



Green growth and resilience to climate change

#investEU



Green growth is one of the key objectives of the Investment Plan for Europe. The plan offers an excellent opportunity to accelerate investment in strategic projects on resource efficiency, circular economy and climate action. Investment needs for resource efficiency are in the range of EUR 422–527 billion. The European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), cornerstone of the Investment Plan for Europe, can make a difference in areas such as transition to clean energy suppliers, investments in urban water facilities or reducing emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants.

Why is it important

The Investment Plan is an important new source of additional funding for resource efficiency, circular economy and other environmental projects, at the same time creating business opportunities to modernise our economies. Moreover, about half of EFSI projects approved until now are related to climate action. This shows that sustainable development is at the core of EFSI, seeking to support riskier investments that have the potential to scale up innovative actions.

Access to finance can be difficult for companies in environmental sectors due to a lack of understanding of new business models or the issues driving them. EFSI provides new finance opportunities and structures and can be the catalyst to bringing financiers and projects together, in particular in Member States where access to finance is most challenging. Specific platforms on circular economy and water are under consideration to help tackle obstacles in these highly innovative sectors.

Through improved resource management, European businesses could benefit from savings of between EUR 245–604 billion per year, which is equivalent to 3–8% of annual turnover. The total commercial value of eco-innovative products and technologies in sustainable construction, renewable energy, bio-based products and recycling in the EU can grow from EUR 92 billion in 2006 to EUR 259 billion in 2020, creating more than 2.4 million new jobs.

Opportunities and benefits

Stakeholders, both from the public and the private sector, can benefit from the opportunities offered under the Investment Plan by getting **financing** from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), **registering a project** to reach potential investors worldwide through the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP), and making use of the **advisory services** of the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH). Opportunities under EFSI are integrated into the **European Investment Bank (EIB) Group**. Projects can be directly submitted by promoters to the EIB or to established investment platforms, which can have a sectorial or geographical scope and be set up for instance by producer groups, cooperatives or associations.

How to access finance

Infrastructure and Innovation projects shall consult the **dedicated Window** deployed through the EIB. Small and medium enterprises shall consult the **SME Window** implemented through the European Investment Fund (EIF).

Complementary sources of funding

The opportunities offered under the Investment Plan for Europe complement the grants and financial instruments provided by the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds. EFSI provides financing instruments that absorb the highest risk in an operation. EFSI and ESI can be combined to mobilise additional investment. This comes in addition to a number of funding sources such as **LIFE**, EIB grants, **Natural Capital Financing Facility**, and **Private Finance for Energy Efficiency**.

Within the Investment Plan, the Commission has set the objective to achieve at least an overall doubling in the use of financial instruments under the ESI funds. This objective (approx. EUR 23 billion) is within reach: based on current estimates, the planned overall allocations in Cohesion policy to financial instruments in 24 Member States are expected to be EUR 20 billion for ERDF only.

Examples of projects and activities supported

GINKGO FUND II

Investments to clean up impaired sites ("brownfields") in the EU. Remediation and regeneration of polluted sites acquired from public and private owners, using environmentally-sound remediation techniques, with the end goal of selling the repositioned property to third parties, thus supporting urban renewal and regeneration.

Capenergie 3 Fund

An investment fund focusing on onshore wind, solar photovoltaic, hydro and district heating projects. The fund will establish long-term partnerships with European independent power producers in order to invest in small to medium-sized renewable energy projects in France and across the EU. These joint ventures will help the independent and smaller power producers to strengthen their market position and develop their project pipelines.

More information on Circular Economy at EU level:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm.