



European Commission

THE INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

STATE OF PLAY

13 January 2016

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



The Commission is committed to completing the Digital Single Market; one of its ten priorities.

The Investment Plan could help to meet the Digital Agenda's broadband targets. Priority should be given to support greenfield deployments of digital infrastructure, investments in innovative digital services and digitalisation of the traditional sectors (Industry 4.0).

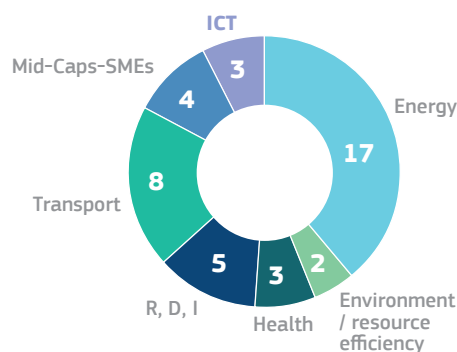
With the Investment Plan, three main types of investments in the digital sector may be promoted:

- **Large greenfield digital infrastructure projects**, with deployment of the latest technologies to allow access to ultrafast broadband across the EU territory. These projects can originate under national broadband plans, regional initiatives or be led by private companies willing to invest in future-proof infrastructure (e.g. FTTx) and digital service infrastructures (cloud services, high performance computing).
- **Investment Platforms** would be key to making a substantial impact on the digital sector, since they will allow the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) to address smaller ticket size projects, which are numerous in the ICT sector. Under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), advanced discussions are ongoing with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the National Promotional Banks on the establishment of an Investment Platform for smaller broadband projects, which could be further expanded under the EFSI. Similar schemes will be explored for digital services and digital skills, among others.
- **The collaboration with the European Investment Fund** for SMEs is another key area of the EFSI with strong impact for the digital sector. The digital market remains very fragmented in Europe, whereby SMEs are key actors in several digital sub-segments (e.g. photonics, cybersecurity).

An coordination with the EFSI, an increased involvement of the **European Investment Advisory Hub** in the digital sector will also be decisive to bring support to project promoters in structuring and implementing their digital projects.

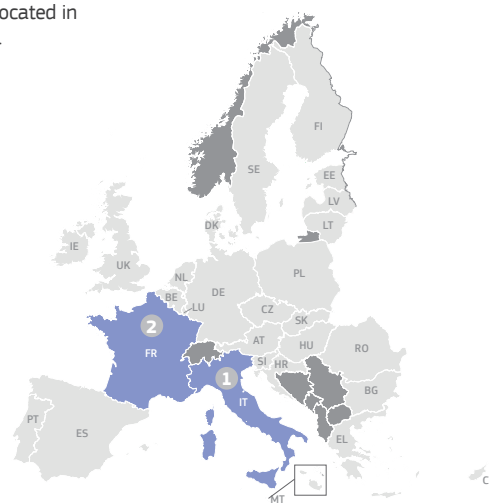
Higher visibility of ICT projects could be ensured via the **European Investment Project Portal**.

Sectoral coverage (some projects cover several sectors)



Out of the 42 projects approved by the EIB so far, 3 projects are in the ICT sector.

The projects are located in 2 Member States.



List of projects in the ICT sector

FR Two high-speed broadband projects in France (under assessment)



- Rolling out high-speed fibre broadband in rural and remote areas of France

IT High-speed broadband rollout in Italy (under assessment)



- Rollout of upgraded broadband access network to provide high-speed broadband (at least 50 Mbps) in Italy