

Conclusions

Increase of Framework Operation #34 for SME Competitiveness Guarantee - Greece Member State Compartment (Capped Guarantee)

INVEU-ICR-0008-2024 –SME Window (SMEW)

Ref. INVEU-ICR-0070-2023

Short description of the financing or investment operation and its objectives

Type of the financial intermediaries	Mostly commercial banks
Country of implementation	Greece
Implementing partner	EIF

The Framework Operation is an increase of the existing Framework Operation #34, which will support Sub-Projects aiming at improving the competitiveness of SMEs and promoting private investments and exports of the Greek companies, in line with the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Greece.

Global Assessment and rationale for approval

The Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund approved the use of the InvestEU guarantee on 1 February 2024 for the above-mentioned operation.

The Framework Operation will address Greek market failures related to information asymmetries, market fragmentation or high transactions costs as well as insufficient collateral and lack of liquidity. It will help reducing the high investment gap in Greece economy caused by the higher cost of funding SMEs companies are facing and low access to finance productive investments in general due to prolonged deleverage of the Greek banking sector.

The Framework Operation will also address the issue of limited availability of financing for SMEs by supporting them in more favourable terms regarding financing tenor, pricing conditions and collateral requirements among others. The additionality relies on the reduction of the structural shortcoming of the Greek SMEs financing market and on the creation of a more diversified SME finance market, Sub-Projects will bring. Due to demonstrated high market demand the Investment Committee considered an increase of the framework operation justified.