



PRESS RELEASE

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The European Investment Fund and Alpha Bank support businesses that invest in their people

- **Loans at lower costs for businesses providing training to their personnel, guaranteed by the European Investment Fund under the InvestEU program.**
- **The funding is also addressed to education and training organizations, to students, and to any person wishing to learn something new.**

A business is only as strong as its people. Guided by this belief, Alpha Bank and the European Investment Fund (EIF), a member of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group, are joining forces under the European InvestEU program to enable Greek businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to invest more easily in the training of their personnel.

The loans are addressed to:

- businesses wishing to train or upskill their personnel
- businesses and organizations active in education and training
- businesses and organizations providing support services in the field of education and training
- students and all people wishing to keep learning, whatever their age.

The skills required for each job are changing faster than ever before. For a small business, however, funding the training of its personnel is not always easy. The new partnership makes this investment more affordable, helping businesses to remain competitive and employees to explore new career paths.

“A strong economy relies first of all on the people who possess the knowledge and skills to shape its future. By investing in education and lifelong learning, we contribute to creating opportunities for people, while at the same time we are strengthening the foundations of Greece’s long-term competitiveness. Under the InvestEU program and in the framework of our partnership with Alpha Bank, we are helping broaden access to funding for education, for the benefit of a wider range of students, trainees and organizations throughout Greece”, said the Vice-President of the EIB, Mr. Ioannis Tsakiris.

“None of the things that we support—from technological innovation to solutions tackling climate change—can thrive in the long term without continuously investing in education and skills development. That is why the European Investment Fund (EIF), together with the European Commission and with financial partners such as Alpha Bank, will continue to support initiatives such as the present one, assisting citizens and businesses to meet the challenges of tomorrow,” said Merete Clausen, Deputy Chief Executive of the European Investment Fund (EIF).

“When a business trains its team, it becomes more competitive, more resilient and better prepared for the future. With the support of the European Investment Fund and InvestEU, we are making this investment more affordable: for businesses looking to develop their staff, for training providers, for young students, and for anyone who wants to learn something new, whatever their age,” said Georgios Tsarakakis, Head of Small Business Products at Alpha Bank.

About the EIB Group

The European Investment Bank Group (EIB), the European Union's financial arm, is owned by the 27 EU Member States and ranks among the largest multilateral development banks worldwide.

In 2025, the EIB Group allocated Euro 100 billion of new financings and advisory services to over 870 high-impact projects across its eight key priority areas, which are the following: climate action and environmental sustainability, digitalization and technological innovation, security and defense, territorial cohesion, agriculture and bioeconomy, social infrastructure, strong international partnerships, and the Savings and Investments Union.

In addition to granting long-term loans for large-scale infrastructure projects, the EIB Group helps attract private investments for innovative projects and higher-risk enterprises, strengthening its role in the European venture debt, venture capital, financial guarantees and securitization markets.

The European Investment Fund (EIF) is a specialized member of the EIB Group whose primary mission is to provide guarantees, securitizations and equity financing, aimed at improving access to funding for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups across Europe.

Through its extensive network of partner banks and investment funds, the EIF acts as a catalyst investor, mobilizing private investment and strengthening the ecosystem of venture capital funds for the benefit of innovative European businesses.

With the support of all 27 EU governments, the EIF has joined forces with institutional investors in the framework of a Europe-wide alliance, with the aim of mobilizing up to Euro 80 billion for investments in innovative businesses that are growing with the potential to become global leaders.

This joint initiative builds on the successful European Tech Champions Initiative, which since its launch three years ago, has helped establish 15 European mega-funds and support the growth of 45 businesses, including 12 “unicorn” companies that have achieved a valuation of over Euro 1 billion.

About InvestEU

The InvestEU program provides the European Union with long-term funding, mobilizing significant private and public resources for supporting a sustainable recovery. It also helps attract private investment for the implementation of the European Union's strategic priorities, such as the European Green Deal and the digital transition.

InvestEU brings together under a single umbrella the EU's financial instruments previously available for supporting investments within the European Union, thus making the financing of investment projects in Europe simpler, more efficient and more flexible.

The program consists of three main pillars: the InvestEU Fund, the InvestEU Advisory Hub, and the InvestEU Portal.

The projects funded by the InvestEU Fund are carried out by Implementing Partners, who invest in the projects taking advantage of the EU budget guarantee, which totals Euro 26. billion, for their investments. The total budget guarantee is expected to support investment projects of the Implementing Partners, strengthening their risk-taking capacity and, as a result, mobilizing at least Euro 372 billion of additional investment.

About Alpha Bank

Alpha Bank was founded in 1879 and is currently one of Greece's largest financial groups, with activities in Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. It is the oldest private Greek bank, listed on the Athens Stock Exchange since 1925.

As a key financing pillar of the Greek economy, Alpha Bank maintains financial relationships with 80% of the country's large enterprises and 65% per cent of its SMEs, specializing in sectors such as tourism, shipping, energy and others.

Together with UniCredit, one of Europe's largest banking groups, as its strategic partner, Alpha Bank offers to Greek businesses access to a network of 13 European national markets, connecting Greek entrepreneurship with the European market.

At the same time, the Bank is investing heavily in both human capital and digital infrastructure, providing its customers with innovative services and products, as well as with top-of-class, personalized Customer service.

Guided by its new Purpose— “enabling progress in life and business for a better tomorrow”—Alpha Bank plays a leading role in the Greek economy's transition to a sustainable and resilient growth model, while also helping promote a society of equal opportunities.