



European Commission

# THE INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE

## STATE OF PLAY

13 January 2016

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY, 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, foster sustainable economic growth and generate jobs**. The circular economy will create business opportunities that will attract private funding. The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Commission organised recently a conference exploring the possibilities of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) to finance related investments.

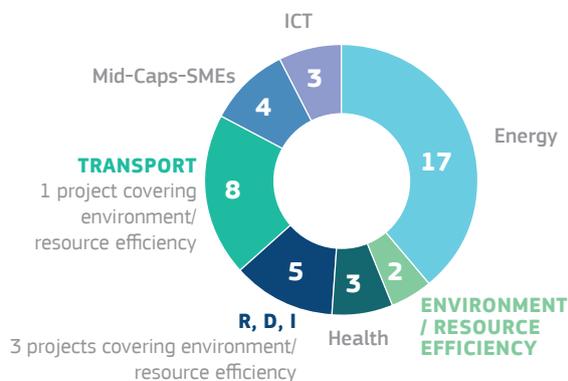
The EFSI, with its mandate to bring together public and private financing, and other tools such as the **European Investment Advisory Hub** and the **European Investment Project Portal** are crucial to help spread information about the new funding opportunities and in bringing financiers and projects together. EFSI can in particular provide help for small-scale circular economy projects and by supporting 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.

Furthermore, 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 possibilities in tackling 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).

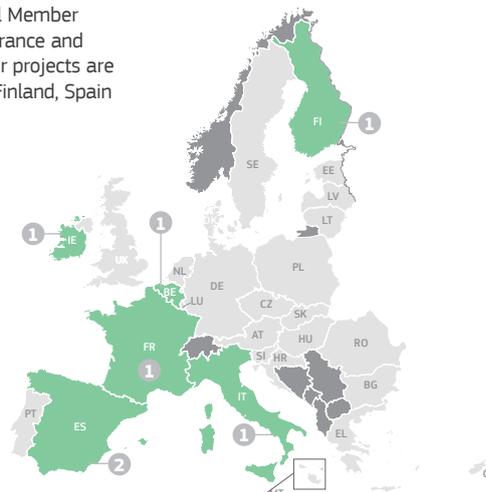
As regards **Europe's maritime economy**, and in particular in the **blue economy**, low levels of investment currently constrain the development of its full potential, particularly in the sector of marine renewables, where high risks and longer-term paybacks often limit investors' appetite. The Commission 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 42 projects approved by the EIB so far, six projects are in the environment and resource efficiency sector.

One of the projects will benefit projects in several Member States including France and Belgium. The other projects are based in Ireland, Finland, Spain and Italy



## List of projects in the circular economy, environment and resource efficiency sectors

### FR Infrastructure fund

(under assessment)



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BE



- Equity fund investing in transforming former industrial sites into uncontaminated and habitable areas.

### IE Water utility schemes

(under assessment)



- Water supply, sewage and wastewater treatment schemes located throughout Ireland.

### FI Äänekoski bio-product mill (signed in June 2015)



- 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: **8500**

### ES Abengoa RDI II

(signed in July 2015)<sup>1</sup>



- Investments in bio-tech development
- EIB financing under EFSI: **EUR 50 million**
- Total investment expected: **EUR 313 million**
- Expected job creation: **345**

### IT Arvedi modernisation programme

(signed in May 2015)



- 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**

### ES Green shipping in Spain (under assessment)



- Construction of two new dual-fuel vessels for a Spanish shipping company, replacing two older, less fuel-efficient vessels