

ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



Reliable access to sustainable funding sources is crucial for the development of the circular economy.

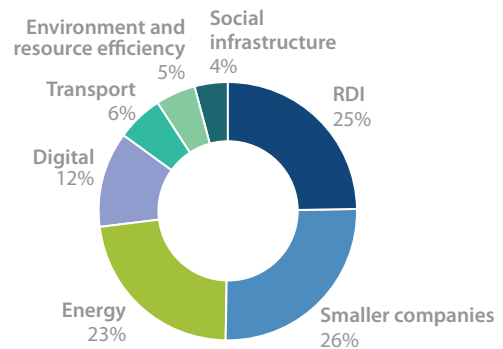
Promoting a circular economy is high on the EU agenda because of **its potential to boost competitiveness, generate jobs and foster sustainable economic growth**. The circular economy will create business opportunities that will attract private funding. The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Commission have worked with stakeholders to explore the possibilities of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) to finance related investments.

The EFSI, with its mandate to bring together public and private financing, and other tools such as the **European Investment Advisory Hub** and the **European Investment Project Portal** are crucial to help spread information about the new funding opportunities and in bringing financiers and projects together. EFSI can in particular help small-scale circular economy projects and support innovative projects that lack funding. The Commission is currently assessing the possibility of launching a Platform together with the EIB and National Promotional Banks to further support the financing of the circular economy. The EIB is a major partner for circular economy investments in the EU, and has during the last 10 years co-financed projects worth EUR 15 billion.

The Commission, together with the EIB, is currently reviewing how best to promote innovative projects in the water sector in the context of EFSI. The Commission is also examining how to use the Investment Plan to tackle the financing gap for innovative projects emerging from **LIFE funding** (the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU).

On **Europe's maritime economy**, and in particular the **blue economy**, low levels of investment currently constrain the development of its full potential, particularly in the sector of marine renewables, where high risks and longer-term paybacks often limit investors' appetite. The Commission is currently working with stakeholders to explore the possibility of **setting up Investment Platforms** with National Promotional Banks in this field.

Sectoral coverage (some projects cover several sectors)



Out of the EFSI transactions approved by the EIB so far, 5% have an environment and resource efficiency element to them

Infrastructure and Innovation projects



List of projects in the environment and resource efficiency sectors

<p>FR  & BE </p>	<p>Ginkgo Fund II (signed in February 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIB financing under EFSI: EUR 30 million Total investment expected: 132 million
<p>IE </p>	<p>Water utility schemes (under assessment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply, sewage and waste water treatment schemes located throughout Ireland
<p>FI </p>	<p>Äänekoski bio-product mill (signed in June 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of a new bio-product mill in Äänekoski, Finland EIB financing under EFSI: EUR 75 million Total investment expected: EUR 1.2 billion Expected job creation: 8,500
<p>IT </p>	<p>Arvedi modernisation programme (signed in May 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation of an innovative, mid-sized steel producer in Italy EIB financing under EFSI: EUR 100 million Total investment expected: EUR 227 million Expected job creation: 450
<p>ES </p>	<p>Green shipping in Spain (under assessment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of two new dual-fuel vessels for a Spanish shipping company, replacing two older, less fuel-efficient vessels
<p>FR </p>	<p>Recycling facility (approved, not yet signed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and operation of the first European facility for recycling and re-melting titanium metal and alloy scrap from the aeronautic industry
<p>IT </p>	<p>Aimac Settore Idrico E Ambiente</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> multi-sector investments including water, waste water, solid waste and gas distribution schemes as well as measures to support recovery and reconstruction from the earthquake that hit the area where AIMAG operates in 2012

Geographical coverage of environment and resource efficiency projects supported by the EFSI

