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National Bank of Greece and the European Investment Fund strengthen their cooperation under InvestEU

National Bank of Greece continues to actively support Greek small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small mid-cap companies, through strengthening its cooperation with the European Investment Fund (EIF) under InvestEU.

The successful deployment of the initial funds under the InvestEU guarantee agreement between National Bank of Greece and the European Investment Fund has helped businesses meet their investment and working capital needs. In this context, leveraging additional funds made available through the Hellenic Republic, the following programmes will continue to be offered, with increased budgets, under the existing agreement between National Bank of Greece and the EIF:

- **RRF GR SME Competitiveness**, supporting business competitiveness;
- **RRF GR Sustainability Product**, supporting enterprises in their transition towards a more sustainable growth model through the implementation of environmentally friendly practices;
- **RRF GR Innovation and Digitalisation Product**, promoting research, innovation and the adoption of digital technologies.

Through these programmes, the European Investment Fund's guarantee facilitates enterprises' access to financing on favourable terms, including low interest rates and reduced or no collateral requirements, thereby enhancing their growth prospects. In particular, through the **RRF GR SME Competitiveness** programme ,significant additional resources are made available to directly address the financing needs of enterprises.

Commenting on the enhanced cooperation between National Bank of Greece and the European Investment Fund, Mr. Panagiotis Leftheris, Assistant General Manager of Corporate and Investment Banking at National Bank of Greece, noted:

"This agreement marks the relaunch of InvestEU SME Competitiveness, a particularly attractive and effective guarantee programme for Greek small and medium-sized enterprises. The new cycle, with a significantly increased budget, comes at the right time to address substantial needs for working capital and investment plan financing. We believe it will become a key development financing tool for SMEs, supporting their productivity, extroversion, and green and digital transition. The success and rapid uptake of the previous cycle make us particularly optimistic about the potential of the new programme."

For further information, interested enterprises may visit the National Bank of Greece website, contact their Relationship Manager or visit one of the Bank's branches.