



Belfius



PRESS RELEASE

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Belgium: School roof solar panels — an ambitious project from SeGEC, EIB and Belfius Banque

SeGEC, the EIB and Belfius Banque are joining forces for a major project to equip Belgian private schools with solar panels.

- **This unprecedented investment programme for the school sector is being co-financed by Belfius and the EIB via ELENA.**
- **Over 800 organising authorities managing schools with 475 000 pupils in Wallonia and Brussels could receive solar panels within four years.**
- **More than 250 projects are already in progress or completed.**
- **The goal is to cut CO₂ emissions while passing on these values to younger generations and lowering energy bills.**

In late September 2022, Secrétariat général de l'enseignement catholique (SeGEC), the European Investment Bank (EIB), Belfius Banque and the DUSS consultancy launched a major project to equip private schools with solar panels. A year and a half later, all of the partners together with Reno.energy — the company that won the installation call for tenders in 2023 — have stated that the project has so far been a success.

Jointly financed by Belfius Banque and (for technical preparation) by the EIB via EU grants under the ELENA programme (European Local ENergy Assistance, a technical assistance mechanism for local energy efficiency projects), this project is of unprecedented scale and ambition for the Belgian school sector.

The goal of this ambitious four-year programme set to last until 2026 is to make school buildings more sustainable, thereby helping cut CO₂ emissions and reducing energy bills for the around 800 Catholic education organising authorities in the French and German-speaking communities of the country.

SeGEC Managing Director Etienne Michel said: “This major project implemented with Belfius, the EIB, DUSS and Reno.energy is in line with our commitment to work for a more sustainable society and to pass on these values to future generations. SeGEC wants to help its member schools to reduce their energy and environmental footprint. The energy crisis and surge in energy prices in recent months and years have also hit schools hard. For these reasons, the transition to green energy production is becoming more urgent than ever.”

Belfius Banque Executive Director Wealth, Enterprises and Public Dirk Gyselincx added: “Schools have a clear role to play in the energy transition, and very often have several buildings on which renewable energy production infrastructure can be installed. We are particularly pleased to support SeGEC — with backing from the European Union and the EIB through the ELENA mechanism — by contributing to this huge programme aiming to equip over 1 000 schools from nurseries to non-university higher education with solar photovoltaic panels. This project is fully in line with our environmental, social and governance objectives as a bancassurance company and our ambition to provide tangible support for the energy transition on the ground by helping schools to cut their CO₂ emissions and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels while lowering their energy bills.”

EIB Vice-President Robert de Groot said: “This partnership with SeGEC and Belfius supporting schools and their organising authority on their path to an environmentally responsible model shows our shared climate ambition. The ELENA mechanism’s success in Belgium demonstrates the strength of the action undertaken by the stakeholders involved. Two projects are in progress and will unlock almost €150 million in investment. Five projects have already been completed in the three regions, generating €500 million and avoiding 52 000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year. With these results, ELENA

commitments for energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable urban transport bode well for beneficial environmental impact and many successes to come on the road to a net-zero emission society by 2050.”

DUSS CEO Sophie Slabbinck said: “DUSS conducted a needs analysis for SeGEC, turned this into specifications and helped select partners. DUSS team members took part in project presentation events at schools. DUSS also developed a calculation tool to assess the economic profitability and environmental impact of photovoltaic installations, and helps the schools through each step of their project, from quote assessment to the technical relevance and economic viability of the planned installations.”

Reno.energy B2B and B2G Commercial Director Olivier Van Langenacker concluded: “As part of the SeGEC project, Reno.energy will assist the organising authorities over a ten-year period, on the one hand providing strengthened and exclusive guarantee conditions, and on the other analysing and implementing innovative storage solutions to optimise the management of their production and to address network flexibility and related issues.”

The project offers the following benefits for schools:

- Support from SeGEC for the entire project
- Simplified procedures via a specially provided platform for schools
- Favourable tariff conditions under the framework agreement
- Tailored financing options
- Free access to an independent consultancy (DUSS)
- Ten-year monitoring and maintenance service: materials guarantee, remote fault detection, constant monitoring of installation operations
- Beyond the module efficiency guarantee, Reno.energy is obliged to ensure an annual performance ratio of 95% of the simulated ratio shown in its offer for 25 years.

Project in figures:

- Over 250 schools have started the process
- More than 70 installations have already been carried out by Reno.energy across the Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- Over 15 000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided
- 2 300 kWp
- More than 5 200 panels installed
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Background information

About Belfius

Meaningful and inspiring for Belgian society. Together

Belfius Banque & Assurances is a strong bancassurance company owned by the Belgian federal government. With 160 years of experience in the public sector and 60 in the retail segment, Belfius is deeply rooted in the Belgian economy and society:

- Partner for 3.8 million individuals, self-employed people and small businesses
- Leading player in the corporate and business market
- Leading bank in the public and non-commercial sector
- Leading brand in life and non-life insurance
- Benchmark in private banking and wealth management

A special focus on customer satisfaction and sustainability enables Belfius to record excellent results every year.

About SeGEC

Half of pupils in compulsory education and half of students in non-university higher education in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation attend Catholic institutions. Secrétariat général de l'enseignement catholique (SeGEC) groups together primary and secondary schools, higher education schools, art

schools, Catholic social promotion institutions and private medical, psychological and social assistance centres.

About ELENA

The ELENA technical assistance facility is a joint initiative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission. It provides non-repayable grants for technical assistance to help the public and private sectors prepare sustainable projects. This supports investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy for buildings and urban transport. ELENA's activities are currently covered by the InvestEU programme. For more information, visit www.eib.org/fr/products/advising/elena

About the EIB

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It makes finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals. EIB projects bolster competitiveness, drive innovation, promote sustainable development, enhance social and territorial cohesion, and support a just and swift transition to climate neutrality. The EIB Group provided almost €2.4 billion to support 26 projects in Belgium in 2023. 80% of the funding allocated was for climate and environmental sustainability. (www.eib.org)

About DUSS

DUSS building sustainability consultancy that helps its clients to define their sustainability ambitions and implement them in a pragmatic and realistic manner. Its multi-disciplinary team of engineers, lawyers and financiers help project promoters to navigate the complexity of their sustainable projects by matching legal requirements with the resources available, the technical possibilities and time allotted.

About Reno.energy

Reno.energy specialises in building refurbishment and energy performance. Its 360° approach has made Reno.energy a key partner of choice for 15 years. Operating in Belgium, Luxembourg and the French region of Hauts-de-France, the group employs more than 250 people. It had a consolidated turnover of €60 million in 2023 and has a strong growth outlook (targeting €170 million by 2027). Its extensive experience with individuals, businesses and public contracts enables Reno.energy to embark on fruitful partnerships like the one it has with SeGEC. Reno.energy has also completed major projects in several hospitals (including those of CHC Group) and a contract to equip almost 200 social housing units in the Brussels region financed under a third-party investment model.

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