

1) **Fiche to be used for each step:**

The step under review	<p><i>Ease the access to lending for SMEs by expanding issued guarantees under State Credit Guarantee Schemes by 40%, compared to December 2023 and increasing the number of SMEs benefiting from CGSs by 35%, compared to December 2023</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Finance</i></p>
Baseline	<p><i>Baseline is data from December 2023:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>25 million EUR (in 299 issued guarantees) (in December 2023). The expected increase refers to the total financial value of the balance of issued guarantees to SMEs.</i> • <i>299 SMEs (in December 2023). The baseline is not only for the year 2023, the baseline is balance of issued guarantees to SMEs at the end of 2023.</i>
Deadline of the step	<p><i>December 2027</i></p>
Actual results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Development Bank of North Macedonia concluded Agreement on Issuance of Guarantees from the Guarantee Fund established within the Development Bank of North Macedonia AD Skopje (DBNM), registered at DBNM under no. 38-6658/1 dated 17th June 2021 and at the MoF under no. 13-5759/1 dated 22nd June 2021. Annex to the Respective Agreement was concluded on 13th February 2024, enabling the inclusion of higher-risk borrowers (borrowers classified in risk category B in accordance with the data from the Credit Registry of the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia) in the guaranteed portfolio. Furthermore, payment of fee for issued guarantees was deferred until 31st December 2025. In addition, with respect to collateral under guaranteed loan agreements, a promissory note issued by the borrower is allowed, provided it is endorsed by one or more owners holding at least 10% of the borrower’s share capital, accompanied by a promissory note declaration. • During the period following 13th February 2024, Annexes to the Agreements on Portfolio Guarantees from the Guarantee Fund were concluded between the Development Bank of North Macedonia and the participating banks. • Internal procedures for issuing guarantees from the Guarantee Fund established within the Development Bank of North Macedonia were prepared in line with the amendments made. • Amendments to the Guarantee Fund products were published on the website of the Development Bank of North Macedonia. • Portfolios reported by the participating banks
Evidence provided	<p>1. Annex to the Agreement on Issuance of Guarantees from the Guarantee Fund, registered under no. 14-596/1 dated 13th February 2024 (at DBNM) and registered no. 13-2181/1 dated 21st February 2024 (at the Ministry of Finance)</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. DBNM website https://www.mbdp.com.mk/mk/Products/GaranciiProizvod/1, 3. Excerpt from the monthly portfolio reported by the participating banks and the issued individual guarantees (cumulative)
Checks performed throughout the verification of the step and related findings	<p>Checks of the reported portfolio by months were made by the participating banks and on the individual guarantees, which concluded that this step has been fulfilled, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loans supported by guarantees from the Guarantee Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as of 31.12.2023 1,543,814,722 denars - as of 31.10.2025 3,121,935,669 denars 2. Number of SMEs benefiting from the Credit Guarantee Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 299 companies as of 31st December 2023 inclusive; - 630 companies as of 31st October 2025 inclusive. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage of increasing/expanding the issued guarantees 102.2% 2. Percentage of increased number of SMEs benefiting from the Credit Guarantee Scheme 110.7%
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	<p>Implementation of the step is not contrary to the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement.</p> <p>Implementation of the measure also does not breach the principle ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).</p>
Double funding	No contributions from third parties have been recorded as regards the implementation of this measure.
Clear conclusion on completing the step	Fully Achieved