

What is the European Investment Bank?

Caption: Leaflet explaining the role of the EIB, its remits, activities and operating methods.

Source: European Investment Bank, What is the European Investment Bank?. [ON-LINE]. [Luxembourg]: European Investment Bank, [19.03.2012]. Disponible sur http://www.eib.org/attachments/general/what_is_the_eib_en.pdf.

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URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/what_is_the_european_investment_bank-en-2d93ed36-a9fa-4996-8fa4-ac1e2ce24f4f.html

Publication date: 28/09/2012



What is the European Investment Bank?

The EIB is the European Union's bank. As the largest multilateral borrower and lender, we provide finance and expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects, mostly in the EU. We are owned by the 27 Member States and the projects we support contribute to furthering EU policy objectives. Our 1 948 staff members can build on more than 50 years of experience in project financing. We are headquartered in Luxembourg and have a network of local and regional offices in Europe and beyond.

The EIB financed 450 large projects in 78 countries*

Supporting jobs and growth. The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. For the Bank, this means investing in knowledge and innovation, supporting a “greener” and more resource-efficient economy and contributing to economic, social and regional cohesion. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the backbone of Europe’s economy, are also a specific target of EIB financing.

What are the EIB’s lending priorities?

**Some 30% of the Bank’s lending in
the EU goes to climate action projects**




Climate action. Some 30% of the Bank’s yearly financing goes to investments that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve adaptation to climate change impacts. These are mainly in the energy, transport, water, wastewater, solid waste, forestry and research, development and innovation sectors. Climate action considerations are also increasingly taken into account in all of our lending activities.

* All figures relate to 2011

EUR 54 billion for loans in the European Union

Key projects

France's "Viaduc de Millau" and TGV Est high-speed rail project, automotive R&D in Germany, flood protection in Venice, Scandinavia's Oresund bridge, the Athens metro, solar energy in Spain, the clean-up of the Baltic Sea **are but a few of the thousands of projects financed by the EIB over the years.**



Under its *external mandates*, the EIB helps to implement the financial pillar of the EU's foreign policy. It is active mainly in the pre-accession countries of South-East Europe, as well as in the neighbouring countries to the South and East. The Bank also operates in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and Asia and Latin America. Its financing activities are aimed at supporting local private sector development, improving social and economic infrastructure and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

EUR 7 billion for loans outside the EU

120 000 small and medium-sized enterprises benefited from EIB Group support

Borrowers are public sector bodies and private enterprises. Projects over EUR 25 million are financed with direct loans. Small and medium-scale ventures and smaller infrastructure projects are financed through credit lines in cooperation with national and regional intermediary banks (intermediated loans). The EIB does not lend more than 50% of the funds required for implementing a project. The EIB approval of a loan often works as a catalyst, drawing in other financing to complete the investment plan. The EIB works closely with other international financing institutions, the European Commission and commercial banks.

Who are the EIB's clients?

The EIB offers a wide range of financial products at favourable interest rates. For certain investments, the EIB is ready to accept more credit risk than a commercial bank if this increases value added in support of EU policies. The Bank also offers technical assistance to support project preparation and implementation, particularly in countries that recently joined the European Union or countries outside the EU.



Promoters may contact the EIB directly. The Bank's staff will appraise the proposed project's compliance with EU objectives, its economic, technical and financial merits and its impact on the environment.



Where do EIB resources come from?

The EIB is financially autonomous and raises the bulk of its lending resources on the international capital markets through bond issues. It has capital of EUR 232 billion, subscribed by the 27 EU Member States.

The Bank is one of the largest borrowers on the public international market. Its excellent credit rating allows it to borrow at the best possible rates. The benefits are transferred to project promoters, which pay only a small mark-up to cover the EIB's costs and, if applicable, a risk margin.

**The EIB raised EUR 76 billion
on the global bond markets**



The EIB Group is made up of the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund (EIF). For further information on the EIF, please consult its website www.eif.org.

The Bank is strongly committed:

- to integrating environmental and social standards into its business activities;
- to ensuring proper governance, transparency and accountability, for itself and its counterparts;
- to minimising its own environmental footprint.

A responsible bank



Corporate responsibility lies at the heart of the EIB's remit to support sound investments that further EU policy objectives.

98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer – L-2950 Luxembourg

☎ (+352) 43 79 – 1 ☎ (+352) 43 77 04 www.eib.org

ISBN 978-92-861-1450-2

