

Conclusions

Soregies network and renewable energy (FR)

INVEU-ICR-0065-2023 – Sustainable and Infrastructure Window (SIW)

Short description of the financing or investment operation and its objectives

Name of final recipient	SOREGIES Group
Type of final recipient	SEML 'Société d'économie mixte locale'
Countries of implementation	France
Implementing partner	European Investment Bank (EIB)

The Project is an investment programme in regulated electricity distribution and pipeline of small-scale solar PV and wind plants, precisely 44 small scale wind and solar photovoltaic plants, with a unit-size comprised between 0.2 and 20 MW, for a total capacity of 307MW. The group's objective is to generate 800GWh in 2030 and 1,000 GWh in 2035 of RE electricity, leading the Group to source 100% of the energy supplied to its customers with renewable energy.

The plants will be developed by a local energy company in cooperation with local communities, and on the basis of market-based instruments. 100% of the project cost are located in cohesion priority regions.

Global Assessment and rationale for approval

The Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund approved the use of the InvestEU guarantee on 12 October 2023 for the above-mentioned operation.

The operation will improve the structure of the French energy market by increasing renewable capacity as well as connecting new users and modernising the electricity distribution network in France. Developing plants in cooperation with local communities will also contribute to support community schemes and market integration of renewable energy projects.

By providing a sustainable financing to the counterpart, the EIB loan would allow SOREGIES to consolidate its activity and profitability, while keeping a strong local footprint and affordable electricity objective. The additionality of the operation lies in the competitive and long-term financing EIB will bring to this local mid-size company, qualified as a riskier counterpart, with no access to capital markets. The Bank will provide a long-term loan which is not easily available with local commercial banks, and the Bank's financing will contribute to make the investment more cost-efficient. The project would not have been carried out (to the same extent) by the EIB without the InvestEU support. The EIB's financing will have a significant signalling effect.

The Investment Committee welcomes this Operation that will support further decarbonisation of the energy sector in France.