

InvestEU Call for Expression of Interest

Information Note on availability of additional resources and applicability of additional terms and conditions for the SME Competitiveness Guarantee Product and Innovation and Digitalisation Guarantee Product stemming from the InvestEU Member State Compartment Italy

All capitalised terms and expressions not defined in this Information Note shall have the meaning given to those terms in the InvestEU Call for Expression of Interest.

This Information Note was published on 13 May 2026.

This Information Note relates to and anticipates the increased guarantee capacity with respect to:

- the [SME Competitiveness Guarantee](#) Product; and
- the [Innovation and Digitalisation Guarantee](#) Product;

each as described in the [InvestEU Call for Expression of Interest](#) to be implemented as part of the Member State Compartment in Italy.

The resources to increase the InvestEU guarantee capacity in respect of the aforementioned guarantee products in Italy come from Italy's Recovery and Resilience Fund made available through the Council's Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021, as amended from time to time¹.

These resources will be made available to the market after the following two-step process has been accomplished:

1. The first step consists of the signature of the Contribution Agreement in respect of the Member State Compartment under the InvestEU Programme between the European Union and the Italian Republic; and
2. The second step consists of the signature of an amendment to the InvestEU Guarantee Agreement between the European Commission, the EIB and the EIF introducing the Member State Compartment for Italy.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, under the [InvestEU Call for Expression of Interest](#) EIF may already start pre-selecting applicants for the increased guarantee capacity under the Member State Compartment in Italy as of the publication date of this Information Note.

Applications of potential financial intermediaries based in Italy which have already been received under the InvestEU Call for Expression of Interest for the SME Competitiveness and the Innovation and Digitalisation Guarantees may be assessed simultaneously for the additional resources to be made available under the Member State Compartment in Italy.

However, the final selection and subsequent signatures of individual guarantee agreements with financial intermediaries utilising the guarantee capacity of the Member State

¹ [Annex to the Council Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Italy.](#)

Compartment in Italy shall be subject to the aforementioned amendment of the InvestEU Guarantee Agreement to be signed between the European Commission and the EIF.

Indicative Terms and conditions

The InvestEU Call for Expression of Interest [Direct Guarantee](#) and [Counter-Guarantee](#) in respect of the EU Compartment as well as the term sheets for the Innovation and Digitalisation and SME Competitiveness Guarantees (including the relevant eligibility criteria) are applicable to the Member State Compartment for Italy.

In addition to the instruments under the InvestEU EU Compartment, as a result of the additional resources made available by the Italian Republic, under the Member State Compartment of Italy, the SME Competitiveness Guarantee shall be offered in the form of capped guarantees, and Innovation and Digitalisation Guarantees shall be offered in the form of uncapped guarantees, in each case exclusively on the territory of Italy.