Investment Plan for Europe

Mobilising funds for the health sector in Europe **#investEU**

Health is a vital economic sector strongly driven by innovation. It is crucial to ensure the health and well-being of European Union citizens and labour productivity in Member States. The health sector represents 10 % of the EU's GDP and accounts for 8 % of the total European workforce. Health is a value in itself and a growth-friendly area for investment.

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), cornerstone of the Investment Plan, can support investment in innovative health solutions, new effective medicines and social infrastructures. By investing in medical infrastructure, services and research, EFSI is contributing to the EU's effort towards growth, employment and competitiveness.

Why is it important

National health systems in the EU face common challenges: increasing cost of healthcare, ageing populations associated with a rise of chronic diseases – leading to growing demand for healthcare –, shortages and uneven distribution of health professionals, health inequalities and inequities in access to health services. Moreover, the economic crisis limited the financial resources available. Therefore, health systems need to be effective, accessible and resilient and must adapt effectively to tackle these significant challenges. Innovative health solutions and investment are key to this process.

By mobilising finances and investment, in particular for long-term and higher-risk investments, the Investment Plan for Europe can support health systems in the EU by bringing together private and public investment to revitalise the health sector.

Opportunities and benefits

Health project promoters, both from the public and the private sector, can benefit from 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).

EFSI will support investment projects mostly in the following areas, recognising the importance of infrastructure investments but also the role of innovation in health systems, research and medical education:

- Medical research
- Innovative products, services and delivery solutions (including by SMEs, mid-caps and start-ups)
- New models of health infrastructure especially for primary and integrated forms of care
- New technologies and e-health
- Medical education and training

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)

Examples of projects and activities supported

Grifols biosciences R&D (Spain)
Research and development to improve medical treatment for conditions including Alzheimer's, vascular and cardiovascular surgery.

- EIB financing under EFSI: EUR 100 million (41 % of the total project cost).

Midland Metropolitan Hospital (UK)
Construction of a new teaching hospital in a brown field site.

- EIB financing under EFSI: EUR 148 million (32 % of the total project cost).

Primary care centres (Ireland)
Construction of new primary healthcare centres across Ireland.

- EIB financing under EFSI: EUR 70 million (50 % of the total project cost).

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** (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund – up to EUR 9 billion between 2014 and 2020). EFSI provides risk financing instruments. EFSI and ESIF can be combined to mobilise additional investment. This also comes in addition to the Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing programme of **Horizon 2020** (EUR 2 billion between 2014 and 2017). The European Investment Bank offers financing under the **Health and Life Science cluster**. Beyond EFSI, EIB financing is available under the **InnovFin Infectious Diseases programme**.

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.

More information on Health at EU level:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm.

European Commission

European Investment Bank
The EU bank