

INVEST EU



Investment Platforms

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WHAT ARE INVESTMENT PLATFORMS?

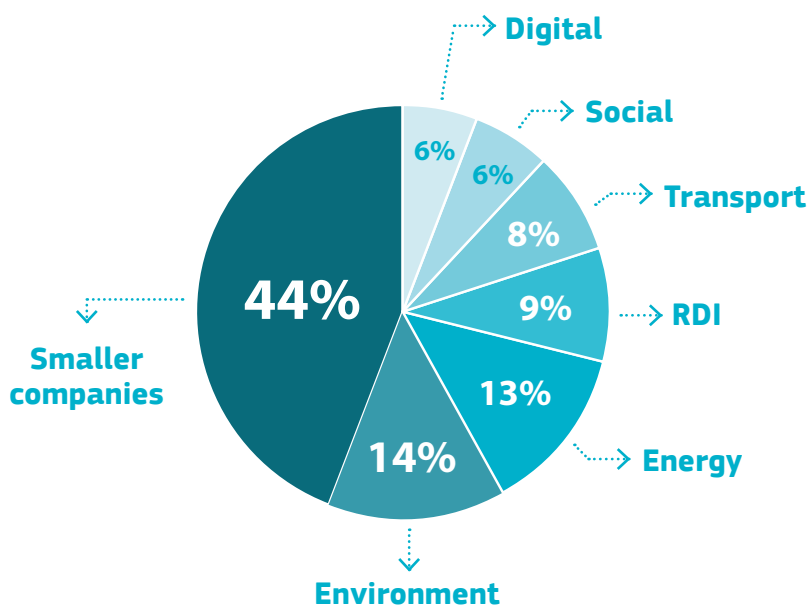
Investment platforms are investment facilities which pool smaller and/or higher-risk projects by geographic location or sector. This helps to better share risk, make it easier to attract private investors and eventually unlock financing for individual projects. A platform can combine EU funds, national support and financing from private investors. The platform itself can then provide loans and/or equity financing to the underlying projects, depending on their specific needs.

[The European Fund for Strategic Investments](#) (EFSI), the financial pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe, a partnership between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission, can provide financial support to such investment platforms. The EIB and the Commission also provide advice on how to set up an investment platform through the [European Investment Advisory Hub](#).

HOW MANY PLATFORMS EXIST ALREADY UNDER THE INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE?

As of June 2018, 41 investment platforms have been approved. They are expected to mobilise over €34.8 billion in investments. In addition to three pan-European investment platforms, including the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund and the Marguerite Fund, they span 11 Member States - Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Portugal - and cover a range of sectors, including digital, environment, transport and energy, with a strong focus on small and medium sized companies and mid-cap companies.

Investment mobilised - by sector



EXAMPLES OF INVESTMENT PLATFORMS

POLAND SOCIAL & AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME



A co-financing and cooperation agreement between the Polish National Promotional Bank BGK and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support social and affordable housing investments of around €500 million until 2021. The EIB supports the platform with an EFSI-backed loan of €94 million. One example project financed by the platform is the Poznań Social Housing Investment Facility, building over 1,000 housing units in several locations in the City of Poznań.

GINKGO FUND II



An infrastructure equity fund set up by a private fund manager to regenerate brownfield industrial sites with the goal of selling the mixed housing redevelopments (including both social and affordable housing) to third parties, thus encouraging urban renewal. The EIB contributed €30 million in equity backed by the EFSI, which is expected to mobilise over €160 million in total investments. One example project financed by the platform supports apartments and homes built on the site of a 19th-century paper mill in Mont-Saint-Guibert, southeast of Brussels.

LIMBURGS ENERGIE FONDS (LEF)



An investment platform established and financed by the Province of Limburg in the Netherlands. The EIB has provided €30 million under the EFSI to increase the capacity of LEF to finance regional businesses and projects aiming at the reduction of CO2 emissions in the province. LEF expects to mobilise over €300 million of investment in the sectors of renewable energy, energy efficiency, circular economy and asbestos sanitation. Several projects have already received financing, for example, to use geothermal heat in greenhouses, process electronic waste and recycle plastics.

INVEN CAPITAL FUND



A co-investment initiative which supports clean energy and smart technology SMEs and mid-caps. The EIB has provided €50 million under EFSI to Inven Capital Fund; the Czech energy utility ČEZ is contributing the same amount. The companies receiving financing need early-stage investments to innovate and expand their products and services, increase their productivity and expand internationally. One example initiative having received financing develops technology to use a smartphone to control domestic heating systems.

CONNECTING EUROPE BROADBAND FUND



An equity fund backed by funds from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the EIB, several national promotional banks and the private sector. The investment platform is dedicated to financing smaller broadband projects in

EXAMPLES OF INVESTMENT PLATFORMS

underserved areas of Europe. The EIB is providing €140 million of which €100 million are guaranteed by the EFSI; the CEF provides €100 million; the German, Italian and French National Promotional Banks KfW, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and Caisse des Depots all provide €50 million each, and further €30 million come from private investors.. During a five-year investment period, the Fund aims to invest in economically and technically viable broadband projects that are in line with the [European connectivity targets](#) to provide up-to-date internet connections to all schools, transport hubs and main providers of public services as well as digitally intensive enterprises by 2025.

CAP TROISIÈME RÉVOLUTION INDUSTRIELLE



CAP3RI

An investment platform involving the combination of financing from the EIB under the EFSI guarantee and from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The Hauts-de-France region has invested €15 million of ESIF in the investment platform, alongside investors Crédit Agricole Nord de France (a regional commercial bank) and Groupama (a French insurance company), with up to €20 million of mezzanine debt financing from the EIB under the EFSI guarantee. The platform targets investments in SMEs operating in the energy and resource efficiency sector in Hauts-de-France, a region with one of the highest energy consumption levels in the country. The platform is contributing to the 'Troisième Révolution Industrielle' roadmap – targeting zero carbon emission in the region by 2050.

The platform has already invested in the AIRFLUX-CHAUMECA Group, which specialises in biogas purification and fluid treatment; as well as the Astradec Group, which specialises in the recycling of waste.

SMART FINANCE FOR SMART BUILDINGS



A pan-European energy efficiency investment platform, launched in partnership with the European Commission, to make energy efficiency investments in existing – mostly residential – buildings in a number of Member States. It aims at combining EFSI financing with either European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), with the option of adding further public and private resources. It also provides technical assistance to final beneficiaries, financial intermediaries, managing authorities and project promoters.

DIORAMA HELLENIC GROWTH FUND



An equity fund investing in growth and expansion stage SMEs and mid-cap companies in Greece. The EIB Group committed €40 million; €10 million of which was guaranteed by the EFSI and €20 million by the Commission's COSME programme. The fund has also received commitments from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (€20 million) and local private investors, for example Greek insurance companies. The fund is expected to catalyse investments for a total of €135 million during the 5 year investment period. The fund supports the growth of Greek companies active in various sectors such as food, consumer goods, technology, pharmaceuticals-generics, waste management and recycling. For instance, the fund has supported the extension of a manufacturing site, the development of a new music application for mobile phones, and the expansion of a company in the clothing industry.

Investment Platforms

WHAT ELSE IS UNDER PREPARATION?

Smart Cities Investment Platforms: Through the European Investment Advisory Hub, work is underway to explore the potential to create Smart Cities Investment Platforms in Slovakia and Hungary, in partnership with the respective national promotional institutions.

Green Shipping Guarantee Programme: Already at operational stage, a set of platforms combining EFSI and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to provide funded risk-sharing to commercial banks specialised in the maritime sector in order to accelerate the implementation of investments in greener vessels by European shipping companies, for instance through the use of alternative propulsion systems. The first vessel, financed through Société Générale, will be Brittany Ferries' first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered ferry.

HOW TO SET UP AN INVESTMENT PLATFORM

Investment platforms are set up by sponsors or project promoters, which may be public authorities or National Promotional Banks and Institutions, social sector players or private stakeholders. The Commission and the EIB can provide advice on the setting up of platforms, in particular through the European Investment Advisory Hub. EFSI investment platforms and the EFSI-guaranteed financing provided for such initiatives need to be approved by the EFSI Investment Committee.

The European Investment Advisory Hub offers dedicated support for the set-up of investment platforms by:

- Assessing the rationale and potential to develop an investment platform;
- Raising awareness of investment platform opportunities;
- Structuring the combinations of EU funds (EFSI, ESIF, CEF or other);
- Supporting the development of underlying projects.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE ADVICE OR INFORMATION?

For a step-by-step guide on how to set up an investment platform, see our factsheet:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/how-set-efsi-investment-platform_en

For the rules applicable to EFSI investment platforms adopted by the EFSI Steering Board, see:

http://www.eib.org/attachments/general/efsi_rules_applicable_to_operations.pdf

Contact the Advisory Hub at:

<http://eiah.eib.org/>