

Investments in European Venture Capital and Venture Debt Funds

KfW Capital Investmentkriterien May 2026

KfW Capital's Investment Criteria

KfW Capital is an institutional investor that invests in venture capital and venture debt funds which have a focus on Germany. These funds are selected across all phases and sectors on a performance-oriented basis. Thereby, the goal is to finance young, technology-oriented companies that put new, innovative ideas into practice, create jobs and secure Germany's and Europe's future prosperity and growth.

General Criteria

- Venture capital or venture debt funds based in Europe / Germany with a corresponding distribution licence/marketing authorisation
- Proven experience/track record in investing in German start-ups (minimum requirement: 1x KfW Capital Commitment be invested in Germany)
- Majority (>50%) of private investors
- No Limited Partner with majority shareholding
- Compliance with KfW Capital [exclusion list](#)
- Independent, private fund management (no captive structure)
- Relevant experience & track record (for first-time funds: personal track record)
- Closed-end fund structure
- Investment strategy consistent with team track record: KfW Capital is sector-agnostic but requires a focus on minority shareholdings (no pure buyout/leverage financing)
- ESG/sustainability policy and respective framework (more information can be found [here](#))
- Fund currency in EUR, GBP, CHF or USD
- Minimum fund volume of EUR 50 million

Additional Criteria for Emerging Manager Facility

To promote diversity in the VC ecosystem, KfW Capital also invests in **smaller funds (less than EUR 50 million)** on a performance-oriented basis if one of the following criteria is met:

- At least one third of the management team consists of female and/or non-binary persons, or
- At least 40% of the senior investment team consists of female and/or non-binary persons, or
- The investment committee (the body of the investment fund that decides on its investment activities) consists of at least 40% female and/or non-binary persons.

Additional Criteria for Impact Facility

KfW Capital invests within the framework of the Impact Facility in funds that pursue ecological and/or social impact alongside financial returns. There are no specific fund size requirements under the Impact Facility; however, the following criteria apply:

- Funds must demonstrate a clear impact logic (intentionality) and the additional impact (additionality) of their impact investments.
- For each portfolio company, impact KPIs must be defined and their measurement and monitoring ensured; approval is granted by LPAC, the Board, or an independent Impact Committee.
- Achievement of targets influences the fund management's profit participation (Impact Carry) and is finally confirmed by LPAC, the Board, or the Impact Committee.