weaknesses of the Romanian economy, such as the lack of liquidity faced by the local enterprises.

Additionality stems from addressing new financing needs which were normally not covered, within intermediaries' standard lending practice. The debt financing support provided to target final recipients is made with more favourable terms, compared to the standard credit and collection policies of financial intermediaries.

The SME Competitiveness Guarantee implements financing solutions with enhanced access to finance measures to the benefit of final recipients. The guarantee will also support financing in local currency and provide further additionality through supporting final recipients located in cohesion and just transition regions in Romania.

The Investment Committee welcomed the Framework Operation as a much-needed initiative with a high value to the Romanian economy. It also recognised the success of the predecessor initiative COSME Loan Guarantee Facility