

Mobilising funds for jobs and growth

The EU has launched an unprecedented investment initiative to restart growth, boost jobs and revive strategic investment in key sectors in Europe. **The Investment Plan for Europe** is looking to unlock public and private investments of at least €315 billion until 2018, supporting access to risk financing for companies of all sizes.

The **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)** is at the heart of the Investment Plan, backing up innovative projects that may need risk-coverage. The Fund is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB will lend €60bn in three years directly or via its subsidiary the European Investment Fund (EIF).

The SME window

At least a quarter of EFSI Funds (€15bn) are made available to projects by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps via the “SME Window” **provided through financial intermediaries** such as banks or venture capital funds. The “SME Window” is **coordinated through the European Investment Fund (EIF)** and implemented by the National Promotional Institutions in cooperation with local financial institutions. The €5 billion SME Window is expected to generate total investments of **up to €75 billion** for SMEs and mid-caps in the 28 EU Member States by summer 2018.

The European Investment Project Portal

If your investment project is worth more than €10 million, you can boost its visibility by registering on the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP) at **ec.europa.eu/eipp**.

This new portal will enable EU-based project promoters – public or private – to reach potential investors worldwide.

Join InvestEU

For up-to-date information on the Investment Plan for Europe,

ec.europa.eu/invest-eu
#investEU



Investment Plan for Europe



The investment plan for Europe
– better access to finance for
SMEs and Mid-Cap companies
Let's #investEU



Who can apply for EFSI finance under the investment plan

All SMEs with up to 250 employees and mid-caps with up to 3000 employees are eligible to apply directly for finance. EFSI financing can flow to entities in and outside the EU. However, projects submitted from companies outside the EU should be part of cross-border projects involving EU countries.



What type of projects qualify for finance



- **Innovation projects and higher-risk projects:** Projects or entities financed under EFSI do not have to be high risk. However, the SME Window allows financial operators and intermediaries to take additional risk than what the market would be ready to take. With that in mind, SMEs have a better chance in securing finance for projects that until now could not receive financial support.

- The Investment Plan focuses on **sectors of key importance to deliver a positive impact on the European economy**. These include transport, energy and digital infrastructure; education and training, health, research and development, information and communications technology and innovation; expansion of renewable energy and resource efficiency; environmental, urban and social projects. However, unlike large project promoters (entities with over 3000 employees), SMEs and mid-caps can receive support independent of this sector-specific approach.

Examples of signed agreements for SMEs and mid-caps are available at ec.europa.eu/invest-eu and http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/efsi/



What does EFSI add

The EFSI resources provide a **secure foundation, making it easier for SMEs and mid-caps to access available funding**. The resources under the SME window enable to deploy existing EU support for SMEs – COSME and InnovFin – at a higher and faster rate, to increase loan financing and to better respond to a very strong market demand.

In addition, a new Equity Investment Platform is due to be set up by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in cooperation with National Promotional Institutions to provide additional equity financing to SMEs and midcaps.

How to access finance

SMEs and mid-caps can secure financing for their projects via National Promotional Banks and local financial intermediaries authorised to carry out lending or leasing activities to SMEs. Companies looking for finance shall directly address to the EIF national financial intermediaries. To locate interlocutors in your country, consult: http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/where/index.htm

Final funding approval lies solely with the financial intermediary. For information about finance available under further EU initiatives, visit the Access to Finance portal http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/funding-grants/access-to-finance/index_en.htm

Further assistance and advice is provided by the **European Investment Advisory Hub** at <http://www.eib.org/eiah/>.

