



## Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund

Meeting no 38 of 11-12 March 2025

Room Schuman, Foyer Européen

European Commission, Luxembourg

10 rue Heinrich Heine, L-1720 Luxembourg (Gare)

**(SECOND) FRAMEWORK OPERATION #51 FOR SME COMPETITIVENESS GUARANTEE  
- HIGHER RISK CATEGORY 4 (EXPORT CREDIT PORTFOLIO PRODUCT) (UA)**

**INVEU-ICR-0008-2025 –SME Window (-SMEW)**

### Short description of the financing or investment operation and its objectives

Type of financial intermediaries	National Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) providing export credit cover directly or indirectly to final recipients
Type of final recipients	SMEs, Small- Mid Caps
Country of implementation	EU27, OCTs, and/or Other Participating Countries (Iceland, Norway)
Implementing partner	EIF

This Framework Operation aims to support SMEs and Small-Mid Caps established and operating in Member States (and other InvestEU participating countries, currently Norway and Iceland) exporting to entities in Ukraine.

The EIF will contribute to this objective by providing (counter)-guarantees to financial intermediaries (ECAs) with an exclusive eligibility focus on final recipient transactions aimed at financing or guaranteeing purchases made by companies based in Ukraine (the importers) of goods and services provided by SMEs and Small Mid-Caps operating in the geographies eligible under InvestEU (the exporters). The types of final recipient transactions envisaged to be covered under the Pilot will be in the form of export credit risk cover instruments, export credit guarantees, letters of credit and trade finance.

### Global Assessment and rationale for approval

The Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund approved the use of the InvestEU guarantee on 19 March 2025 (e-vote) for the above-mentioned operation.

Since the beginning of the war there has been a material decrease in EU exports to Ukraine. In this regard, promoting trade between the EU and Ukraine has become a top priority for the EC. To enable trade, the availability of export credit solutions remains critical, however, it has been significantly reduced since the outbreak of the war, given the associated risks and uncertainties.

Under this Framework Operation, the EIF will contribute to this objective by supporting financial intermediaries (export credit agencies) that will provide export credit cover to final recipients meeting the relevant product eligibility criteria of Higher risk category 4, namely supporting exports of goods and services of SMEs and Small Mid-Caps established and operating in eligible countries to entities in Ukraine.



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Additionality shall be deemed to be met via each Sub-Project as financial intermediaries will originate final recipient transactions which currently carry a higher risk profile than the risk generally deemed acceptable by such intermediary, and in particular implementing financing solution (export credit cover) in line with the enhanced access to finance measures described in the dedicated InvestEU Export Credit Pilot Call for Expression of Interest published on EIF's website and which carry an increased risk profile due to exporting to a country at war (Ukraine).

Access to finance is one of the main issues that SMEs face in Europe. The InvestEU SME Competitiveness Guarantee Product aims at addressing this market failure, with the EU support in providing access to finance to higher risk SMEs. The EIF's guarantee is a critical tool in supporting exports to Ukraine by covering the substantial risks associated with trading with a country at war. This support is vital for maintaining economic stability and fostering trade relations between the EU and Ukraine during these challenging times.